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Report for January, 1931.

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References to the I.L.O.

The Times of India of 22-1-31 publishes an appreciative editorial article commenting on the work of the International Labour Office under the heading "The I.L.O. in 1930." The editorial points out that the work of the I.L.O. has increased from year to year and the summary of its achievements in 1930 foretells an even more consequential year in 1931. The article concludes with the following earnest invitation to employers and workers to co-operate with the I.L.O. "The International Labour Office continues its work of bettering the lot of every kind of worker in every part of the world, and of developing its research and documentation. The I.L.O.'s unostentatious but nevertheless substantial achievements during 1930 should persuade the employers and workers of all nations to co-operate with it to the best of their ability in regulating international trade and raising the workers' standard of living.

* * * *

The Hindustan Times of 2-1-31 publishes the list of names of persons who have been recommended by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to constitute the Indian Employers' Delegation (vide page 1 of December 1930 report of this Office).

The list has been published also by New India of 8-1-31 (Vol. IV - New Series No. 41).

* * * *

On 11-1-31 the Director of this Office opened the New Year programme of the Delhi Y.M.C.A. with an inaugural address on "International Social Progress." After sketching briefly the history of the social reformist movements of Europe during the 19th century, he explained the origin of the I.L.O. and its efforts for the bettering of the condition of life of workers all over the world. Analysing the social and economic structure of India, the speaker stressed the necessity for enfranchising labour in the new Indian constitution so that the beneficial effects of

of the reforms ~~will~~ would trickle down to this large class which constituted nearly three fourths of the bulk of the population. By effecting improvements in the conditions of life and work of Indian labourers, the I.L.O., ^{the} speaker said, was building up a substantial basis on which the new Indian democracy may be safely erected.

Summarised reports of the lecture were published in the Hindu of 13-1-31 and the Hindustan Times of 14-1-31. The Pioneer of 15-1-31 in a short editorial note commented on the lecture.

* * * *

The Indian Post, Delhi, publishes in full at pages 11 to 14 of its combined issue for November and December 1930 (Vol.I-Nos. 5 & 6) the presidential address of Mr.S.C.Joshi at the 10th Session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference in which he has made appreciative references to the work of the 14th Session of the Labour Conference regarding the question of Hours of Work of W Salaried Employees.

The text of Mr. Joshi's speech has also been published in its entirety by "Labour," the organ of the Bengal and Assam branches of the All-India Postal & R.M.S.Union, in its January 1931 issue (Vol.X-No.12).

The "Unionist," Nagpur gives a summary of the speech in its January 1931 issue (Vol. 2 - No. 10).

* * * *

References to the deputation of Mr.S.C.Joshi, the Indian Labour Delegate to the 14th Labour Conference, and to Mr. Joshi's work at the Conference are made in the Annual Report of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union for the year 1929-30. The report is published at pages 1-9 of the Indian Post in its combined issue for November and December 1930 (Vol. I-Nos. 5 & 6). (A copy of the November and December combined issue of the Indian Post has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.2/93/31 dated 5-2-31).

* * * *

New India of 15-1-1931 (Vol. IV - New Series No. 40) publishes at page 11 an article prepared by the League of Nations Union under the caption "The League of Nations: Its value and Work" in which the achievements of the League are reviewed. Referring to the I.L.O., the article says: "The League of Nations, by means of its International Labour Organisation (which consists of representatives of Governments, Employers and Employed), is improving industrial conditions by raising the standards of Labour uniformly throughout the world."

* * * *

The Communiqué issued by the Government of India announcing the date and agenda of the 15th Session of the Labour Conference and inviting recommendations from employers' and workers' organisation regarding the nomination of non-Governmental delegates to the Conference is published in the Excerpts of the proceedings of the Mill-owners' Association, Bombay, during December 1930.

* * * *

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the month of December 1930 publishes the reply sent by the Chamber to the letter of the Government of India inviting an expression of the Chamber's opinion re: giving effect to the Recommendation regarding the prevention of industrial Accidents passed by the 12th International Labour Conference. The Chamber has replied that before any recommendations could be made the Government should prepare a statement showing how far existing legislation has already given effect to the provisions of the Recommendation.

* * * *

The Servant of India of 29-1-31 (Vol. XIV No. 5) publishes ^athe review contributed by the Director of this Office on the League of Nations publication "Ten Years of World Co-operation." In the course

of the review, Dr. Pillai points out that though the absence of any reference in the book to the I.L.O. may be due to the fact that the I.L.O. is an autonomous body, no judgment ~~based~~ on the achievements of the League will be complete or fair unless the work of the I.L.O. also is taken into account.

* * * *

The Indian Review of January 1931 (Vol. XXXII - No. 1) publishes a summary of an article by Mr. W. Harsfall Carter under the caption "Kindergarten of Peace" contributed to ^{the} November issue of the Fort-nightly Review. The article refers to the lamentable lack of interest in the work of the League in ~~almost~~ of the countries outside Europe and says that in non-European countries, with the exception of Japan, the League is appreciated more for its social and humanitarian activities than for its political activities.

Labour Conditions in the Jharia Coal Mines.*

Jharia Mining Settlement.- The population of the Jharia Mining Settlement in 1929 was estimated to be 511,049. There were 12,598 births (6,500 males, 6,098 females) in the Settlement during 1929, as against 16,104 births (8,219 males, 7,885 females) in 1928. The rate of birth per mille was 27.75 for 1929 as against 35.45 for 1928. The report attributes the decrease in births to the facts that the number of women labourers on collieries is certainly less than in 1928 (18,899 as against 22,872), that in anticipation of the final limitation of female labour on collieries, many men are now unaccompanied by their wives, and that to a greater extent even than formerly women are leaving the collieries as the time for confinement approaches. In 1929 there were 8,882 deaths (4,700 males, 4,182 females) in the Settlement as against 8,300 deaths (4,447 males, 3,853 females) in 1928, the rate per mille being 19.57 for 1929 and 18.28 for 1928. The death rate has thus increased by 1.29.

Note on Colliery Population.- According to the weekly reports submitted by the collieries, the average daily force employed in the collieries during 1929 was 61,816 as against 63,702 in the previous year. Of these 27,567 men and 11,783 women were underground workers and 15,350 men and 7,116 women were aboveground workers. The total number of births during 1929 among the colliery population was 1,554 (816 males, 738 females) ~~in 1929~~ as against 2,128 (1,116 males, 1,012 females) in 1928. The rate per mille was 16.76 in 1929 as against 22.27 in 1928. The total number of deaths in 1929 among

* Jharia Mines Board of Health. Annual Report for 1929-30 by N.P. Thadani, Chairman, Jharia Mines Board of Health. Patna: Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, 1930. pp. 27.

the colliery population was 1,435 (788 males, 647 females) as against 1,529 (844 males, 685 females) in 1928. The death rate per mille in 1929 was 15.48. During 1929 there were 208 cases of cholera and 79 deaths, and 451 cases of small-pox and 6 deaths in the Settlement. 492 accidents were reported during 1929, of which 103 were fatal, 284 cases were reported as recovered, and 105 were minor accidents, as against 143 fatal accidents, 359 cases reported as recovered and 136 minor accidents in 1928.

Dhanbad Municipality.- The Jharia Mines Board of Health undertakes the administration of the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, the control of epidemic disease and all vaccination work in the Dhanbad municipal area. Sanitary conditions within the municipality are not very satisfactory, due largely to want of funds. The number of urinals, latrines and pucca drains is insufficient. For the latrines, efforts are being made to devise a satisfactory type which will be free from offence and then to urge the erection of a sufficient number close to the houses.

Water Supply.- During the year 1929, 13 collieries were connected to Jharia Water Board's mains, bringing the total number of collieries connected to 142. 52 collieries still remain to be connected. Constant efforts are made to induce collieries to link up with the Jharia Water Board's supply. Where it is found to be justifiable, the Board's sanction is sought to compel proprietors to take action.

Housing.- The housing problem continues to occupy the attention of the Board but owing to the continuance of the depression in coal trade, no fresh programme was imposed upon collieries. Nevertheless, some 200 new rooms were constructed, while over 1,000 inferior quarters were refused licences and are therefore unoccupied, most of

them having been pulled down.

Food Adulteration.- Efforts begun in previous years to check food adulteration have been continued with full vigour, but with not more effect than formerly. In 1929 under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, 87 prosecutions were undertaken, of which 73 resulted in convictions.

Medical Arrangements in the Collieries.- On all collieries with more than 30 labourers, a whole-time or part-time medical practitioner is employed. The appointment of each medical practitioner is approved by the Chief Medical Officer of the Board. According to the Report, while the arrangements on the larger collieries leave little to be desired, many of the smaller establishments are prepared to pay so small a sum for their medical attention that satisfactory arrangements are almost impossible. The report states that the Jharia Mines Board of Health, in view of the unsatisfactory nature of the existing medical arrangements may have to take over to itself the employment of medical practitioners who would then be allotted a suitable number of adjacent collieries to look after.

Legal Proceedings instituted by the Board.- One of the most important duties of the Board is to ensure the health of the mining population by initiating prosecutions against persons guilty of offences under the bye-laws of the Board which came into force in March 1922. They provide for the licensing of all houses in the Jharia coalfield and prescribe the minimum standards for houses constructed after the coming into force of the by-laws. In the event of the refusal of the Board to grant a licence a house must either be demolished or reconstructed so as to conform to the prescribed standard.

To prevent overcrowding the by-laws also provide that no more persons shall be accommodated in any room than will allow to each adult the minimum air and floor spaces laid down in the by-laws. The colliery labourer is also liable to a fine if he "causes any room provided for his habitation to cease to meet the requirements laid down in the by-laws, by blocking the ventilation holes or by closing in the verandah or by any other means whatsoever". He is also prevented from building a cattleshed or a pigsty within 50 feet of a room provided for the habitation of colliery labourers or within 50 feet of a well or tank used for domestic purposes. Further, the Board is empowered to proceed against any person who causes overcrowding by occupying a room which has not been assigned to him by the owner, agent or manager of a mine. The Board is thus vested with adequate control over the housing conditions in the Jharia coalfield. During the year under review, 171 prosecutions were intitated by the Board, of which 135 resulted in convictions, 2 in acquittal, 9 were withdrawn and 25 were pending as against 69 prosecutions, 52 convictions, nil acquittals, 4 withdrawals and 13 pending cases in 1928.

Goan Emigrants in British India: Inquiry Commission's Report.

The Governor General of Portuguese India has recently appointed a Commission to inquire into the conditions of Goan emigrants in British India. The Commission, which had as its Chairman, Dr. A. de Silva, Consul General for Portugal in Bombay, have made an exhaustive study of the problem and have suggested many and far-reaching reforms. The Commission has calculated the total number of Goan emigrants in British India to be 50,000 of whom the large majority are to be found in Bombay city.

Causes of Emigration :- Discussing the causes of emigration, the report attributes it chiefly to economic causes as the territory of Goa is insufficient to support the large population. They also attribute ~~to~~ it to certain psychological causes, namely, the aversion in Portuguese India to manual labour and the example of the fortunes made by a few emigrants. The bright prospects offered by a big city like Bombay ~~are~~ also another attraction. The greater number of the emigrants are employed in manual labour and are ~~employed in~~ tailors, bakers, sailors and domestic servants and most of them are consequently poor and live a hand-to-mouth existence. The report emphasises that the type of emigrants who come out of Goa is not of the best. Most of them have had little education. This is one of the reasons why there is a large amount of unemployment and the Commission compute that about 7,000 out of a total of 50,000 emigrants are unemployed. The community, however, is one of the most highly educated among the communities in British India. They have several newspapers and their young men have been doing well in the Universities of British India. The moral condition of the community also is very

satisfactory.

Social Institutions .- The report describes the activities of the associations in Bombay city that do ~~a lot of~~ good work among the members of the community and also dwells on the value of residential clubs among the poorer classes of the community. *The usual practice is for* ~~As it is well-known~~ a large number of persons coming from the same village in Goa ^{to} join together into a club, renting one, two or more rooms, the rent of which they pay by ~~mutual~~ subscriptions. Even those who are working outside the city or as domestic servants continued *during* their absence to pay their subscriptions, which is a small one. Those without employment can thus reside cheaply in the club house and are benefited by this club system.

Ameliorative Measures .- The following is a brief summary of the principal measures suggested by the Commission for the amelioration of the conditions of the Goan emigrants :-

(1) Emigration should be controlled by the Portuguese authorities in Goa. In this way the type of people emigrating can be improved. (2) Schools of arts and crafts should be established in Goa so that the prospective emigrant might obtain a certain amount of training before leaving for British India. (3) The emigration of Goan ^{young} women into British India should be controlled more effectively. (4) The erection of a special building in Bombay, which might be a common meeting place for the members of the community and where all its associations and institutions might be housed. The proposal is to create a social and intellectual centre for the community, the new building having a public hall, a good library, open fields and other facilities for sport. This house ~~is~~ to be named "The Portugal House." (5) The establishment of Employment Bureaux in British India which might be in touch with the Emigration Department, which the Government of Portuguese India is

urged to establish in Goa to control emigration. (6) The starting of Portuguese and Konkani Schools in Bombay city, where the children of the Goan emigrants may receive special education in their own languages. (7) The creation of Vigilance Committees in the several Roman Catholic parishes of Bombay (the Goans are Roman Catholics) to help unemployed women, and to repatriate loafers and undesirable members of the community. (8) The establishment of Standing Committees to keep a sustained watch on the interests of the emigrants. (9) The starting of asylums for the old, the invalid, and the unemployed. (10) The reorganisation of the residential clubs and the education of the poor people in such clubs.

Financial Recommendations .- For financing the various measures suggested, the Commission has recommended that the existing two institutions which sell Goa Lottery tickets in Bombay city and other parts of British India should set apart the net profits of one lottery for helping the emigrants, and (2) the Goan Government should levy an emigration tax on every passenger leaving Portuguese India, ^{the} proceeds of which should be earmarked for the emigrants. The Commission expects an annual income of Rs.60,000 from these two sources.

The report has been presented to the Governor General of Portuguese India and will shortly be discussed by his Council. It is expected that the Government will sanction the recommendations of the Commission.

(The Times of India .- 26-1-31)

B.B. & C.I. Railway Staff Committees: Plea for abolition.

The Staff Committees on the B.B. & C.I. Railway were inaugurated ten years back with the object of (1) encouraging the Staff to have a free access to their District Officers and having a greater say in matters affecting their own welfare, (2) increasing the good relations between the officers and the staff, (3) creating a spirit of comradeship and good will amongst Railway employees and cultivating a better understanding among themselves and the Officers, (4) preserving the efficiency of the service, (5) improving the moral and material well-being of the service. The employees had been dissatisfied with the working of the Staff Committees for a long time and were urging their discontinuance. Recently a Memorial addressed to the Agent, B.B. & C.I. Railway, and signed by about 2500 members of the Traffic and other staff of the Railway, urging the dissolution of the Staff Committees on the Railway was sent by the Staff to the B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Association, Ahmedabad, who forwarded it to the Agent on 6-11-30, endorsing the views of the Memorialists. The Memorial points out that the experience of the last ten years shows that the Committees had not been worked in accordance with the spirit of the aims and objects for which they were inaugurated. It alleges ~~three~~ three fundamental defects in the working of the said Committees, which are (1) delay in disposing of the general grievances of the staff and of appeals preferred against the decisions of District Officers; (2) risk of incurring the ~~dis-~~ displeasure of the District Officers by persons who elect to appeal against their decisions; & (3) the increasing tendency amongst the Officers to consult men in whom the staff have no confidence. It is further alleged that the atmosphere prevalent at the Committee meetings restricts the ~~the~~ scope for free discussions between the officers and the representatives of the staff and that questions on which there is a difference of opinion between the officers and the members of the Committee are not duly referred to higher authority as required. It is also pointed out that such Committees will not be a success in the absence of a strong & active organisation of the employees. For these reasons, the Memorial urges the dissolution of the Staff Committees.

(The Labour Gazette, Bombay, January 1930.
Vol. X - No. 5)

Railway Staff Benefit Fund:Draft Rules.

The Indian Railway Board has recently drawn up a set of draft rules for the administration of the Railway Staff Benefit Fund. The rules are to apply only to State managed railways. The principal feature of the scheme is the abolition of the existing Fine Fund as from the 31st March 1931, and the transfer of the administration of the new fund created in its stead to popular committees consisting of a President, who is to be a senior officer nominated by the Agent, and five other members, all railway employees, one nominated by the Agent and four elected by the staff. The centralised administration of the Fine Fund and the utilisation of the monies available for purposes not conducing to the direct benefit of the employees have for long been a subject of grievance to the employees of Indian railways. The abolition of the Fine Fund and the introduction of an element of popular control of the Railway Staff Benefit Fund, it is expected, will go some way for allaying the discontent of the employees in this respect. The rules for the administration of the Fund given below are only in draft form. The Railway Board have communicated these Draft Rules to the All India Railwaymen's Federation on 24-12-1930. The following are the Draft Rules-

1. The Fund shall be called the Railway Staff Benefit Fund.
2. There shall be a separate Fund for each Railway.
3. Payments from the Fund shall be authorised by a committee at the head-quarters of Railway presided over by a senior officer nominated by the Agent and consisting of five other members, all Railway employees one nominated by the Agent and four elected by the staff.
The constitution of sub-committees of the same composition may be authorised by the Agent, at his discretion, at convenient centres. These sub-committees will have power to allot funds for the objects specified in these rules within rules and limitations prescribed by the Head-quarters Committee.
4. A member of the committee or sub-committee shall hold office for two years unless he is removed by the Agent or resigns but shall be

eligible for re-nomination or re-election.

Note :- At the end of the first year one member nominated by the Agent and two members elected by the staff will retire, but will be eligible for re-nomination or re-election as the case may be.

5. To the Fund shall be credited :-

(1) The balance at the credit of the Fine Fund of the Railway on the 31st March 1931.

(2) With effect from the 1st April, 1931.

(a) All receipts from fines.

(b) All receipts from forfeited fund Bonuses; except forfeited Bonuses of officers.

(c) All other classes of receipts, which under present rules are credited to the Fine Fund.

6. In addition to the credits to the Fund detailed in para 5, there shall be credited to the Fund on the 1st April of each financial year, commencing from the 1st April, 1931, as a contribution from the revenues of the Railway a sum equal to one Rupee per head of the number of the revenue staff on the books of the Railway on the preceding 1st January, less the amounts credited to the fund in the previous Calendar year from the sources of income referred to in rule 5. Provided that for the first three years, the contribution from revenue shall be calculated exclusive of the interest credited to the fund on the ~~xxx~~ balance at the credited of the fund.

Note :- 1. The number of revenue staff for the purpose of this rule shall be determined in thousands, any fraction of a thousand being reckoned as a thousand.

Note :- 2. All staff other than those whose pay is charged to capital new construction or open line shall be regarded as revenue staff for the purpose of this rule.

7. Subject to the general supervision of the Agent, all expenditure from the staff benefit fund shall be authorised by the committee or by a duly appointed Sub-committee under the provisions of rule 3.

8. The Committee shall have power to expend money from the fund on the following objects :-

(i) Schools and Education of the Staff;

(ii) institutes and other forms of recreation and amusements for the staff.

(iii) Schemes for sickness or Maternity benefits etc., for the families of the staff;

9. No part of a Fund shall be used for the direct benefit of the any Gazetted Officer of the Railway.

10. If the chairman disagrees with a majority of the Committee as regards expenditure from the fund in respect to :-

(i) financial propriety.

(ii) whether the grant comes within the objects mentioned in rule

8.

(iii) conflict with recognised policy of the Government of the Railway, he shall refer the matter to the Agent whose decision in the matter shall be final.

11. The Agent shall make such arrangements as may be necessary for keeping the accounts of the Fund and audit shall be carried out in such manner as the Government of India may direct.

12. The Agent shall submit annually a report to the Board of Directors on the working of the Fund during the previous financial year.

13. The Fine Fund will be abolished as such on the 31st March 1931.

Each Company managed Railway will be permitted to establish, with effect from the 1st April, 1931 or subsequent date, a Staff Benefit Fund in lieu of the existing Fine Fund subject to the credits to the Fund being regulated by rules 5 and 6, except that the contribution from revenue may be fixed at lower scale and to expenditure from the Fund being confined to the objects mentioned in para 8.

(The Railway Herald, Karachi.- 30-1-31
Vol. 11 - No. 12)

VDS.

Two Reports by the Labour Office, Bombay.

Attention is specially invited to the following two reports published in the January 1931 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay (Vol. X, No.5). The Labour Gazette is being regularly received at Geneva.

Report of an Enquiry into Family Budgets of Cotton Mill Operatives in Bombay City (pages 473-493).

Report of an Enquiry into Infant Mortality among Working Classes in Bombay City (pages 494-508).

The All India (including Burma) Postal & R.M.S. Union:Activities during 1929-30*.

The All India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union is one of the biggest and strongest labour organisations in India, its membership on 31-3-30 being 27,556. The following account of the activities of the Union for the year 1929-30 is taken from the Annual Report of the Union for the period issued by the General Secretary.

Membership .- On the 31st March 1930, the number of members on the rolls was 27,756 as against 29,670 in 1929. The details are given below:-

Name of Provinces.	Numerical strength of members.		Total.
	Clerks and ^{Sorters} Stores and above.	Below Clerks & Sorters.	
Bengal & Assam ...	3050	4175	7225
Bihar & Orissa	1341
Bombay ...	3419	699	4118
Burma ...	850	866	1716
Central Provinces ...	947	1313	2260
Delhi ...	125	20	145
Madras ...	3018	3982	6100
Punjab & N.W.F.	2374
Sind Baluchistan ...	312	9	321
United Provinces ...	1379	777	2156
	Total.	...	27756.

* Annual Report of the All India (including Burma) Postal & R.M.S. Union for the year 1929-30. Published at pages 1-9 of the November and December -(Vol. I - Nos. 5 & 6) 1930 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi.

Financial Position .- The opening balance in hand on 1st April 1929 was Rs.2,207-8-5. A total of amount Rs.10,587-4-6 was received from the Provincial branches as contributions during the year under review. The total expenditure during the year came to Rs.9,634-12-9 and a sum of Rs.952-7-9 was thus saved after meeting the expenses.

Representation of Grievances .- One of the most important aspects work of the Union is the representation of the of the/grievances of postal employees to the authorities for securing their redressal. During the year under review, the union submitted representations on the following subjects :-

(1) The need for the annulment of the orders passed by the Government of India regarding the appointment of Town Inspectors, in unjust supersession of the claims of a large number of Senior Officials, (2) modification of the syllabus of the Lowest Selection Grade Examination, (3) hardships of Inspectors of Post Offices and R.M.S., (4) improvement of pay and conditions of service of Postal Signallers, (5) fixation of pay of Graduates and Undergraduates in the revised time-scales, (6) inadequacy of outstation allowance sanctioned for R.M.S. officials, (7) grant of family pension and gratuities for Postal and R.M.S. employees who were killed by accidents or died of diseases contracted in course of execution of their duties, (8) counting of temporary or officiating service towards increment, (9) grant of compensatory allowance for costly and notoriously unhealthy places, (10) lowering of status of R.M.S. mailguards as a result of the last revision, (11) grant of grain compensation allowances to the subordinate staff of the Post Office and R.M.S. in places where it is sanctioned by local Governments, (12) reserve Clerks' Examination, (13) conditions of appointment of Postal Accountants, (14) payment of compensation to Postal and R.M.S. Officials on their acquittal after harassing prosecutions, (15) extension of operation of the Workmen's Compensation act to certain classes of Postal and R.M.S. Officials whose duties are of a hazardous nature, (16) grant of overtime pay to Postal signallers, (17) retrenchment, (18) promotion of extra Departmental Agents to the clerical cadre.

Besides the above, the union also made representations on a large number of grievances of a local nature referred to it by the various provincial branches of the union.

Results achieved :- Commenting on the results achieved by such representations, the reports says that they were most disappointing, and observes: "Barring the meagre provision made in the last budget for the improvement of pay of the staff of Benares H.O. and for

revision of allowances for Postal and R.M.S. Officials posted in notoriously unhealthy places in Alipur Doars, Madras Presidency and Sind and Baluchistan Circle, the administration has shown complete reluctance to entertain any proposals involving any additional expenditure. The result is that nothing has been done to mitigate the sufferings of Extra-departmental agents and other classes of employees who were left out in the last revision, living wage as formulated in the irreducible minimum demands has been denied to the staff whose pay has been revised and to crown all, the existing incumbents have practically reaped no actual benefit from the revision due to non-application of the point to point system. The graduates and undergraduates who were in service at the time of the revision still continue to draw a lower pay than new entrants who are junior to them in service by many years. Not only no provision has yet been made for revising the compensatory ~~x~~ allowance in places outside Burma but even the grant above referred to, for revising the allowances in notoriously unhealthy places, has not been allotted and disbursed, in spite of repeated representations, for affording relief to these most needy officials. There has been a general tendency on the part of the administration to reject or turn down even our most reasonable representations and the time has arrived for instituting a searching enquiry into the causes that have led to this unfavourable change in the attitude of the authorities and for adoption of effective measures for increasing the efficiency of our organisation and of new lines of action for securing redressal of our grievances."

Measures for increasing strength of the Union.- Analysing the causes of the failure of the Union to achieve its objects, the report that it is due to the lack of enthusiasm says/on the part of the members and secondly to the outburst of sectional tendencies among certain sections of the Union. The report suggests the following measures for improving the efficiency of the union as an agency for collective bargaining :- (1) An adequate strengthening of the Staff in the Head-quarter Office of the Union to enable the Union to cope with the growing work and responsibility, (2) adequate provision for continuous and intensive propaganda work to ~~be~~ be especially directed to Provinces and centres where the organisation is ~~weak~~ weak, (3) appointment of a standing Arbitration Board for settling disputes between the Union and the different sections and also between contending parties in branch Unions, (4) inauguration of an All-India Mutual Benefit Fund for stabilising membership, (5) a powerful and widely circulated central organ for ventilating grievances, educating the members and enlisting legislative support, (6) newspaper campaign for creating and strengthening public opinion in favour of our cause, (7) agitation for introduction of joint Councils on the lines of Whitley Councils, (8) adoption of a limited number of resolutions on the most important grievances at the Annual Conference and concentration of activities of the Union for getting them redressed during the ensuing year, Submission of quarterly progress reports inviting suggestions from Provincial Branches for further steps to be taken, (9) appointment of Standing Sub-Committees

for examination of the Union Constitution and Post and Telegraph Manual rules and suggestion of necessary amendments, (10) appointment of a Retrenchment Sub-Committee for submitting a memorandum on measures of retrenchment, (11) appointment of a Sub-committee of experts to examine and report on the present financial policy of the Department and to ascertain the correct deficit and its causes.

Action on Time-Test Report .- During the year under review, the Time-Test Report (see page 63 of the July 1930 report) was published. The Director General has announced in one of his Circulars that the Government has accepted the report and that the revised formulate embodied therein will be applied in future for fixing the staff in the Post Office and R.M.S. He has, however, expressed his inability, under the present financial condition of the Department to effect a whole-sale revision of the Staff on the basis of the revised time-test. The report states that the Union should concentrate its agitation on this question during 1931.

Retrenchment.- During the year under review there were various reports regarding the proposed retrenchments in the staff and scales of pay of postal employees, but on a reference being made by the Union, the Director General replied. "It is extremely undesirable and contrary to my express wishes that any economy should be practised which would adversely affect the conditions of service of the Staff, their health or wellbeing."

Settlement with Sectional Organisations .- During the year, the union made efforts to effect settlements with the existing separate sectional organisations of postal employees, viz., the All India Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union, the All India Administrative Officers' Union, and the All India Postal Accountants' Union, by which these sectional bodies could be induced to reunite with the All India Postal and R.M.S. Union. The discussions in this connection were conducted by a Committee of three under the leadership of Mr. S. C.

Joshi (Workers' Delegate to the 14th I.L.Conference), and the report states that, thanks to his efforts and the praiseworthy spirit shown by the leaders of the other Unions concerned, a settlement is in sight.

Mr. S.C. Joshi's work at Geneva .- The report refers to the deputation of Mr. S.C.Joshi, General Secretary, Bombay Presidency Postal and R.M.S. Union, as Labour Delegate from India to the 14th International Labour Conference and observes that the great services rendered by Mr. Joshi at Geneva to the cause of Indian labour are matters of deep congratulation for the Union.

Annual and Provincial Conferences & Council Meetings. The 9th Session of the Annual Conference of the Union was held at Peshawar on 10-11-29 under the presidentship of Dewan Chaman Lall 155 delegates were present at the Conference. Provincial Conferences were held in almost all the provinces. Two meetings of the Council of the Union were held in 1929-30.

Publicity and Propaganda .- The official organ of the union is the General Letter issued every month by the General Secretary. Besides this, several provincial unions are issuing their own publications, the chief being, "Labour" from Bengal and Assam, "General Letter from Bombay, & "General Letter" from Madras, "Postal Comrade" from Punjab and N.W.F., "Unionist" from Central Provinces, and "General Letter" from Burma.

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Trade Union Movement in the Central Provinces,* 1929-30

According to the report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Central Provinces for the year ending the 31st March 1930, issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, the Central Provinces, the total number of registered trade Unions in the Central Provinces at the close of the period was 7. Of these, 4 Unions were registered under the Act during the year under review. No union was dissolved during the period and of the three old trade Unions, one was not working during the year.

The total membership of all the seven trade unions at the beginning and the end of the year stood at 2,514 and 3,499 respectively, showing thereby an increase of 985 members. The income of 5 unions with a total membership of 1234 stood at Rs.764-1-6 and their expenditure at Rs.731-5-9. The other two unions representing 2265 members did not submit the annual returns for the year under review.

No political fund was maintained during the year by any of the trade Unions.

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 for the year ending the 31st March 1930. Nagpur: Printed at the Government Press 1931. Price - Two Annas. pp 4

Madras Tramway Employees' Union 1929-30.

The following facts about the Madras Electric Tramway and Supply Corporation Employees' Union are taken from the 13th Annual report of the Union for the year 1929-30 :-

The Madras Electric Tramway & Supply Corporation Employees' Union was started in 1917. Mr. S.P.Y. Surendranath Voegeli Arya was elected as its President by a General Body Meeting of the Union on 14th September 1928. The Union was registered on 18th January 1929 under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, and was recognised by the Company on the 22nd March 1929. The membership of the Union at the beginning of the year was about 700; by the ~~end~~ end of 1930 its membership increased to 2800 members. The number of Male Members is 2530; The number of Women Members is 270. The monthly subscriptions are:- Coolies (Men) 2 annas, and Coolies (Women) 1 anna, and Employees other than Coolies 4 annas. During the period under review, the Union sent up nine deputations to the Agent to discuss various demands and grievances of the employees, such as, recognition of the Union, increase of wages, the setting up of an Arbitration Board, increased allowances for over-time work, reduction of hours in the Permanent Way Department etc.

The following is a summary of the more important of the resolutions passed at the 13th Annual Conference of the Union held at Madras on 3 and 4-1-31 under the Presidentship of Dewan Bahadur B. Munuswami ~~Naidu~~ Naidu, Chief Minister to the Government of Madras:-

The Conference appreciated the efforts that were being made at the Round Table Conference to realise India's legitimate aspirations; with regard to the demands of Labour the Conference heartily supported the proposition that the New Constitution should contain a declaration of the fundamental rights of the workers, adult suffrage and that labour legislation shall remain a Central or Federal subject.

~~This conference recommended~~ The company should introduce immediately a Provident Fund scheme on the lines of those obtaining in State and

Company Railways etc. It also requests that a copy of the rules may be submitted to the Union before they are finally adopted.

The gratuity scheme introduced in 1920 shall be revived and shall apply to all workers and shall have retrospective effect.

A graded system of pay on time scale should be introduced for all employees.

The fines collected may be allotted as a separate Fund and utilised for the benefit of the workers by way of Night Schools, Reading Room etc., under the management of the Union.

(a) As regards Traffic employees a minimum wage of Re.1-0-6 ^{per day} (according to Lord Wellington's arbitration) may be fixed.

(b) as regards Generating Staff a minimum salary of Rs.25/- ^{per month} for Switch Board Attendant and Rs.40/- ^{per month} for Station Attendants be fixed and

(c) as regards all other employees of the Tramway Company and the Supply Corporation similar increase in the minimum wage or salary may be granted.

~~Under~~ The company should engage sufficient reserve staff so as to avoid overworking of the employees ~~that what is actually necessary to meet all exigencies.~~

The Traffic staff and all employees working under the shift system shall be given 48 days leave per year with pay instead of 15 days, in exchange for which the employees are willing to forego the privilege of staying away for 4 days each month, will also guarantee not to absent themselves without permission or medical certificate.

As regards the Generating staff (a) in case of overtime they may be given ~~xx~~ an advance for meals, which may be adjusted out of their salaries every month and for this purpose a sum of Rs.5/- may be deposited by the company with the Station Attendant in charge.

The Car Shed employees ~~they~~ may be brought under the benefits of the Factory Act.

Maternity leave with pay be granted to women employees for one month before confinement and one month after confinement.

In view of the frequent punishments meted out to employees for very trivial offences, old offences should not be taken into account after a period of satisfactory conduct.

(Extract from communication sent to this Office by the Secretary of the Madras Electric Tramway & Supply Corporation Employees' Union, Madras.)

Intellectual Workers.Revision of Pay of Shroffs in Currency Offices.

The Standing Finance Committee of the Government of India has sanctioned a permanent recurring grant of Rs.21,756 for the revision of pay of shroffs in Currency Offices. It is proposed to raise the scales of pay of shroffs in Currency Offices as a result of the acceptance of the recommendation of the Committee appointed to inquire into the condition of service and scales of pay of currency employees.

The Committee met in Bombay from November 14 to 19 and submitted its recommendations, which the Government of India have, in consultation with the Controller of the Currency, decided to accept. Although the Committee's investigations were confined to the conditions prevailing in Bombay, a readjustment of the scales of pay of the shroffing establishment is necessary in other offices also, as the existing scale of pay has been fixed on the same principle in every office. The Committee have recommended an increase of Rs.20 in the maximum pay of the shroffing establishment in Bombay and have suggested that the increment should be at the rate of Rs.3 per annum during the first ten years of service and at the rate of Rs.2 per annum during the subsequent ten years of service. It is proposed to raise the maximum pay in Calcutta, Rangoon, and Karachi by the same amount but to raise it by Rs.15 only in Cawnpore, Lahore, and Madras, which are cheaper places; the present minimum pay in these offices is, however, low and it is proposed to raise it by Rs.5; the rate of increment will be the same everywhere. It is also proposed to fix the pay of the head shroff in Bombay at Rs.105, that of the head shroffs in Calcutta, Rangoon and Karachi at Rs.100 and in the other offices at Rs.90 per month.

(Pioneer .- 31-1-31.)

Economic Conditions.Trade of India in 1929-30.*

A comprehensive review of the Trade of India during 1929-30 has recently been published by the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics of the Government of India. According to the report the total value of imports of merchandise into British India in 1929-30 amounted to Rs. ~~31.79~~^{2408.0} millions and that of exports to Rs. ~~31.79~~^{3179.0} millions. On the basis of corresponding figures for 1928-29, these indicated a decline of Rs. ~~125.0~~^{125.0} millions or 5 per cent for the imports and of Rs. ~~2.01~~^{201.0} millions or 6 per cent for the exports.

Imports and Exports; Balance of Trade.

Imports.- On the import side the outstanding feature of the year's transactions was a decline of Rs. 37.6 millions under cotton manufactures. Cotton piecegoods by themselves accounted for a reduction of Rs. 35.6 millions, corresponding to a decline of 17.3 million yards in quantity, the actual receipts of the year having amounted to 1,919.3 million yards with a total declared value of Rs. 502.5 millions. This decline is all the more significant, because it occurred in spite of an improvement under grey goods from 838.6 to 925.5 million yards in quantity and from Rs. 201.9 millions to Rs. 209.3 millions in value. Consignments of white goods declined from 554.1 million yards valued at Rs. 153.35 millions to 473.6 million yards valued at Rs. 132.75 millions and those of coloured goods from 506.9 million yards valued at Rs. 173.5 millions to 483.5 million yards valued at Rs. 151.5 millions. The striking feature in the piecegoods trade was the rapid penetration into the Indian market of Japan, imports from which source showed increases of 152

million yards (63 per cent) under greys, of 8.4 million yards (154 per cent) under whites and of 44.5 million ~~yards~~ yards (40 per cent) under coloured. Twist and yarn exhibited a nominal advance ~~of~~ on the quantity side from 43.8 million lbs. to 43.9 million lbs. although the value recorded declined from Rs. 62.9 millions to Rs. 60 millions. Among other items included in the textile group, artificial silk (including yarn and goods of artificial silk mixed with other materials) declined from Rs. 47.7 millions to Rs. 43.2 millions; silk, raw and manufactured, from Rs. 50.1 millions to Rs. 45.8 millions; wool and woollens from Rs. 50.2 millions to Rs. 42.8 millions. There were interesting movements under sugar, imports of which declined in value from Rs. 160.9 millions to Rs. 157.8 millions, despite an increase on the ~~quantity~~ quantity side from 937,000 tons to 1,011,000 tons. An unusual feature was a remarkable expansion in receipts of beet sugar from 8,400 tons to 131,000 tons simultaneously with a curtailment of the requirements of cane sugar from 860,000 tons to 807,000 tons. The dullness, which had come upon the iron and steel import trade in 1928-29, persisted during the year under review, the total imports having declined from 1,170,000 tons to 972,700 tons in quantity and from Rs. 202.4 millions to Rs. 172.1 millions in value. In machinery and millwork, the developments, noticed in the preceding year, could not be maintained and, although appreciable advances were made under such items as electrical machinery and prime-movers, the total value recorded for the whole group (including belt-ing) fell off by Rs. 800,000 to Rs. 193.5 millions, chiefly as a result of the weakening of demand in the mining, tea and sugar industries. One of the palpably retrograde movements of the year was registered under motor vehicles, the total value of which declined,

contrary to all expectations, from Rs. 77.2 millions to Rs. 75.2 millions. This was due almost wholly to a falling off in the number of motor cars imported from 19,600 to 17,400, the decline being almost entirely confined to consignments from Canada and the United States of America. But the upward trend in imports of rubber manufactures was well sustained, the value of the imports having advanced by 15 per cent from Rs. 28.6 millions to Rs. 33 millions, mainly as a result of the increased consumption of pneumatic motor covers. Imports of hardware (excluding cutlery and electroplated ware) declined from Rs. 52.3 millions to Rs. 50.7 millions, owing principally, to reductions under implements and tools, enamelled ironware and metalled lamps. The total decline under metals and manufactures thereof, including in this group for purposes of comparison such items as machinery and millwork, hardware, cutlery, implements and instruments, and vehicles, was Rs. 35 millions on a total of Rs. 670 millions registered in 1928-29. There was a very remarkable improvement under mineral oils, imports of which advanced from 241.9 million gallons valued at Rs. 107 millions to 252.7 million gallons valued at Rs. 110.4 millions. The steady increase in receipts of kerosene oils, which was noticeable since 1927-28 was more than maintained, and the total quantity consigned during the year moved upwards from 104.7 million gallons to 106.4 million gallons, concurrently with an advance of about 32 million gallons in the coastwise imports into India proper from Burma. Fuel oil supplemented this increase by advancing from 103.7 million gallons in 1928-29 to the record figure of 110.2 million gallons, the recovery being due to the resumption of work in the Bombay cotton

mills. Imports of provisions were valued at Rs. 56.4 millions, a decline of Rs. 5.7 millions, which is to be ascribed to the falling off in the consignments of vegetable product as well as to a reduction in the prices. Imports of liquors advanced from 6.8 million gallons to 7.6 million gallons in quantity and from Rs. 35.7 millions to Rs. 37.7 millions. Imports of raw cotton, which had fallen from 66,100 tons in 1927-28 to 28,900 tons in 1928-29, declined still further in 1929-30 by 4,900 tons, a decrease of 10,000 tons in the share of the United States of America, having been set off to some extent by an increase of 4,000 tons in that of Kenya Colony. Imports of paper and pasteboard increased from Rs. 33 millions to Rs. 37.2 millions, the gain on the quantity side having been 429,000 cwts. on a total of 2,313,000 cwts. recorded in 1928-29. Imports of wheat, which had advanced from 69,200 tons valued at Rs. 10.9 millions in 1927-28 to 561,900 tons valued at Rs. 81.7 millions in 1928-29, came down during the year under review to 357,000 tons with a total declared value of Rs. 49.8 millions, owing largely to the disappearance of the exceptional circumstances ruling in the preceding year.

Exports.- On the export side, the principal phenomenon has been the serious depression in the world demand for jute. The total weight of raw and manufactured jute exported fell by 44,000 tons to 1,765,000 tons, but the value slumped more heavily from Rs. 890 millions to Rs. 790 millions. 50 per cent of the total decline recorded on the value side is attributable to raw jute, exports of which fell from ~~Rx~~ 5,028,000 bales to 4,519,000 bales in quantity and from Rs. 320 millions to Rs. 270 millions in value. Shipments of gunny bags advanced from 498 millions to 522 millions in number but the gain was discounted by a fall in prices, which sent down the

declared value from Rs. 250 millions to Rs. 220 millions. A similar movement was recorded under gunny cloth, the total declared value for which sagged from Rs. 316.6 millions to Rs. 296.6 millions in spite of an increase in yardage from 1,568 millions to 1,651 millions. Under cotton the combined values of the year's shipments of the raw product and of the manufactures declined from Rs. 744.9 millions to Rs. 727.9 millions. Under the ^{stimulus} ~~stimulus~~ of a favourable price parity shipments of raw cotton expanded from 3,712,000 bales to 4,070,000 bales, but the value actually recorded a loss of Rs. 10 millions on a total value of Rs. 660 millions recorded in 1928-29, the advantage of increased shipments having thus been more than neutralised by a serious decline in prices, which can be explained by reference to the pressure of the huge carry-over from the previous year's crop as well as to the low grade of the Broach and Oomras crops of the year. Export shipments of cotton manufactures (including twist and yarn) were valued at Rs. 71.9 millions, which meant a reduction of Rs. 6.1 millions on the basis of 1928-29 and of Rs. 14.8 millions on that of 1927-28. The total decline under cotton piecegoods amounted to 16 million yards in quantity and Rs. 7 millions in value. The principal feature of this downward movement is the progressive decline in exports of greys, which is explained in part by the parlous state of the Bombay mill industry and by the severity of Japanese competition in many of the especial markets of the Bombay mills. Under foodgrains, the total shipments advanced from 2,500,000 tons valued at Rs. 336.9 millions to 2,510,500 tons valued at Rs. 347.9 millions but this improvement, ~~as~~ far from being general, was confined almost wholly to rice, shipments of which recovered from 1,817,400 tons to 2,326,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 264.7 millions to Rs. 315.1

millions in value as a result of the premature exhaustion of the surpluses of the other exporting countries. Exports of wheat, which amounted to 13,000 tons valued at Rs. ~~220~~²¹² millions, were shorter than the exports of 1928-29 by 102,000 tons in quantity and Rs. 14.8 millions in value, the decline on the basis of 1927-28 being 287,000 tons on the quantity side and Rs. 42 millions on the value side. Taking other kinds of foodgrains together for purposes of comparison, the total decline for the year amounted to 193,000 tons in quantity and Rs. 23.7 millions in value, out of which as much as 132,000 tons on the quantity side and Rs. 15.8 millions on the value side represented a reduction in the export shipments of barley. In tea the principal feature of the year was the intensification of the preceding year's depression, as a result of which the value of shipments declined from Rs. 266 millions to Rs. 260.1 millions, notwithstanding an increase in the quantity shipped from 359.6 million lbs. to 376.6 million lbs. Exports of oilseeds amounted to 1,195,000 tons valued at 264.6 million rupees, which meant a decline of 10 per cent in quantity and of 11 per cent in value in comparison with the figures for 1928-29 but an increase of 9 per cent over the average value of the shipments during the pre-war period. The decline, as exhibited in the year's transactions, is accounted for by a falling-off in the shipments of groundnuts from 788,000 tons valued at Rs. 193.7 millions to 714,000 tons valued at Rs. 163.9 millions, a good part of this of which rose from 156,700 tons to 248,200 tons in quantity and from Rs. 33.1 millions to Rs. 57.2 millions in value as a result mainly of the low out-turn of the world's linseed crops. Despatches of hides and skins declined from 89,600 tons valued at Rs. 188.7 millions to 74,100 tons valued at Rs. 160.3 millions. Shipments of lac also

fell off by 10 per cent in quantity and 19 per cent in value from 743,000 cwts. valued at Rs. 86.4 millions to 669,000 cwts. valued at Rs. 69.7 millions. Exports of oilcakes, which had shown an abnormal development in 1928-29 fell off by Rs. 7.2 millions to Rs. 31.2 millions, thus showing a decline of Rs. 200,000 on the basis of 1927-28.

Re-exports.- Coming to re-exports, the total value recorded under this head amounted to Rs. 71.3 millions in 1929-30. This meant a decline of Rs. 1 million in comparison with the value recorded in 1928-29 and Rs. 24.1 millions on the basis of 1927-28. The bulk of India's ~~xxx~~ re-exports usually passes through Bombay and the effect of this retrogression was, as in the preceding year, confined mainly to that province, the value of her trade having fallen off from Rs. 50.2 millions to Rs. 45.2 millions and the corresponding percentage share from 64 to 63. The most noticeable movement of the year, so far as Bombay was concerned, was a decline in the shipments of raw skins from 323 tons valued at Rs. 15.3 millions to 211 tons valued Rs. 10.5 millions. Re-exports of raw cotton from Bombay, which had fallen off from 2,790 tons valued at Rs. 4.4 millions in 1927-28 to 551 tons valued at Rs. 900,000 in 1928-29, recovered to 1,425 tons valued at Rs. 1.9 millions in 1929-30. Shipments of sugar contracted from 10,000 tons to 7,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 2.3 millions to Rs. 1.7 millions in value. Re-exports of cotton manufactures (mostly piecegoods) fell from Rs. 8.9 millions to Rs. 7.8 millions. Re-exports of raw wool decreased from 12 ~~mm~~ million lbs. valued at Rs. 9.4 millions to 8 million lbs. valued at Rs. 6.5 millions.

Balance of Trade.- The visible balance of trade in merchandise and treasure for the year 1929-30 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 530 millions compared with Rs. 520 millions in the preceding year, Rs. 500 millions in 1927-28 and the record figure of Rs. 1,090 millions in 1925-26. The net imports of treasure of private account fell from Rs. 340 millions to Rs. 260 millions, of which net imports of gold were valued at Rs. 140 millions and of silver at Rs. 120 millions. Net imports of currency notes amounted to Rs.900,000.

Tariff Changes in 1928-29.

The changes in the tariff made under the Indian Finance Act, 1929 and the Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1929, were dealt with at pages 45 and 46 of the report of this office for November 1929. Since then four Acts have been passed introducing important changes in the tariff.

The Indian Finance Act, 1930, which was passed on the 28th March, imposed an import duty of 4 annas an ounce on silver bullion and coin and rolled sheets and plates not ~~further~~ further manufactured, raised the import duty on cotton piecegoods from 11 per cent to 15 per cent ad valorem, raised the import duty on all kinds of sugar and sugar candy (excluding molasses) by Rs. 1/8 per cwt. and reduced the import duty on kerosene from 2 1/2 annas a ~~maund~~ to 2 3/4 annas a gallon and the export duty on rice from 3 annas to 2 3/4 annas a maund. It also raised the import duty on silver manufacturers (plate, thread, wire, leaf, etc.) from 30 to 38 per cent ad valorem consequent upon the imposition on duty on the metal. The reduction of import duty on kerosene was coupled with an increase in the corresponding excise duty from 1 anna to 1 1/2 annas a gallon, while the imposition of customs duty on silver necessitated the imposition of an equivalent

excise duty on the local production and this was done under the Silver (Excise Duty) Act, 1930.

The Cotton Textile Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, which was passed on the 4th April, provided for the protection of the Cotton Textile Industry and imposed a protective duty of 20 per cent. ad valorem on all cases of cotton piecegoods of other than British manufacture with a minimum specific duty of $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas a pound on plain grey goods. For piecegoods of British manufacture the corresponding rate was 15 per cent ad valorem with the same minimum of $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas a pound in the case of plain grey goods. The Act also provided for the continuance of the protection granted to the Industry in 1927 in respect of the manufacture of cotton yarn and retained the minimum specific duty of $1\frac{1}{2}$ annas a pound on the imported article. Both these provisions will have effect up to 31st March, 1933.

The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1930, which came into force on the 29th March, removed the import duty on tanning barks, ammonium phosphates, living plants, certain agricultural implements and dairy appliances, poultry farming appliances and incubators, pans for boiling sugar cane juice, sugar centrifuges and sugar pug-mills and certain printing and lithographic materials. It also effected certain minor changes such as the imposition of saccharine duty on substances of a like nature or use, equilisation of duty on all domestic refrigerators at 15 per cent ad valorem, exemption of pilot cores of insulated copper cables from the condition as regards size for assessment purposes and the equilisation of duty on all kinds of bangles beads and false pearls at 30 per cent ad valorem.

The Steel Industry (Protection) Act, 1930, which came into

force on the 29th March, lowered the limit of the size of the protected qualities of round and square steel bars and rods from $\frac{1}{2}$ to "over $\frac{7}{16}$ " inch in order to make the protection more effective. It also imposed the protective duty on tie-bars for cast iron sleepers making all spikes and tie-bars liable to the same protective duty as bars thus giving full effect to the intention underlying the Act of 1927.

Effect of Industrial Unrest on Economic Conditions.

The outstanding feature of the industrial situation in India during 1928 was the labour unrest, which seriously disturbed the economic equilibrium of the country. Conditions showed little improvement in this respect in 1929 and the year witnessed labour unrest of equal magnitude in many industries of the country. The two major incidents of the year, so far as labour is concerned, were the general strikes, -which convulsed at one end the textile industry of Bombay and at the other the jute mill industry of Bengal. In Bombay a general strike was called from the 26th April. Although its actual incidence was not so heavy at first, it spread to 64 mills by the beginning of May. But the situation gradually improved, the strike showing signs of breaking down by the end of August and finally collapsing early in September. The strike in the jute mills of Bengal, which broke out at the beginning of August, affected almost all the jute mills on both sides of the Hooghly. But the majority of the mill hands returned to work by the middle of September and the strike terminated early in October.

(The Trade of India in 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 40-46 of the report of this office for November 1929).

*Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India.

Review of the Trade of India in 1929-30 (56th Issue). Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1930. Price Rs.2 as.10 or 4s.9d. pp. xxv + 284.

Social Conditions.The Immoral Traffic Act, Madras.

As a result of considerable agitation on the part of the Madras public, the Madras Legislative Council passed the Immoral Traffic Act in January 1930, and the Act received the assent of the Governor-General in April of the same year. The Act has not yet been put into force as the Government allege the existence of two main difficulties, in addition to a few minor ones, which stand in the way of an early enforcement. One is the absence, under the Madras Children's Act, of Juvenile Courts that can be invested with jurisdiction under the Immoral Traffic Act to commit rescued girls to "suitable custody" for education, care, etc. In the absence of such Courts, the enforcement of the Act in mufasal towns - where Juvenile Courts do not exist and are not likely to come into existence for some time - will be infructuous. A further difficulty is the absence of Rescue Homes to which the girls can be committed. (New India .- 22-1-31)

Seeing that the Government was postponing the enforcement of the Act, a deputation of the Madras Vigilance Association consisting of the Lord Bishop of Madras, Mr. K. V. Sesha Iyengar, and Mr. D.F. McClelland waited on the Home Member of the Madras Government on 16-1-31 to urge the necessity for the early enforcement of the Act.

The deputationists pointed out that the provisions of the Act are directed to the achievement of two objects; namely, the arrest and prevention of the growth of immoral traffic, by enacting certain new offences; and the rescue and care of minor girls who have been already made victims to that traffic. Unlike the remedial sections, the punitive sections do not require any new machinery. The Magistrates' Courts and the Criminal Procedure Code are enough for putting them into operation. The two sets of provisions are independent of each other, and the preventive and punitive sections can be immediately introduced throughout the Presidency in accordance with the Act.

There was urgent need for such enforcement. With respect to the second set of provisions, they stated that inasmuch as their enforcement and effectiveness are dependent on the existence of juvenile courts

and of rescue homes, the Government ought to take steps to bring such courts into existence in all district centres at as early a date as possible. Meanwhile these sections could be ~~x~~ enforced in those places where juvenile courts were functioning.

With respect to rescue homes there were at present some institutions in the city and elsewhere where room could be found for about 50 inmates. The Vigilance Association was also endeavouring to bring into existence a non-denominational home. It was expected that before such a home was built, it might be possible with adequate financial assistance from the Government to meet the requirements of the provisions of the Act either through the existing institutions or through a rented home under the management of the Association.

The authorities are reported to have promised to the deputationists to find their way to enforce the Act at an early date, and, in the meantime, to take steps for obtaining legal opinion as to whether partial enforcement of the Act is possible. (The Hindu .- 16-1-31.)

Social Conditions.

Proposed Legislation to stop Beggar Nuisance, Madras.

For the purpose of better controlling beggars in the city of Madras, Mr. F.E. James proposes to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Council by way of amendment to the Madras City Police Act and the Madras Children's Act.

Section 71 (XXI) of the Police Act which runs as follows is sought to be deleted: "Whoever begs or applies for alms, or exposes or exhibits any sores, wounds, bodily ailment or deformity with the object of exciting charity or of extorting alms". The Bill seeks to insert the following new section:-

"71-A.- Whoever begs or applies for alms or exhibits any sores, wounds, bodily ailment or deformity with the object of exciting charity or of extorting alms in any public street, road, thoroughfare or place of public resort may (1) be released on probation on a first offence as in the case of first offenders under the Criminal Procedure Code or (2) be committed (a) where the offender is able bodied to a certified workhouse or settlement; (b) where the offender is infirm or diseased to a certified hospital or infirmary, or (c) in the case of a refractory or turbulent offender to a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months."

The amendment to the Children's Act will be in Section 29 to insert in sub-section (1) after (d) the following:-

"Or (e) is found begging or receiving alms in any public street, road, thoroughfare or place of public resort".

(The Hindu, 16-1-1931).

Public Health.Housing Scheme for E. I. Railway Employees.

Quite a number of railway housing schemes have been started in India during recent years. The newest of them has been started at Howrah, the industrial suburb of Calcutta, by the East Indian Railway. The following details about the scheme, of which the first stages are now complete, are taken from an article on the subject appearing in the Times of India, Bombay, of 9-1-31.

The housing site, which is called the Tindal Bagan Estate, covers an area of 24½ acres. The estate has been laid out with a view to remedying the defects which the past system has revealed; high rents, insanitation, overcrowding, distance, cost of transport and the absence of organised communal life.

The new quarters consist in the main of separate blocks for subordinate employees, for clerks and for menials. The cost of the land has been approximately Rs.3.1 million, ~~which~~ while the buildings and their equipment have entailed the expenditure of roughly Rs.2.3 millions or a total of nearly Rs.5.4 millions. For the subordinate staff there are two great three-storeyed blocks, containing a total of 108 suites of rooms. In each of the blocks there are 15 three-roomed suites and 39 two-roomed suites. The blocks themselves consist of five wings projecting in a southward direction and a main portion running from east to west, the whole forming a frontage of over 150 yards each.

Details of three-roomed suites .- Each three-roomed suite consists of two bedrooms and a living room (each 16ft. by 16ft.); a kitchen with pucca masonry chula (fire place for cooking), iron chimney, porcelain sinks and water connections; a bathroom with sanitary fittings and porcelain handbasins and marble shelf; and a store-room with sets of cement concrete shelves. Each suite also possesses three verandahs of ample width, as well as a small verandah between the kitchen and the store-room. A spiral staircase gives

independent entrance into the kitchen. The bed-rooms and living rooms are separated by a passage way. In this manner each suite is not only entirely self-contained, but planned according to thoroughly up-to-date designs.

Details of two-roomed suites .- The two-roomed suites for subordinate staff consist of two bedrooms, 16ft. by 16ft., a dressing-room 16ft. by 8ft., a kitchen and a bathroom, and also two verandahs (east and west in the case of wing suites, and north and south in the case of the main block). Throughout these buildings the floors are granolithic laid on R.B. work. Steel Crittal windows have been provided in kitchens, stores and bathrooms. The buildings have a pleasing appearance, the monotony of their frontage being broken both by the provision of the wings and by ornamental verandahs; while numerous turrets are further decorative features.

Clerks' Quarters.- The clerks' quarters similarly fall into two categories - three-roomed and two-roomed - and these are found in a separate three-storeyed block. The accommodation in each suite consists of bedrooms and living rooms, kitchen, bathroom and two verandahs.

Menials' Quarters .- Two further blocks, each four storeys high, contain the menials' quarters which comprise 192 units. Each of the latter consists of a room (10ft. by 10ft.) opening on to a continuous verandah 6ft. 3ins. wide. In each storey there are four sets of common lavatories and bathrooms. A further set of 24 units is housed in a smaller two storeyed block.

Sanitary Arrangements .- One of the main features of the Tindal Bagan undertaking is the great amount of attention that has been paid to health and sanitation. The suites of rooms are admirably ventilated, for, in the first place, the rooms are so arranged as to admit fresh air from all directions; and in addition, an area 7ft. by 7ft. has been kept open to the sky to facilitate the entry of air and light into each of the two-roomed suites.

Two 5 inch tube-wells have been sunk to a depth of about 300 feet, and electric pumps with an average capacity of 6,000 gallons per hour have been installed near the tube-wells (and housed in a suitable masonry structure) to supply water for all purposes required for the staff on this estate. The electric pump, incidentally, is located at a level of about ten feet below ground and discharges water at a height of 50 feet into a set of twelve pressed-steel overhead tanks placed on the roof of the menials quarters. Each of the tanks contains 4,800 gallons and the distribution is to all parts of the estate by six-inch and three-inch pipes. In this manner a pure drinking water supply will be obtainable day and night with an ample margin for other purposes.

Flushing arrangements have been provided in all bath-rooms, and the ventilating pipes to all soil pipes rise above the roof level. Pucca masonry surface drainage has been installed all round the quarters with outlets into the municipal drain outside the estate. The latter will have its own septic tank which after chlorination will also have its outlet into the municipal drains. Dust-bins are placed outside each kitchen, and care will be taken that these receptacles are cleaned at regular hours. In this manner it is hoped that the Tindal-Bagan colony will be a model of cleanliness.

Facilities for Recreation.- While ample distances separate the

KLB.

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blocks from each other, in the very heart of the estate is a large open plot which has been for the time being reserved as a recreation ground ~~land~~ and park. A wide road with numerous feeder roads will give easy access to all parts of the estate and lead directly to the main road adjoining the railway station. Spacious and well-dressed lawns and avenues of trees are being planted so that there will be ample space and shade, which are so essential to well being in a tropical town. Close at hand are Railway Institutes, which the members of the staff are eligible to join.

Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay*

The following facts about the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay are taken from the Annual Report on the Industrial Housing Scheme, Bombay, for the year 1929-30. In March 1929 the management of the Industrial Housing Scheme was transferred to the Revenue Department of the Government of Bombay by the Development Department. The scheme comprises 207 chawls (tenements for industrial workers) having rooms and shops as shown in the following table.

<u>Chawl areas.</u>	<u>Number of chawls.</u>	<u>Number of rooms.</u>	<u>Number of shops.</u>	
DeLisle Road	32	2,549	11	
Naigaum	42	3,271	73	
Worli	121	9,476	184	Market stalls and equal to 20 rooms
Sewri	12	918	*103 42	
Total	207	16,214	413	

Chawls in use. The following table shows the figures of the occupied chawls at the beginning and at the end of the year:-

<u>Locality.</u>	<u>April 1929.</u>	<u>March 1930.</u>
DeLisle Road	27	27
Naigaum	38	39
Worli	45	46
Sewri	12	12
Total	122	124

Scale of Rents.- During the year under report the scale of rents for rooms on all floors of the chawls at DeLisle Road was reduced with effect from the 1st April 1929 to a flat rate of Rs.8 per room per

* Annual Report on the Administration of the Industrial Housing Scheme for the Year 1929-30 (Price- Anna 1 or 1d). Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1931.

mensem, while the rents for the chawls in the other three areas remained unchanged throughout the year, the rates being a flat rent for all rooms of Rs. 8 at DeLisle Road, Rs. 7 at Naigaum, Rs.7 at Sewri and Rs.5 at Worli.

Tenancies.- Out of a total of 16,524 rooms and shops constructed by March 1929, 7,291 rooms were occupied at the end of March 1930. During the first quarter of the year under report there was a heavy decline in the number of tenancies, owing to the disturbed condition of the textile industry and the serious communal riots in Bombay, (see pages 25-27 of ^{of this office} the February 1929 Report), in all localities except Sewri where there are less millhand tenants. From September the occupancies began to rise steadily till they showed a marked improvement over the figures of occupancies at the end of the year 1928-29. The fall in the month of March 1930 might be due to the G.I.P. Railway strike. On the 31st March 1930 the tenancies showed an increase of nearly 500 over those on the 31st March 1929 but a decrease of 400 as compared with the figures on the 31st March 1928. Three chawls at Worli were placed at the disposal of the jail authorities for a temporary prison in the beginning of May 1929, but two of them were subsequently relinquished and only one was retained by them till the beginning of October 1929. These have not been included in the above table, as they were only temporarily occupied by under-trial prisoners arrested during the disturbances.

A Co-operative Estate Scheme in the Sunderbans, Bengal.

The following are the main ~~details for~~ ^{features of} a co-operative estate scheme put forward by Sir Daniel Hamilton of Bengal, ~~and~~ which has now received the sanction of the Government of Bengal and the Government of India :-

(1) The Government of India should lend Rs.150,000 for the establishment of the Bolpur Training School for co-operative workers, (2) the Bengal Government should place at the disposal of Sir D. Hamilton a block of land in ^{the} Sunderbans for the purpose of creating an estate of about 10,000 acres to be worked on co-operative lines, the estate remaining the property of the Bengal Government, (3) the Government of India should lend a further sum of Rs.2,00,000 for the development of the estate. The estate is estimated to provide a living for 2000 families, the rice-lands being expected to yield Rs.400,000 worth of paddy. The doctors and teachers are to be paid for by the people from the paddy and not ^{from} today and salt, and villagers are to learn the art of self-government through panchayats, which will form the electoral unit of the populace consisting of all castes and creeds. This miniature "Co-operative State" is named Andrewpur.

According to Sir Daniel Hamilton, the proposals, if followed up, would supply what was lacking in the proposed constitution for India, and usher the dawn of independence for the individual, and therefore of the nation, and solve the unemployment problem among the Bhadraklok (middle classes). (The Hindu.- 28-1-31.)

Women and Children.The 5th All India Women's Educational Conference, Lahore.

The fifth All India Women's Educational Conference was held at Lahore on 12 to 14-1-31 under the presidentship of Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi. The Conference passed resolutions urging :-

(1) The employment of a woman doctor to ensure ante and post natal care and attention during child-birth for the mother and medical care of children, the establishment of maternity homes and of an adequate supply of trained help, and the establishment of creches and nursery schools in all factories.

(2) The early passing of a Maternity Benefits Act for the whole of India.

(3) Part-time education being made compulsory for all half-timers upto the age of 15 years, and where conditions make it desirable, mill-owners co-operating with the local authorities in the provision of such education among the industrial population.

(4) The Conference urged the Viceroy and the Central Legislature and the local Governments to keep the Sarda Act intact and strictly enforce the provisions of the Act, and called upon ~~social societies and~~ social reform associations in the country to educate public opinion and persuade individuals to obey the law and to report cases of violation of the Act.

(5) In view of the widespread awakening and outlook of women, the Conference considered it imperative to form centres for practical training of social workers in both rural and urban areas and centres for social work.

(6) In view of the high maternal and infant mortality all over India, the Conference called upon the Central and Provincial Govern-

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ments to appoint medical women as administrative officers both in the medical and public health departments in order to organise adequate medical aid for women and children and to develop maternity and child welfare work.

(7) The Conference urged that separate children's courts be established for trying juvenile offenders and that in these courts at least one Magistrate should be a ~~Muslim~~ woman.

(8) The Conference reiterated its firm conviction that women should be adequately represented on the central and provincial legislatures, district, municipal and other local bodies and on commissions and committees affecting women and children. (The Hindu .- 17-1-31).

The First All Asian Women's Conference, Lahore.

The First All Asian Women's Conference was held at Lahore from the 19th to the 25th January 1931. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu was elected president of the Conference, but, as she was at the time a political prisoner, the Conference was presided over by Lady Bandaranaike (Ceylon). Delegates from ~~then~~ Asiatic countries were present on the opening day. Among the foreign delegates present were :- Mrs. Mohl (Jerusalem), Madame Nasik Abed (Syria), Madame Nour Hamada (Damascus), Mrs. Ani (Basra), Madame Mastoor E. Afshar (Tehran), Mrs. Hasan Ara (Afghanistan) Bibi Moulk, and Begum Amiruddin (Persia), and Mrs. San and Miss Soon (Java). The Rani of Mandi in the course of her welcome address said :

"This is the first gathering of its kind in Asia. We meet to promote cultural unity among the women of Asia, to place at the service of humanity these qualities which are peculiar to our Oriental civilisation, to stamp out those evils which have crept into our civilisation, to pick out and adapt those qualities of civilisation and culture which have elevated the West to the high pinnacle of social and material prosperity, to benefit ourselves by exchange of experience in our respective countries and lastly to advance the cause of world peace. It is our desire not merely to regenerate ourselves, but through us,

regenerate and promote human progress and happiness at large. Let us discard the customs and traditions which have been strangling our domestic lives and wield an inspiring and noble influence in our household, in our country and in the world at large."

The Conference passed eleven resolutions concerning education, religion, drink, drugs, health, culture, equality of status of men and women, children's rights, right of self-expression, world peace, stoppage of traffic in women and children and labour. The following is a brief summary of the resolutions passed :- The first resolution urged free compulsory primary education for every boy and girl in Asia. The second resolution said that in order to provide a spirit of religious tolerance, love and harmony amongst the communities, the lives and teachings of great religious leaders should be taught in schools and the comparative study of ^{the} great religions of the world included in the curriculum of colleges. The third resolution recommended prohibition, limitation of production of alcohol, opium and other drugs and propaganda against alcohol among students. The fourth resolution asked the countries in Asia except Japan to spend money on health schemes and institute researches into the causation of diseases peculiar to the East and development of the indigenous system in the light of modern science. The fifth resolution emphasised the necessity for retaining the high spiritual consciousness and desires the women of Asia to maintain the high standard uninfluenced by the materialistic trend of modern times. The sixth resolution urged the abolition of polygamy, equal rights to women over guardianship of children and property, equal rights of ~~divorce~~ divorce, adult franchise and nationality for married women. The seventh resolution urged the enactment of suitable children's acts and abolition of child marriage. The eighth resolution said "in order that every individual and every nation may have unfettered right of self-expression

for enrichment of human synthesis this conference considers it imperative that each country shall have full responsible government." The ninth resolution gave whole-hearted support to the League of Nations and urged women to do their utmost for the League both individually and collectively. The tenth resolution urged the abolition of brothels and raising the age of consent to eighteen years. The last resolution demanded legislation for the regulation of women's hours of work, wages and provision for illness, accident and old age, maternity benefit, housing, medical aid etc.

Maritime Affairs.

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The Indian Sailors' Home, Bombay.

Reference was made at pages 53-54 of the report of this Office for September 1930 to the Report submitted by the Committee appointed by the Government of India to formulate a scheme for the establishment of an Indian Sailors' Home in Bombay. His Excellency the Governor of Bombay laid the Foundation stone of the Indian Sailors' Home on 14-1-31. The site for the building, measuring about 2000 square yards and valued at Rs.200,000, was presented free of cost by the Trustees for the Port of Bombay. The cost of the building is estimated to amount to Rs.312,245. The intention of the Committee in charge of the scheme is to build over a portion of the site, leaving room for further extensions if found necessary. The area left unbuilt is meant to be used as a social welfare ground for the benefit of the seamen. This institution is the only Indian Sailors' Home in the Indian Empire. The cost of running the Home is to be met by a grant of Rs.10,000 a year promised by the Government of India for five years, and a recurring grant of Rs.5,000 a year sanctioned by the Trustees of the Port of Bombay. These amounts, together with the receipts from the Home, it is estimated, will provide ample funds for the upkeep of the Home. (The Times of India.-16-1-31).

The Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay,1929-30.

The annual general meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union for 1929-30 was held at Bombay on 11-1-1931 with Mr. R.S. Asavale in the chair. Mr. Syed Munawar, the General Secretary, presented the report of the work done by the Union and the ~~xxm~~ audited statement of accounts and balance sheet for the year. In a brief speech he explained the

main features of the work done, and pointed out that four deputations waited on the Government and shipping authorities and made over 150 representations to them for the redress of Indian seamen's grievances and demands, chief among them being the establishment of an employment bureau with a joint advisory committee of ship owners and seamen, an eight-hour day with overtime allowance, regulation of seamen's employment by rotation, prevention of discharge before the term of agreement, deletion of the 'character' column from seamen's certificates, the entire abolition of the broker system, the restoration of the wage-cut effected in 1923, an all-India standardization of wages, increase in the quantity of meat, ghee, sugar, tea, coffee and milk as also in accommodation on board ships, the equalisation of service agreements, location of the shipping office at a more convenient place, the engagement of saloon department members of the Union by the P. and O. and B.I.S.N. Companies by an open muster at the shipping office, and allied matters. After the report with the balance sheet was unanimously adopted, the new office-bearers were elected. Resolutions were passed regarding extension of one more year of the period for presentation of war compensation claims by seamen, and the early formation of the All-India Seamen's Federation.

An extraordinary general meeting of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay was held at Bombay on 18-1-1931 with Mr. L.G. Pradhan in the chair. The chairman explained the object of the meeting and expressed that there was the prospect of the amalgamation of the two unions of seamen in Bombay into one union under the name of the National Seamen's Union of India. Mr. Mehamed Ibrahim Serang dwelt on the advantages

that would accrue from the proposed amalgamation. Mr. Syed Munawar, the General Secretary, briefly traced the events leading to the fusion and moved the resolution embodying the terms of the amalgamation. After the resolution was unanimously passed the draft ~~amalgamated~~ constitution of the amalgamated union was adopted.

(The Trade Union Record, February 1931, Vol. I ~~Part~~
No.12).

Conditions of South African Repatriates in India.

The Government of India had appointed in 1930 a special Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. G. A. Natesan, Member Council of State, and Mr. J. Gray, I.C.S., Labour Commissioner, Madras, to report on the working of the special organization in Madras for dealing with emigrants returning from South Africa under the scheme of assisted emigration. The object of ^{the} enquiry ^{was} ~~is~~ to ascertain how far the existing arrangements are adequate for the discharge of the obligations towards the returned emigrants accepted by the Government of India under the Cape Town Agreement and to recommend what improvements, if any, are required, ~~an~~ especially to ensure that those able and willing to work are given all possible help to secure employment suited to their aptitude and resources.

Under the Cape Town Agreement (See pages 61 of the April 1930 report of this office) ~~the~~ the Government of India undertook to see that on arrival in India, assisted emigrants from South Africa ^{are} ~~will~~:

(1) advised and as far as possible protected against squandering their cash or losing it to adventurers, and (2) helped, as far as possible to settle in occupations ~~x~~ for which they are best suited by their aptitude and resources.

In fulfilment of the obligations of the Government of India under this agreement, a Special Officer was appointed in August 1927 with ~~his~~ headquarters at Madras. The duties with which he has been charged are

(a) to receive the assisted emigrants when they land, (b) to make arrangements for their despatch to their destinations up-country, (c) to protect any cash they may have with them when they land from the attention of adventurers at the port of disembarkation and on their journeys, (d) to provide facilities for banking their ~~savings~~ ^{savings} and bonus until such time as they may require the money for purposes connected with their maintenance or occupation after arrival in India, and (e) to settle them in some occupation for which they may have expressed a preference and for which they may be suited by their aptitude and resources.

The following is a brief summary of the Report presented by the

Committee :-

The Committee began its labours with a visit to the S.S. Umzumbi on its arrival in the Madras Harbour on 8-4-30. The ship brought 257 repatriates for Madras, and 38 for Calcutta. The Committee reports that the accommodation allotted to the repatriates was airy and clean, that hospital, bathing and latrine arrangements were satisfactory and that the food supplied was of good quality. The Committee after a thorough inspection of the routine followed by the Special Officer, record that they are satisfied with the arrangements made by him for the reception of returned emigrants, their despatch to their destinations up-country, the protection of their cash and the provision of facilities for the banking of their savings. The Committee states that the procedure in these respects has been systematised as the result of 2½ years experience and that it has no suggestions to make for its improvement.

One of the most important duties of the Special Officer is to find suitable occupations in India for the returned emigrants. The Special Officer issues clearly printed slips to all returned emigrants asking them to inform him if they require any help in settling down or finding employment. Between shipments, the Special Officer also tours in the moffusil to keep in touch with repatriates in their villages. For decrepit repatriates, who are unable to work, the Government has opened in December 1930 a special Home at Madras.

The total number of returned emigrants who have arrived in Madras under the assisted emigration scheme from August 1927 up to the end of March 1930, is 5,326, of whom 2,329 are men, 1,216 are women and 1,781 are children. Of the 2,329 men, only 1,898 are shown as fit for employment, the rest being decrepits. Of these 1,898 fit men, only

203 have sought the Special Officer's assistance in ~~an~~ securing employment. During the period, August 1927 to March 1930, 90 returned emigrants from South Africa emigrated to the Malay States, 73 returned to South Africa and 77 found employment on Tea Estates in Southern India. Of the 77 who have found employment on tea estates, 26 appear in the Special Officer's list of applicants. The large majority of the 203 who had applied to the Special Officer for help in finding employment, have been placed in suitable jobs by him, but the Committee is of opinion that the work of the Special Officer is rendered difficult by the lack of proper response from the repatriates. The difficulties pointed out by the Committee are :-

(1) Many of the repatriates do not apply sufficiently early to the Special Officer and are content to live on their savings, and then live on charity rather than try for work. (2) The scales of wages in India are lower than those obtaining in S.Africa and consequently even when suitable jobs are found many repatriates refuse to accept the situations offered. (3) Many repatriates of the skilled labour class come to India without testimonials from previous employers as to character, conduct, fitness for skilled work, and hence it is difficult to place them. (4) Many of the emigrants aspire to posts for which they are not really qualified and for which qualified local candidates are available in large numbers.

The report states that returned emigrants of the class of petty farmers and agricultural labourers, who form 45 per cent of the repatriates, find very little difficulty in settling down. Amongst returned emigrants of the non-agricultural labouring class, who form about 23 per cent of those fit for work, domestic servants and unskilled workers, such as sweepers, porters, etc., have little difficulty in settling down and obtaining employment. The ~~Special~~ Special Officer is always able to obtain employment for people willing to work as waiters, cooks, peons, attenders^{ants}, ward-boys, etc. The chief difficulty is in regard to finding employment for skilled workers, e-g-v, men who

have worked on Railways, in mines, Sugar Mills, etc. These men form about 32 per cent of the returned male emigrants fit for work. The Special Officer has been successful in obtaining the sympathetic assistance of most of the large employers of labour such as Railway Administrations, the Port Trust, Governments Departments like the P.W.D., the Madras Corporation, the larger Government Hospitals, as well as large private organisations like the United Planters' Association of Southern India, in his task of finding suitable employment for returned emigrants. ~~The Special Officer.~~

The report concludes with the suggestion that such sympathy might be more effective if the heads of the larger departments and organisations or their representatives could be formed into a Committee to assist the Special Officer in placing returned emigrants in suitable employment. Such a Committee, with the Special Officer as Secretary, might help to overcome the difficulties inherent even when departmental heads are sympathetic in finding places for a class of men who do not come in through the ordinary channels of recruitment.

(The Hindu.-- 13-1-31).

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Agitation against the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill.

In the report of the Office for October 1930 (See pages 49 et seq) reference was made to the introduction of the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill. The Introduction of this Bill has been the occasion for renewed agitation on the part of the Indian colony there. A feature of the South African Indian National Congress which was in session during December 1930 was the strong protest by the President, Mr. Christopher, against the manner in which the negotiations regarding the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill had been conducted. "In plain terms," he said, "The Bill, if its implications are carefully studied, grossly and unjustly embodies principles and policies to deprive the Indian of his livelihood, to ruin his long established trade and drive him out to locations to lead slum life." Mr. Christopher said that there was a pressing need for another Round Table Conference between the Government of India and the Union Government and their representatives if all of them in South Africa were to receive unprejudiced consideration.

Speaking at the Congress on the Transvaal Tenure Bill, Sir K. V. Reddi, Agent of the Government of India, said that the Government of India had been kept fully informed of developments and was giving its anxious attention to every aspect and implication of the Bill. Informal consultations were held between delegates to ^{the} Indian Round Table Conference and General Hertzog in London recently. The Minister, Dr. Malan, had expressed, said Sir K. V. Reddi, willingness to hear the views of the Government of India during January next. (The Times of India-1-1-31)

The Congress after a lengthy debate, adopted a resolution urging the Union Government to withdraw the Transvaal Asiatic Land Tenure Bill and introduce necessary legislation, giving relief to Indians in the Transvaal. In the event of the Union Government declining to withdraw

the bill, the Congress requested the Government of India to press for a Round Table Conference to review the situation. If the Government of India fails to secure such a conference, the Congress requests the Indian Government to intimate to the Union Government that diplomatic relations between the two countries should be considered to have ceased and withdraw its agency in South Africa as a protest against the bill. (The Hindu .- 1-1-1931.)

Mr. C. F. Andrews, who is now in Cape Town at the invitation of the Indians in South Africa, is reported to have stated that, after carefully considering the South African situation on the spot, the best course appeared to him to be to concentrate every effort on the postponement of the new Transvaal Asiatic Bill, pending a revision of the Cape Town agreement at the end of the present year. Many circumstances combined to make this feasible if pressed home. The Cape Town Agreement had only another year to run and the whole Transvaal question needed through consideration by both sides before any fresh legislation was enacted. (The Hindu.- 15-1-31).

In his address to the Members of the Legislative Assembly on 17-1-31, His Excellency the Viceroy made the following reference to the condition of Indians in Africa :-

"Questions affecting Indians overseas have as always claimed the special attention of my Government. When I last addressed this House, I referred briefly to the Land Tenure Bill introduced in the Assembly of the Union of South Africa, which had caused considerable alarm among Indians in the Transvaal. My Government sought counsel from the Standing Committee on Emigration on the far-reaching provisions of this measure, and received from them valuable advice to guide them in their line of approach to this difficult and delicate problem. We fully recognise the serious implications of the Bill, and in particular the effect it must have on the trading and business interests of the Indian community in the Transvaal. We are aware too of the feelings of deep concern which the Bill has aroused amongst those whose interests are threatened, and of the sympathy which is felt for them by their compatriots in South Africa and in this country. I have given this question much anxious thought and personal attention. Every opportunity has been taken of representing the Indian point of view, and

as our Agent - Sir Kurma Reddi - announced at the recent conference of the South African Indian Congress, our views will be communicated to the Union Government. It is unnecessary to assure the House that we are making every endeavour, in co-operation with the Union Government, to secure an equitable solution, and I earnestly hope that the negotiations to be conducted by our representative will result, after full and frank discussion, in an agreement satisfactory to both sides.

Turning to East Africa, Honourable Members will remember that the conclusions of His Majesty's Government have now been referred to a Joint Select Committee of Parliament. My Government are not ignorant of how widespread is the anxiety on the several questions that are involved, and they have submitted their views to this Committee through His Majesty's Secretary of State for India. We have further requested permission to present our case through a representative from India. I am glad to inform the House that, in the event of that request being accepted, it is hoped that our spokesman will be the Right Honourable Srinivasa Sastri."