

C-1903/77

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for October 1934.

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

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References to the I. L. O.

The September 1934 issue of H.E.H.the N.S.Railway Employees' Union Bulletin, Secunderabad, publishes the communique issued by this Office on 25-8-1934 on the entry of the United States into the I.L.O.

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The Hindustan Times of 19 & 20-10-1934 publishes in two instalments an article under the caption "U.S., Russia and the I.L.O: A Story of Chequered Relationships", contributed by this Office. The article deals with the entry of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. into the I.L.O. and the history of the relations between these two countries and the I.L.O.

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The National Call of 15-10-1934 publishes a long article entitled "Two great Republics strengthen the cause of International Peace" contributed by this Office. The article refers to the significance of the entry of the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. into the I. L. O.

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The September 1934 issue of Advance India, Madras, and the October 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publish brief notes regarding the entry of the United States of America into the I.L.O.

* * *

The Hindu of 12-10-1934, the Leader of 14-10-1934, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 14-10-1934 and the Labour Times, Madras, of 15 and 22-10-1934 publish a communique issued by this Office on 6-10-1934 on the 68th session of the Governing Body.

* * *

The Hindu of 29-9-1934 publishes a Reuter's message dated 28-9-34 from Geneva regarding the decision of the Governing Body at its meeting in September 1934 to place the question of reduction of hours of work on the agenda of the 1935 session of the I.L.Conference (For a list of other papers which published the message, vide page 5 of our September 1934 report).

* * *

The Hindu of 10-10-1934 and the October 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publish a message on the decision of the Governing Body at its 68th session to admit the application of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Indian Workers' delegate to the 18th I.L.Conference, for an enquiry into the application by the Government of India of the Washington Hours Convention on Indian Railways. The note was sent from Geneva by air mail to the United Press of India.

The message is also published in the Labour Times, Madras, and its Tamil supplement of 15-10-1934. The Labour Times also comments editorially on the message.

The Hindustan Times of 21-10-1934 and the Hindu of 22-10-34 publish another message on the subject supplied by the United Press of India. The Hindustan Times also publishes an editorial note on the same under the caption "The Railways' Dirty Linen", in the course of which the Government of India is blamed for not applying the Regulations on all Indian Railways, irrespective of the consideration whether the railways are State-owned or Company-owned. Mr. Mehta is complimented in the note for his services on behalf of Indian workers

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The Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, dated 30-9-34 publishes a summary of the address delivered by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Indian workers' delegate to the 18th I.L.Conference, before the Indian Trades Union Federation at Bombay on his impressions of the I.L.O.

(For a list of other papers which published a summary of Mr. Mehta's address, vide page 2 p of our September 1934 report).

* * *

The Report of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Indian Employers' delegate, on the 18th I.L. Conference was issued by the All India Organisation of Indian Employers and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. The salient features of the report are given at pages 13—16 of this report (Two copies of Mr. Lalbhai's report were forwarded to Geneva with our minute D.1/2192/34 dated 1-11-1934).

* * *

The October 1934 issue of the "Varthaga Ooliam" (a monthly journal of commerce, trade and industry), Trichinopoly, publishes a summary of an article issued by this Office on "The I.L.O. and Employers' Organisations: Relations during 1933."

* * *

Federated India, Madras, dated 3-10-1934 publishes the communique issued by this Office on 16-8-1934, on the I.L.O. Questionnaire regarding employment of women on underground work in mines.

(For a list of other papers which published the communique, vide page 2 of our August 1934 report).

* * *

The October 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, and Federated India, Madras, of 24-10-1934 publish a communique issued by this Office on 29-8-34 on the I.L.O. Questionnaire on the subject of maintenance of insurance rights of migrant workers.

The communique was also published in the Hindu of 3-9-1934 and editorially commented upon by the paper in its issue of the same date (vide page 2 of our September 1934 report).

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The September 1934 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, publishes a summary of a communique issued by this Office on 9-5-1934 on the Blue Report on the subject of reduction of hours of work.

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The Hindu of 12-10-1934 publishes a long editorial article under the heading "International Labour Conference" commenting on the communique issued by this Office on 6-10-1934 on the 68th session of the Governing Body. The article deals chiefly with the subject of reduction of hours of work and points out that while reduction in hours with a proportionate reduction in wages would be unacceptable to the workers, employers would be equally unwilling to pay the same wages for less work, and that ^{thus} a dead-lock would be created for which no easy solution is available. As regards the plea that reduction in hours will provide more leisure to workers, it is argued that all kinds of work do not cause the same amount of fatigue and that exhaustion depends on several other factors than hours of work. For these reasons the opinion is advanced that it may not be advantageous either to the workers/or to the employer to prescribe shorter hours.

* * *

The Independent Railwayman, Bombay, (Organ of the G.I.P. Railway Workers' Union) publishes the report of Messrs. R.A.Khedgikar and Pathek regarding actual conditions of work obtaining in the

Bombay - Nagpur Section of the G.I.P. Railway. In the course of the Report reference is made to the Washington Hours Convention and it is alleged that in the matter of classification of staff, fixing of hours of work, etc., the Convention is not being applied in its true spirit.

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The September 1934 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the item entitled "Some Problems of Women's work" included in the July 1934 issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

* * *

The Annual Report of the Committee of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce for the year 1933 publishes a summary of the Government of India communique dated 26-9-1933 announcing the items on the agenda of the 18th I.L. Conference and inviting suggestions regarding the nomination of non-government delegates to the Conference. The Chamber was of opinion that Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai should be nominated as the Indian employers' delegate.

* * *

The Annual Report of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, for the year 1933 publishes at pages 428-430 the full texts of the two communiques issued by the Government of India regarding the agenda of the 18th I.L. Conference and inviting suggestions for nomination of non-government delegates. The Chamber suggested the name of Raja Bahadur Govindlal Shivilal for nomination as the Indian Employers' delegate. Reference to the correspondence is made at page 85 of the same Report of the Chamber.

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The Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the National Call and the Hindu of 5-10-1934, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Times of India of 6-10-1934, the Leader of 7-10-1934 and the Tamil Supplement of the Labour Times, Madras, dated 9-10-1934 publish a communique issued by the Government of India on 4-10-1934 announcing the date and agenda of the 1935 session of the I.L.Conference and calling for recommendations regarding the nomination of the non-Government personnel of the Indian delegation to the Conference.

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The September 1934 issue of Advance India, Madras, publishes a long and appreciative review of the I.L.O. Year Book, 1933.

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At a meeting of the Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry held at Bombay on 30-9-1934, the Committee recorded its appreciation of the successful efforts made by Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, the Indian Employers' delegate to the 18th I.L.Conference, for getting Mr. D.S.Erulkar elected to the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

A brief account of the proceedings of the meeting was published in the Hindu of 1-10-1934, the National Call of 2-10-1934 and in several other papers.

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The October 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, reproduces the item entitled: "A Consultative Asiatic Labour Conference", included in the July 1934 issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

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The September 1934 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, publishes a brief summary of a press interview given by the Director of this Office on 21-5-1934 on the Asiatic Labour Congress, which was held at Colombo in May last.

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The Hindu of 28-10-1934 publishes a short summary of a lantern lecture on the work of the I.L.O. delivered in Kan~~g~~rese at Mysore on 25-10-1934 under the auspices of the League of Nations Union, Mysore, by Mr. V.Venkatachar of the Industries and Commerce Department of Mysore State. The lantern slides, as also the notes for the lecture, were forwarded by this Office to the Director of Industries and Commerce with the Mysore Government.

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The Hindu of 9-10-1934 publishes a summarised report of the proceedings of a meeting of the Bengal Nagpur Railway Workers' Union at which Dr. Lanka Sundaram delivered an address on "Trade Unionism and Labour Conditions in India". In the course of the address, Dr. Sundaram deplored the tardiness of the Government of India in implementing those I.L.Conventions the underlying principles of which were approved of by Indian delegates to Conferen^{ce}.

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The Statesman of 27-10-1934 publishes an article by Mr. B. Shiva Rao under the caption "Lancashire and the Indian Workers". In the article, Mr. Rao describes the solicitude evinced by Lancashire till recently for the welfare of the Indian worker. Referring to the I.L.O. he says "It is the fashion to point to the number of labour measures passed since the Montague Reforms came into force

in refutation of the contention that the Indian worker has not had fair treatment. The fact is, when Lancashire dropped its rôle as the friend of the Indian worker, the International Labour Organisation stepped into its place. For a time the Government of India showed a certain sensitiveness to world opinion at Geneva, and ratified a number of Conventions. But conditions have changed rapidly; Geneva has no longer the influence it once wielded, and it is not necessary to be apologetic for delay in action or indifference. Indian Employers' representatives also are becoming bolder in their attitude of opposition to further legislation."

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The October 1934 issue of the Insurance and Finance Review, Calcutta, publishes an article under the caption "Social Insurance" contributed by Prof. J.C.Mitra, in the course of which reference is made to the I.L.O. pamphlet "Social Insurance".

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The first number, issued in September 1934, of a new monthly called "The Commercial Review", Alleppey, Travancore State, publishes an article under the caption "India and the International Labour Organisation", specially contributed to the issue by the Director of this Office. The article reviews the beneficent influence exerted by the I.L.O. on the course of labour legislation in this country.

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The October 1934 issue of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes an article entitled "Labour Legislation" contributed by Mr. A.C.Ramalingam.

The article maintains that complaints regarding unsatisfactory - conditions of labour in India are baseless and points out that while India, which is industrially backward, has ratified and implemented as many as 13 I.L.Conventions, many highly advanced industrial countries are lagging behind in respect of ratifications. The article directs attention to the complaint of Indian industrialists that the Government of India have been unduly anxious to follow the international standards set up by I.L.Conventions without paying adequate regard to the industrial backwardness of the country.

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The October 1934 issue of the Bulletin issued by the National Council of Women in India publishes an article under the caption "Maternity Benefit in India", contributed by Miss S.Pillai, in the course of which extensive references are made to the I.L.Convention on the subject ^{of maternity benefits} and to the Government of India's attitude on the subject of ratification of the Convention.

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Advance India, Madras, publishes ⁱⁿ its September 1934 issue the second part of an article entitled "The League of Nations' Covenant". In the course of the article ~~a~~ reference is made to the status of India in the League of Nations and to the correspondence regarding the ratification of I.L.Conventions by Indian States ~~a~~ that passed in September 1927 between the Secretary of State for India and the Secretary-General of the League of Nations.

* * *

Federated India, Madras, of 5-10-1934 publishes a note on the finances of the League of Nations based on information supplied by Mr. Seymour Jacklin, Treasurer of the League of Nations.

(For a list of other papers which published the note vide page 10 of our August 1934 report).

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The Leader of 24-10-1934 publishes a long editorial note under the heading "Labour Conditions in Japan". The article summarises the main findings in M. Fernand Maurette's report on labour conditions in that country and states that the facts revealed make the allegation that Japan is able to undersell Britain in world-markets by exploiting workers untenable.

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The Labour Times, Madras, of 22-10-1934 publishes a note explaining the Resolution condemning the attitude of the British Government towards the 40-hour week proposal adopted at the session of the British Trade Union Congress held recently at Weymouth.

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The Hindustan Times and the National Call of 6-10-1934, and the Leader and the Times of India of 10-10-1934 publish a communique issued by this Office on 5-10-1934 regarding the visit of the Director of the Geneva Office to the United States and Mexico.

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The Hindustan Times of 29-10-1934 publishes a long review of the I.L.O. publication: "The Standard Code of Industrial Hygiene." The review was ^{contributed} ~~forwarded~~ to the paper by this Office.

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The September 1934 issue of the Bombay Co-operative Quarterly, Bombay, publishes an appreciative review of the I.L.O. publication: "An Attempt to Compile International Statistics of Co-operative

Societies." The review was contributed by Mr. V.G.Kale.

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The Financial News, Bombay, of 27-10-1934 publishes a summary of a communique issued by this Office on 22-10-1934 on the world unemployment situation during the second quarter of 1934. The communique was based on an I.L.O. communique on the subject.

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The Statesman and the Times of India of 10-10-1934 publish a news item to the effect that a joint conference of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Karachi, and the Buyers and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi would be held at Karachi in the second week of October 1934 to discuss with Sir Frank Noyce several matters of interest to the two Chambers. One of the subjects tabled for discussion was the method of nomination of the Indian employers' delegate to the I.L.Conference.

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The Statesman, the Hindu and the Hindustan Times of 25-10-34 and the National Call of 26-10-1934 publish a Reuter's message from Geneva dated 24-10-1934 to the effect that the Committee of Allocation of League Expenses have decided to reduce the annual contributions from nine Member-States, including India.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 27-10-1934 publishes a short editorial note commenting on the above message. The note says: "To poor India the privilege of the membership of the League at an expense of about 14 lakhs of rupees (Rs. 1.4 millions) per annum has been rather a costly luxury and she would be only too glad to get rid of it. But in such matters she cannot have her own way. ~~She~~

She has, therefore, continued making this contribution without any ostensible benefit to herself in return, while her children have been dying for want of food". The note welcomes the reduction, however small it may be, for the reason that "what is regarded in this country as a waste of public money will be less to that extent at least."

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The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies were published in the Indian Press during October 1934.

1. Reuter's message from Geneva dated 24-10-1934 re. the decision of the Committee on Allocation of League Expenses to reduce contributions from nine countries.

2. A message from Geneva sent by air mail from a correspondent to the United Press of India regarding the decision of the Governing Body on the demand made by Mr. Jammadas Mehta for an enquiry into the application of Hours of Employment Regulations on Indian Railways. (vide encl. No.16 of our minute H.4/2042/34 dated 25-10-1934).

3. Another message on the above subject from Geneva sent by a correspondent to the United Press of India (vide encl. No.19 of our minute H.4/2042/34 dated 25-10-1934).

Report of the Indian Employers' Delegate to the 18th I.L. Conference

The following is a summary of the report presented to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry by Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai, Indian Employers' delegate to the 18th session of the I.L. Conference. Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai was nominated by the Government of India on the recommendation of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the All-India Organisation of Industrial Employers, the Employers' Federation of India and several other organisations.

Setting forth his impressions of the Conference, Mr. Lalbhai, who represented Indian employers as delegate at the 1929 Conference also, states that since 1929 he had formed an impression that the I.L.O. did not exercise that influence, which an organisation of its nature and position would have been rightly expected to possess, on account of its nature and the fact that many of the industrially advanced countries, which were a party to the passing of Conventions, did not either ratify them or give legislative effect to them; and that his experiences in 1934 confirmed this view. Another change, according to Mr. Lalbhai, is that, while upto a few years back, the main activities of the I.L.O. were with regard to questions of Labour mainly affecting the European countries, the great strides in industrial progress, made by countries like Japan and effects thereof on the European industrial situation were forcing a greater attention being paid to the labour conditions and other factors affecting the industrial production of Eastern countries". Referring to the Director's Report, Mr. Lalbhai says: "The Report itself is a masterly survey of the events of the last year, and specially of the steps that are being taken in various countries to introduce a regime of "Planned Economy". I submit that no industrial or commercial body in India should miss reading this report, as

India will not be left without feeling the repercussions of the policies followed in these countries."

Need for Continuity of Personnel.- After briefly describing the work of the Conference in plenary sessions, group meetings and committee sittings, the report points out, first, that it is not easy for a new delegate to fall in with this complicated routine immediately and secondly, that it is not easy for a new-comer to exercise any substantial influence on the decisions taken. It is, therefore, necessary in Mr. Lalbhai's opinion that, following the practice of European employers, Indian employers should either choose one person to represent them at successive conferences, or, if that is not possible, it should be arranged between two or three persons who may be able to gain the experience and exercise the influence which is so essential in such matters.

Importance of sending full Delegations.- The report notes with regret that the importance of the Conference is not adequately recognized in India, and observes:- "Though India contributes huge sums to the expenses of the League of Nations, the Government of India is allowed to economise in the number of advisers that are given to the delegations. It might be stated that countries like Great Britain, France and Italy send out as many as four to six advisers with each delegate, while Japan and South Africa send out at least two or three. I submit that in future all organisations which have a say in the appointment of Employers' Delegate must not only nominate the advisers, but also point out to the Government the fallacy of economising ten or fifteen thousand rupees, by way of the expenses of the Advisers, and thus not reap any advantage of the huge contributions that are made to the League of Nations".

The Agenda of the Conference.- The following items were placed on the agenda of the Conference:- (1) Reduction of hours of work; (2) Unemployment Insurance and various forms of relief for the unemployed; (3) Methods of providing rest for and alternations of shifts in automatic sheet glass works; (4) Maintenance of acquired rights and rights in course of acquisition under disability, old age, and widows' and orphans' insurance on behalf of workers, who transfer their residence from one country to another; (5) Workmen's Compensation for occupational diseases; partial revision of the Convention concerning Workmen's Compensation for occupational diseases; (6) Employment of women in underground work in mines of all kinds; (7) Partial revision of the Convention concerning the employment of women during night. According to the double discussion procedure followed by the Conference, items (1), (2) and (3), (7) were coming up for a second time and the rest of the items were put on the agenda for the first time. Mr. Lalbhai took part in the discussions on items (1) (6) and (7).

Reduction of Hours of Work; Opposition to 40-hour Week.- The report briefly reviews the various items on the agenda. Dealing with the item of reduction of the working week to a 40 hours, the report states: "This proposal was distinct from previous similar proposals in two ways. The reduction was considered necessary, not per se, but for the purpose of giving work to the unemployed; and secondly, the special distinction which had been drawn in the Washington Convention between the conditions in the Eastern and Western Countries, had been

dropped this time in the draft submitted by the I.L.O. for reducing hours of work to 40 hours a week in all countries. I protested again at this, pointing out that apart from its doubtful utility in reducing unemployment, so far as India was concerned, it would be detrimental, because of the lower efficiency of the workers. It was also pointed out that the Government of India had decided to have a fifty-four hours' week, and that if reduction of the hours of work was desirable, the first step towards it should be to have a universal ratification of the Washington Convention, which had not taken place even now, in quite a number of industrially advanced countries". According to Mr. Lalbhai, the position of Indian employers was strengthened by the attitude taken by the Government of India and the employers' delegates of all other countries, with the exception of Italy. The report ascribes the support accorded by Italian employers to the 40-hour week to the fact that the present conception of Italy as a corporate State prevented the Italian employers' delegate from having an opinion different from that of the State. The report also states that the employers' delegates at the Conference shared the feeling that many Governments' delegates, though they did not really believe in the efficacy of the 40-hour week, were forced to support the proposal, because of their desire to please the employees' group.

Employment of Women during night.- The Report states: "Regarding the partial revivification of the convention concerning the employment of women during night, very little had to be done. Our regulations relating to the employment of women during night are far more stringent than the regulations in other more industrialized countries. It is really up to us in this matter to press the Government of India to grant us the same facilities that are granted to industrialists in other countries."

Debate on Director's Report.- Referring to his speech in the course of the debate on the Director's report, Mr. Lalbhai points out that, after making a few general observations, he referred to two specific points relating to India. First, he refuted Mr. Jamnadas Mehta's (Indian Workers' Delegate) contention that Indian trade unions were not being accorded fair treatment by Indian employers. While certain communist unions in Bombay failed to secure the treatment they liked, Unions in centres like Ahmedabad, Cawnpore, Delhi, and Madras, were treated in very friendly fashion and, in some cases, even financially helped by employers. The second point stressed was the differences in respect of standards of labour legislation in British India and Indian States. Urging the need for equalisation of conditions, the report states: "This is so because the Native States were under no obligation to carry out or ratify the Conventions ratified by the Government of India. I appealed to the Conference that since the Indian Constitution was in the process of being altered, it should exercise its influence to get some machinery incorporated therein by which the Conventions ratified by the Government of India would be ipso facto applicable to the Native States. The complete report of my speech will be found in the Provisional Records".

Employers' Representation on Governing Body.- The report points out that in 1934 the employers of overseas countries were given two seats on the Governing Body and that one of these was secured, as the result of the strong fight put up by Mr. Lalbhai, by Indian employers. Mr. Erulkar was nominated to the seat. According to the report, it

has been agreed between India, Japan and South Africa that each country's representative will occupy the seat for two years only, instead of the normal three.

Entry of the United States into the I.L.O.- The report concludes with a reference to the entry of the United States into the I.L.O., and observes; "This is certainly a great tribute to the work done by the I.L.O. so far".

(Summarised from the text of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai's report published at pages 503-506 of the Planters' Chronicle, dated 20-10-34).

(A copy of the report has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/2192/34 dated 1-11-1934).

The Bombay Shops Bill, 1934. +

On 11-9-1934 Mr. R.R. Bakhale introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council, the Bombay Shops Bill, 1934, (Bill No. XXIII of 1934) to prohibit the employment of children and to limit the hours of work of young persons in shops and to provide for their early closing. The following is the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill:-

This Bill is a piece of social legislation calculated to regulate the conditions of employment of those persons who are working in shops and to secure for them periodical leisure which, it is recognised, is essential for the general welfare of the community. The conditions of employment of the working classes working in factories, railways, mines, and other industrial concerns are to some extent regulated by the Indian Factories Act, Indian Railways Act, the Indian Mines Act and similar legislation. Those working in offices and firms have their conditions of service regulated either by rules made by Government or by practice. But there is no law or rule which regulates the conditions of employment of what are known in Great Britain and other countries as shop assistants. There is also no legal restriction on the hours during which shops which open early morning and are closed only after midnight. Such long working hours necessarily entail long stretches of work on the part of the shop assistants and mean absence of well-regulated rest. This is highly undesirable from the point of view of the health of the people concerned and must be remedied in the interest of public health and well-being of the community. This Bill seeks to remove this social evil to the extent to which it is possible to do so under the existing circumstances.

This Bill is largely modelled on the lines of the shops legislation in Great Britain where this legislation was first enacted in 1886. After undergoing several changes, the shops legislation in Great Britain was consolidated in the Shops Act (2 Geo.5, ch.3) of 1912 which was supplemented by an amending Act (dealing with premises for the sale of refreshments) of 1913 (3 Geo.5, ch.24) and by the Shops (hours of closing) Act (18 and 19 Geo.5 ch.33) of 1928. These pieces of legislation which operate in Great Britain today, form the main basis of this Bill. Its chief features are:-

(1) Children under the age of twelve years are prohibited from employment. (Section 7).

(2) Young persons under the age of eighteen years are prohibited

from being employed in a shop for a longer period than seventy hours, including meal times, in one week. (Section 6). This provision is not applicable to a person wholly employed as a domestic servant.

(3) On at least one week day in each week, no shop assistant shall be employed in a shop after half past one o'clock in the afternoon. (Section 4).

(4) Intervals for meals are regulated in accordance with the first schedule to the Act. (Section 4).

This provision is not applicable to those persons who are members of the family of the occupier of the shop, maintained by him and dwelling in his house. (Section 4).

(5) In the case of shops of refreshments, an alternative provision to a weekly half-holiday is provided if the occupier agrees that -

(a) he shall not employ any shop assistant for more than sixty-five hours in one week, exclusive of meal times;

(b) he gives him thirty-two whole holidays on week day every year with six consecutive holidays on full pay;

(c) he gives him twenty-six whole holidays on Sunday every year.

(d) he regulates his intervals for meals in a prescribed manner. (Section 5).

(6) Every shop shall be closed not later than one o'clock on one week day in every week. (Section 8).

This provision is not applicable to certain shops which do business or trade mentioned in the second schedule to the Act.

(7) The local authority is given the power to be confirmed by the Governor-in-Council, ~~fixing~~ the hours on the several days of the week at which all shops or shops of any specified class are to be closed. The hour so fixed shall not be earlier than seven o'clock on any day of the week. (Section 9).

This provision is not applicable to certain shops which do business or trade mentioned in the third schedule to this Act.

(8) Every shop shall be closed not later than nine o'clock in the evening on one day in the week and eight o'clock on other days. (Section 13).

This provision is not applicable to certain shops which do business or trade mentioned in the third schedule to this Act.

(9) In the case of restaurants, the closing hours will be ten o'clock in the evening on one day and half-past nine o'clock on the other days. (Section 14).

(10) Similar provision is made for shops dealing with tobacco and smoking requisites under certain conditions. (Section 15).

(11) Power to grant exemption from closing hours is given to the local authority in the case of exhibitions or shows. (Section 16).

(12) Power to suspend the operation of the Act and of the closing order on special occasions like the Christmas holidays, the Diwali, Pateti and Ramzan is given to the Governor-in-Council. (Section 17).

(13) Retail trade or business is controlled. (Section 19).

Other provisions deal with offences committed under different sections of the Act, procedure with regard to weekly half-holidays, closing orders, local enquiries for the purpose of promoting and facilitating early closing of shops, revocation of closing orders, enforcement of the Act and regulations. The Act applies to the whole of the Bombay Presidency including Sind. But it applies in the first instance to the City and Island of Bombay, the City and Cantonment of Poona and the cities of Ahmedabad, Karachi, Shelapur and Hubli; and the Governor-in-Council is given the power to bring it into operation in any other local area on such date as may be specified in the notification.

(The text of the Bill with Statement of Objects and Reasons is published at pages 128-147 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 9-10-1934).

The Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, 1934. +

Reference was made at pages 23-26 of our August 1934 report to a Bill which was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council on 14-8-1934, called the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Bill, 1934. The Bill passed the third reading on 27-8-1934. The following is the full text of the Act which received the assent of the Governor-General on 8-10-1934;

Bombay Act No. IX of 1934.

An Act to make further provision for the prevention and settlement of trade disputes by conciliation & for certain other purposes.

Whereas it is expedient to make further provision for the prevention and settlement of trade disputes by conciliation and for certain other purposes hereinafter appearing;

And Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of India Act and the previous sanction of the Governor required by section 80C of the said Act have been obtained for the passing of this Act;

It is hereby enacted as follows:-

title. 1. This Act may be called the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, 1934.

commence- 2. (1) Section 1 and this section extend to the whole of the ion. Bombay Presidency. The remaining provisions of this Act extend to the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District and the Governor in Council may further, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, direct that the said provisions shall extend to such other area as may be specified in the notification.

(2) Section 1 and this section shall come into force at once. The Governor in Council may, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, direct that the remaining provisions of this Act shall come into force in any ~~xxx~~ area to which the said provisions extend or may have been extended under sub-section (1) on such date as may be specified in the notification.

(3) This Act shall apply, in the first instance, to the textile trade or industry. The Governor in Council may, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, direct that the provisions of this Act shall apply to such other trade or industry and in such area as may be specified in the notification.

ons. 3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant to the subject or context, -

(a) "Commissioner of Labour" means the officer appointed for the time being to be the Commissioner of Labour;

(b) "Conciliator" includes the Chief Conciliator or a Special or Assistant Conciliator appointed under this Act;

(c) "Conciliation proceeding" means a proceeding held by a Conciliator under this Act;

(d) "Delegate" means a person appointed under section 9 to represent a party to a trade dispute in a conciliation proceeding and includes the Labour Officer acting as a delegate to represent workmen in such proceeding;

(e) "employer" includes anybody of persons, whether incorporated or not and any managing agent of an employer;

(f) "Labour Officer" means an officer appointed to perform the duties of a Labour Officer under this Act;

(g) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(h) "trade dispute" means any dispute or difference between employers and workmen, which is connected with the employment or non-employment or the terms of the employment, or with the conditions of labour, of any person;

1929. (i) words and expressions not defined in this Act, but defined in the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, shall have the meaning assigned to them in that Act.

Section 4. (1) The Commissioner of Labour shall be the ex-officio Chief Conciliator.

(2) The Governor in Council may, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, appoint any person to be a Special Conciliator for such area as may be specified in the said notification.

(3) The Governor in Council may, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, appoint any person to be an Assistant Conciliator for such area as may be specified in the said notification.

Section 5. (1) The Governor in Council may, by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette, appoint any person to be a Labour Officer for such area as may be specified in the said notification.

(2) The Labour Officer shall exercise the powers conferred and perform the duties imposed on him by or under this Act. It shall be the duty of the Labour Officer to watch the interests of workmen with a view to promote harmonious relations between employers and workmen and to take steps to represent the grievances of workmen to employers for the purpose of obtaining their redress.

(3) For the purpose of exercising such powers and performing such duties, the Labour Officer may, after giving reasonable notice, enter any place used for the purpose of any trade or industry to which this Act applies and shall be entitled to inspect and call for documents, relevant to the grievances of workmen, in the possession of any employer or workman, as the Labour Officer deems necessary. The Labour Officer may, for the

same purpose, enter after giving reasonable notice any premises provided by an employer for the purpose of residence of his workmen.

(4) All particulars contained in or information obtained from any document inspected or called for under sub-section (3) shall, if the person in whose possession the document was so requires, be treated as confidential.

ion of 6. (1) The Chief Conciliator shall exercise powers and ors. perform duties under this Act throughout the Presidency except in the area in which a Special Conciliator has been appointed under this Act.

(2) An Assistant Conciliator shall be subordinate to, and shall exercise such powers and perform such duties as may be delegated to him by, the Chief Conciliator or Special Conciliator, as the case may be.

on or 7. If any trade dispute exists or is apprehended, -
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(a) either or both parties to the dispute may apply, whether separately or conjointly, or

(b) the Labour Officer may make a report, to the Conciliator for a settlement of the dispute.

or to 8. (1) If the Conciliator,
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(a) in any area for which a Labour Officer is appointed, on receipt of an application or report under section 7, or

(b) elsewhere, on receipt of an application under section 7 or upon his own knowledge or information,

is satisfied that a trade dispute exists or is apprehended, he may cause notice to be given to the parties to the dispute to appear before him at such time and place as may be specified in the notice.

A copy of such notice shall be sent to the Labour Officer.

(2) Notice to the parties shall require them to appoint, within such time as may be specified in the notice, delegates to represent them in the conciliation proceeding.

(3) Notice under this section shall be in the prescribed form and shall be served in the prescribed manner.

9.(1) On receipt of notice under section 8, the parties to a trade dispute shall within the time specified in the notice or within such time as may be fixed by the Conciliator in this behalf appoint delegates in such manner as the Conciliator may direct;

Provided that when a party to the dispute is a single individual, such party may appoint himself as a delegate:

Provided further that the Labour Officer may be appointed as a delegate on behalf of the workmen.

(2) The number of delegates appointed by a party to a trade dispute shall not exceed three:

Provided that when, in the opinion of the Conciliator, such party to the dispute is divided into two or more groups, the Conciliator may allow each of such groups to appoint separate delegates not exceeding three:

Provided, further, that the total number of delegates appointed by all the groups forming the party shall not exceed twelve.

(3) If an employer who is a party to a trade dispute has failed or refused to appoint any delegate within the time specified in the notice or within such further time as may be fixed by the Conciliator, such employer shall, on conviction, be punishable with fine which may extend to Rs.100 and with further fine which may extend to Rs.100 for every day on which such failure or refusal continues after the date of the first conviction.

13. Explanation. - Where such employer is a company registered under the Indian Companies Act, 1913, employer shall mean the managing agent or managing director of such company or any other officer of the company authorised to represent such company in the prescribed manner.

(4) No criminal court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence under sub-section (3).

(5) No criminal court shall take cognizance of any offence under sub-section (3) except with the previous sanction of the Governor in Council.

(6) Where workmen who are parties to a trade dispute have failed or refused to appoint any delegate within the time specified in the notice or within such further time as may be fixed by the Conciliator, the Labour Officer shall act as the delegate on behalf of such workmen.

10. (1) A person shall be disqualified from being appointed g a (or acting as a delegate, if such person -
 (a) is less than twenty-one years of age; or
 (b) is an uncertificated bankrupt or an undischarged insolvent.

(2) A person shall be disqualified from acting as a delegate, if such person is not, in the opinion of the conciliator, after the conciliation proceedings have started, a fit and proper person to be a delegate.

(3) The decision of the Chief Conciliator or the Special Conciliator, as the case may be, that a person is disqualified from being appointed or acting as a delegate shall be final.

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11.(1) On the date specified in the notice under sub-section (1) of section 8 or on such other date as may be fixed by the Conciliator on his motion or at the request of any of the parties to a trade dispute, the Conciliator shall hold the conciliation proceeding in the prescribed manner.

(2) A party to such trade dispute shall be represented in a conciliation proceeding by delegates. The Labour Officer, even if not appointed or acting as delegate, shall be entitled to be present at such proceeding.

(3) It shall be the duty of the Conciliator to endeavour to bring about a settlement of the trade dispute and for this purpose the Conciliator shall inquire into the dispute, and all matters affecting the merits thereof and the right settlement thereof and in so doing may do all such things as he thinks fit for the purpose of inducing the parties to come to a fair and amicable settlement of the dispute and may adjourn the conciliation proceeding for any period sufficient in his opinion to allow the parties to agree upon the terms of the settlement.

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12. (1) A Conciliator shall, subject to the provisions of this Act, follow in a conciliation proceeding such procedure as may be prescribed.

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(2) For the purpose of holding a conciliation proceeding, the Conciliator shall have the same powers as are vested in courts under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908, in trying a suit in respect of the following matters, viz.:-

(a) summoning and enforcing the attendance of any person and examining him on oath;

(b) compelling the production of documents and material objects; and

(c) issuing commissions for the examination of witnesses;

and shall have such further powers as may be prescribed.

(3) If a party to a trade dispute giving any information or producing any document in a conciliation proceeding makes a request in writing to the Conciliator that such information or the contents of such document may be treated as confidential, the Conciliator shall direct that such information or document be treated as confidential.

(4) The Conciliator may, if he thinks fit, permit the information or contents of the document in respect of which a request has been made under sub-section (3) to be disclosed to the other party to the trade dispute;

Provided that the Conciliator shall not permit such information or the contents of such document to be so disclosed to the other party to the trade dispute, if it is shown to his satisfaction that such disclosure is likely to affect the interests of the party making the request under sub-section (3) adversely in any matter not connected with the settlement of the said dispute.

(5) Save as provided in sub-section (4), the Conciliator or any person present at or concerned in the conciliation proceeding shall not disclose any information or the contents of any document directed to be treated as confidential under sub-section (3), without the consent in writing of the party making the request under the said sub-section.

30 (6) Nothing in this section shall apply to the disclosure of any information or the contents of any document for the purpose of a prosecution for an offence under section 14 or under the Indian Penal Code.

t & 13.(1) If a settlement of a trade dispute is arrived at in a conciliation proceeding, a memorandum of such proceeding and settlement shall be drawn up in the prescribed form by the Conciliator and signed by the delegates. The Conciliator shall send a report of such settlement together with a copy of the memorandum to the Governor in Council.

(2) If no such settlement is arrived at, the Conciliator shall, as soon as possible, after the close of the conciliation proceeding, send a full report regarding the trade dispute to the Governor in Council, setting forth the particulars of the proceeding and the steps taken by him for the purpose of ascertaining the facts and circumstances relating to the dispute and the reasons on account of which, in his opinion, a settlement could not be made.

(3) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or (2), any information or contents of any document shall not be included in the memorandum of proceedings, settlement or report drawn up or made under sub-section (1) or (2), if such information or the contents of such document is not permitted by the Conciliator to be disclosed under sub-section (4) of section 12.

(4) The record of the conciliation proceeding held and settlement made under this section shall be maintained in the prescribed manner.

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14.(1) If the Conciliator or any person present at or concerned in a conciliation proceeding wilfully discloses any information or contents of any document in contravention of section 12, he shall, on complaint made by the party who made the request under sub-section (4) of section 12, be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

(2) No criminal court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the First Class shall try any offence under this section.

(3) No criminal court shall take cognizance of any offence under this section except with the previous sanction of the Governor in Council.

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15. Any application, document or other instrument made or produced in the course of any proceeding under this Act shall be exempt from stamp duty, court fee or registration fee payable under any law for the time being in force.

16. If any person instigates or incites others not to take part in a conciliation proceeding, or otherwise obstructs or instigates or incites others to obstruct a Conciliator in the discharge of his duties under this Act or molests or abets the molestation of others, with intent to prevent them from taking part in a Conciliation proceeding, such person shall, on conviction, be punishable with imprisonment of either description which may extend to six months or with fine or with both.

Explanation.- For the purpose of this section, a person is ~~said to molest any person who~~

(a) with intent to cause any person to abstain from doing or to do any act which such person has a right to do or to abstain from doing, obstructs or uses violence to or intimidates such person or any member of his family or person in his employ, or loiters at or near a place where such person or member or employed person resides or persistently follows him from place to place, or interferes with any property owned or used by him, or deprives him of or hinders him in the use thereof, or

(b) loiters or does any similar act at or near the place where a conciliation proceeding is held, in such a way and with intent that any person may thereby be deterred from entering or approaching such place.

17. It shall be lawful for a Conciliator at any time and from time to time when necessary for the purposes of exercising the powers conferred and performing the duties imposed by or under this Act to enter any premises used for the purpose of any trade or industry to which this Act applies.

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18. A Conciliator and a Labour Officer shall be deemed to be public servants within the meaning of section 21 of the Indian Penal Code. (XLV of 1860)

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19. No suit or proceeding shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

20.(1) The Governor in Council may make rules not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act for the purpose of carrying into effect the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing provision, such rules may be made for all or any of the following purposes, namely:-

- (a) prescribing the powers and duties of the Labour Officer;
- (b) prescribing the powers and duties which may be delegated to Assistant Conciliators;
- (c) prescribing the form and manner in which notice shall be given under section 8;
- (d) prescribing the manner in which the officer of a company shall be authorised to represent the company under section 9.
- (e) regulating the procedure in which a conciliation proceeding shall be held under section 11;
- (f) determining the scale of fees at which witnesses shall be paid for appearance in a conciliation proceeding under section 11;
- (g) specifying the powers which may be exercised by the Conciliator for the purposes of a conciliation proceeding under section 11;
- (h) prescribing the form in which and the particulars which shall be mentioned in the memorandum of a settlement under section 13;
- (i) prescribing the manner in which the record of a conciliation proceeding and settlement shall be maintained under section 13; and
- (j) providing for any other matter for which there is no provision or insufficient provision in this Act and for which provision is, in the opinion of the Governor in Council, necessary for giving effect to the provisions of this Act.

(3) The rules made under this section shall be subject to the condition of previous publication in the Bombay Government Gazette.

(4) Rules made under this section shall be laid upon the table of the Bombay Legislative Council at the session of the said Council next following and shall be liable to be modified and rescinded by a resolution of the said Council and such rule shall after notification in the Bombay Government Gazette be deemed to have been modified or rescinded accordingly;

Provided that when in the opinion of the Governor in Council such modification or rescission is likely to defeat or frustrate any of the purposes of this Act, the Governor in Council may by notification in the Bombay Government Gazette declare that the modification or rescission shall have no effect and thereupon the rules shall remain in force as if they had not been modified or rescinded.

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21. Nothing in this Act shall affect any of the provisions of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, and no conciliation proceeding shall be held relating to any matter or trade dispute which is referred to and is pending before, the Court of Inquiry or Board of Conciliation under the said Act.

(Extracted from pages 390-400 of Part IV of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 9-10-1934).

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The Madras Maternity Benefit Act, 1934. +

At page 7 of our August 1933 report were given the salient features and the text of the Statement of Object and Reasons of the Madras Maternity Benefit Bill, introduced in the Madras Legislative Council on 1-8-1933 by Mr. V.M.Ramaswamy Mudaliar. On 30-1-34 the Bill was referred to a Select Committee. (a summary of the Select Committee's Report was given at pages 11-12 of the September 1934 report of this Office). The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was taken up for consideration by the Council and was passed with certain changes on 24-10-1934. The full text of the Act will be given in a subsequent report.

(The Hindu, 24-10-1934).

Madras Compulsory Labour Act: Proposed Amendment. +

The Government of Madras ~~propose to~~ introduced a Bill on the 24th October 1934 ~~session~~ ¹⁹³⁴ in the Legislative Council to amend the Madras Compulsory Labour Act, The following is the statement of objects and reasons:-

"Section 5 of the Act provides that it shall be lawful for heads of villages to make requisitions upon the inhabitants thereof for the supply of material, to wit, trees and leaves, bamboo, straw and the like necessary for stopping breaches in the embankment of tanks, rivers and canals and to seize and if necessary to cut down articles wherever they can be found. The Section does not provide for a requisition being made for other materials such as earth, stone and gunny bags which are also necessary for stopping breaches. Further, the Section only refers to stopping breaches. The power to requisition can only be exercised after the breaches have occurred and not for the purpose of preventing a breach which is in imminent danger of occurring. Section 1 of the Act enables the heads of villages to make requisition for labour to prevent a breach where one is in imminent danger of occurring as well as to repair a breach after it has occurred. The Bill provides for amending Section 5 to include earth, stone and gunny bags among materials for which a requisition can be made and also to make requisition for materials for preventing a breach".

(The Hindu, 3-10-1934).

The Bill was referred to a Select Committee on the same date

(The Hindu 22-10-34)

Conditions of Labour.Quarterly Strike Statistics for the Period ending 30-6-1934.+

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the second quarter of 1934 ending 20-6-1934, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 54 disputes during the period involving 150,210 workers and entailing a loss of 3,441,187 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency where 31 disputes involving 122,706 workers entailed a loss of 2,910,280 working days. Next in order come Bengal with 6 disputes involving 5,619 workers and entailing a loss of 102,745 working days; Bihar and Orissa with 5 disputes involving 5,918 workers and entailing a loss of 42,542 working days; Assam and Madras with 3 disputes each involving 1,960 and 308 workers respectively and entailing losses of 3,860 and 2,191 working days respectively, and Delhi with 2 strikes involving 5,450 workers and entailing a loss of 24,790 working days. Ajmer-Merwara, Burma, Central Provinces and Punjab had 1 dispute each involving 145, 283, 7,000, and 821 workers respectively and entailing losses of 145, 6,108, 342,000 and 6,526 working days.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 31 disputes which involved 134,799 workers and entailed a loss of 3,280,318 working days and railways, including railway workshops, for 2 disputes involving 206 workers and entailing a loss of 450 working days. Jute mills and mines had 1 dispute each involving 4,800 and 1,970 workers respectively and entailing losses of 96,000 and 5,954 working days respectively. Other industries were responsible for 19 disputes which involved 8,435 workers and entailed a loss of 58,465 working days.

Of the 54 disputes during the period under report, 41 were due to wage questions, 7 to personnel, 2 to leave and hours and 4 to other causes. In 10 disputes the workers were successful, in 6 partially successful, and in 35 unsuccessful. 3 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under review.

(Strike statistics for the first quarter of 1934 are given at page 37 of the July 1934 report of this Office).

Working Conditions in Ceylon:

Report of the Controller of Labour, 1933.

The report is divided into two parts: The first contains a general review of working conditions in Ceylon and the second deals with the conditions of life and work of Indian immigrant labour in the island.

Labour Legislation.- A Bill entitled "An Ordinance to provide for the registration and control of Trade Unions" was read a second ~~for the~~ time in the Ceylon State Council and was thereupon referred by the Speaker to Standing Committee "B". A draft Workmen's Compensation Ordinance was under the consideration of the Executive Committee during the latter part of the year, 1933.

Unemployment Relief.- Several grants were made by the Ceylon Government during the year to the Colombo Municipality towards the cost of relief works. Various schemes, like construction of road embankments, filling up of disused quarries, construction of roads and levelling up of crown lands, costing on the aggregate Rs. 155,500 and giving employment to about 3200 workers for varying periods were completed during the year. About a third of this amount was contributed by the government. Further grants from a lump vote of Rs. 340,000 had been promised or were under consideration at the end of the year, the largest being a contribution of Rs. 198,500 to the Colombo Municipality towards a scheme for raising the flood protection bund.

* Part I - Civil (O) - Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1933. - July 1934. - Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. - To be purchased at the Government Record Office, Colombo. - Price 35 cents. pp.32.

Besides providing relief through public works, as above, the government also gave Rs.85,850 to be distributed by Government Agents as charitable allowance at various rates to poor persons, Rs.20,800 as grants to Friend-in-Need Societies and other charitable institutions, about Rs.12,000 as special grants to afford relief in cases of failure of crops and damage by floods, and Rs.10,000 for charitable grants in individual cases.

Industrial Disputes.- During the year there were not many industrial disputes in Ceylon. The principal one was a strike in February of 1400 workers of the Ceylon spinning and weaving Mills, to settle which a Commission was appointed by the Governor. In July the men returned to work on the compromise terms recommended by the Commission. In September there was a brief strike in the same Mills and in October the mills were closed owing to business difficulties and were reopened till the close of the year. In September there was a strike of waiters in one of the principal hotels at Colombo in consequence of the dismissals of two of their numbers.

Indian Immigrant Labour. - Part II of the report deals exclusively with the conditions of life and work of Indian immigrant labour. The subjects dealt with are the activities of the Board of Indian Immigrant Labour, statistics relating to immigration of Indian labourers to Ceylon, issue of recruiting licenses, repatriation and conditions of labour in the estates under the heads of health and vital statistics, wages, education, liquor consumption, crime, savings, estates of deceased Indians and inspections.

Figures re. Migration of Indians to Ceylon. - Practically all passenger traffic between Ceylon and South India is either by rail and ferry via Talaimannar-Dhanushkodi, or by a sea voyage of about 150 miles, between Colombo and Tuticorin. The annual average number of Indians who travelled over these two routes to Ceylon from 1914, when the Dhanushkodi route was opened, until the beginning of 1924, when Government control over assisted emigration had been fully established, 148,696 of whom 75,557 were unassisted and 73,139, assisted immigrants. Since 1924 the average number had been 212,130 of which 109,825 were unassisted and 102,305 assisted immigrants. In 1933 the number of arrivals was 121,251 (88,353 unassisted and 32,898 assisted). The reduction in the number of assisted labourers arriving in Ceylon in 1933 is reported to be mainly due to the depression in the tea and rubber industries. An outstanding fact is the very large proportion of assisted migrants who have previously been in Ceylon. The percentage of old labourers to the total in 1933 is 82 per cent (26,926).

Of the total Indian estate population of 609,535 in 1933, 194,633 were men, 187,026 women, and 227,876 children. Children under 10 years of age represented 37 per cent of the total population both in 1932 and in 1933.

Repatriation of Indians. - During 1933 the number of Indians repatriated under Ordinance No.1 of 1923 and the scheme of 1924 at public expense was 11,583 as against 7,307 in 1932. As a condition of the reduction of the legal minimum wage in May 1933, it was decided to offer free repatriation to all labourers on tea estates who might be discontented with the new rates. 26,883 labourers were thus repatriated. The scheme was closed down on 9-7-1933. It is probable that only a small proportion of this large total were genuinely discontented with the new rates. The majority ~~were~~ not doubt more concerned to get a free trip to India. Many of these repatriates have, in fact since returned, either at their own expense or by passing themselves off as puthals (new recruits). The number of labourers repatriated in 1933 under the 1930 rubber scheme was 3,877, as against 6,774 in 1932. This scheme was also closed down on 9-7-1933. Thus the total number of Indian labourers repatriated at public expense in 1933 under the different schemes amount to 42,343, as against 14,338 in 1932.

Housing. - There are in Ceylon 1690 tea, rubber, ~~and coconut~~ ^{cashew}, cardamoms and coconut estates employing Indian labour, out of which returns regarding housing was received only from 1652. *The following statistics relate only to these 1652 estates:*

Average number of Indian labourers employed by and resident on the estates	...	431,299
Average number of Indian labourers employed by the estates but not resident thereon...		2,931
Average number of unemployed young and aged dependants of Indian labourers on the estates. ...		173,380
Average number of non-Indian labourers employed by and resident on the estates. ...		22,489
Average number of non-Indian labourers employed by the estates but not resident thereon. ...		30,400
Average number of unemployed young and aged dependants of non-Indian labourers on the estates. ...		10,261
Number of permanently built labourers' rooms....		209,916
Number of permanently built labourers' rooms constructed or reconstructed after 1-1-1922. ...		177,077
Cost or present value of all the permanently built labourers' rooms.	Rs.76,481,034	
Cost or present value of the permanently built labourers' rooms constructed or reconstructed since 1-1-1922. ...	Rs. 67,667,413	
Cost of rooms built during 1933.	Rs. 175,443	
Number of temporary rooms (i.e., of thatch, and wattle and daub walls). ...		11,397

(Reference is also invited to the report of the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon for 1933 which is reviewed at pages 25-29 of our September 1934 report.)

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Minimum Wages in Ceylon Estates:

Increased Rates to take effect from 16-11-1934. +

Reference was made at page 24 of our September 1934 report to the proposals of the Executive Committee of Labour, Industry and Commerce, Ceylon, to increase the rates of minimum wages for estate labourers in the Island. According to a notification in the Ceylon Gazette, the Governor has agreed to the rates proposed by the Executive Committee (for details of the proposals vide page 24 of our September 1934 report).

The notification states that the rates have been fixed on the understanding that on all estates to which the rates are applicable, clean unblended rice of good quality will be issued to each working Indian estate labourer at a rate not exceeding Rs. 4.80 per bushel. The issue of rice will be at a rate per month not less than seven-eighths of a bushel for a woman, and five-eighths of a bushel for a child; provided a sufficient sum shall have been earned within the month to cover its cost. It is also stipulated that on all estates to which the rates are applicable, clean unblended rice of good quality will also be issued free of cost at the rate of one-eighth of a bushel per month to each working man and that rice will also be issued at a similar rate to each widow employed who has one or more non-working children, provided that instead of the free issue of rice employers may, with the consent of the Controller of Labour previously obtained and unless and until such consent be withdrawn, provide one good and unstinted meal of rice and curry daily to each and every Indian child under ten years of age resident on their estates and related to the Indian labourers employed thereon.

(The Hindu, 19-10-1934)

Home for Disabled Indian Workers in Ceylon; Scheme Approved
by Kanganies' Association. +

At a meeting of the Colombo District Head Kanganies' (labour recruiters) Association held about the first week of October 1934 at Colombo, Mr. T.L.R. Chandran, Agent for the Indian Government in Ceylon, stressed the need for head Kanganies to start co-operative thrift societies for the benefit of Indian estate labourers working in Ceylon, and also to establish a home for decrepit and disabled Indian immigrant labourers. The Association decided to support the scheme to start a home at Colombo. It is proposed to begin with a small building, providing 20 to 25 beds for those labourers who cannot work. Idlers are to be strictly kept out. The financing of the scheme is to be by contributions by head Kanganies in each estate, who are to pay at the rate of 50 cents per Indian labourer employed under them. The contributions are to be collected by the superintendent of each separate estate.

It is also proposed to extend the establishments of similar homes to Badulla, Kandy, Ratnapura, and Hatton later on.

(The times of India, 10-10-1934).

General Wage Census in Bombay Presidency, 1934-35;

Progress of Work. +

Reference was made at page 20 of our February 1934 report to the decision of the Government of Bombay to hold during 1934 a general wage census covering all factories in the Bombay Presidency, excluding Sind. At page 31 of our June 1934 report ^{were} ~~was~~ given a few details regarding the enquiry. In the case of the perennial factories the census was to relate to the month of May 1934. It is now understood that the preliminary investigations into systems of wage payments, methods of main-

taining musters and pay rolls and the terms used for designating occupations in nearly 750 perennial factories in all parts of the Pre-sidency proper were concluded by the end of May. Standard lists of occupations were compiled for all industries and these together with the necessary forms and a general questionnaire covering hours of work, conditions of service and welfare activities were issued early in June to all factories in the presidency, excluding textile mills in the City and Island of Bombay and Sholapur City in which the enquiry could not be held owing to the closure of several mills on account of prolonged strikes. The enquiry for the textile mills in Sholapur was held for the month of July 1934 and the textile mills in the City and Island of Bombay are being covered for the month of October 1934. Sugar mills and match factories were covered for the month of ⁽¹⁹³⁴⁾ March owing to the closure of the majority of the former in the month of May and of all the latter since the beginning of April ^{this year.} A very generous measure of response, it is reported, has been secured for the census and ¹ hundred per cent. returns have been already received from almost all centres, covering every worker in every factory.

(The Labour Gazette, Bombay, Sept. 1934, Vol. XIV, No.1).

✓
Labour Officer appointed by Bombay Government. +

Reference was made at pages 23-26 of our August 1934 report to the passing of the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Bill, 1934, on 27-8-1934. In pursuance of the provisions of the Bill, the Government of Bombay appointed in September 1934 Mr. W.B. Gilligan, I.C.S., as the first Labour Officer to look after the interests of labour in the textile industry and for the mutual benefit of workers and employers in Bombay City. The following are extracts from an editorial article on the subject published by the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, of 30-9-1934:

The absence of responsible and robust trade unionism has been the bane of industrial life of Bombay for all these long years of trial. In times of stress and trouble this lack of proper labour leadership has meant again and again crores (1 crore=10 millions) of rupees losses to mills, already in distress, by the coming on the scene at the nick of time of bookish idealists and tub-thumping orators inspired with red doctrines, who, to further their own pet theories, wilfully made a cat's-paw of the ignorant workers and their grievances. This easily explains the urgent need for someone who would genuinely understand the demands of labour and obtain prompt and adequate redressal. Trade Unionism as at present constituted has lamentably failed to do this, and it was for the self-same reason that the Bombay Government were forced to step into the breach and obtain legislative sanction for appointing a Labour Officer.

The problems that face Mr. Gilligan, the new Labour Officer, ~~is~~ herculean in ~~its~~ nature, for labour at the present moment, freshly emerged from a disastrous strike, having been miserably let down by its self-appointed leaders, is distrustful of everybody. The problem of weaning away workers from the teachings and influence of irresponsible persons at critical times will test the abilities of Mr. Gilligan to the fullest. It is possible that his mission as a Labour Officer will prove successful for curing the canker of industrial unrest that has forced more than once the city's mills to the brink of total extinction.

The duty of the Bombay millowners in regard to the Labour Officer is plain enough. They have failed in the past in a large measure to establish happier relations with their operatives and ought to now gratefully appreciate Government's praise-worthy and honest efforts for the prevention of labour troubles in the city.

Critics, many of them very reasonable men, have not been wanting, who incessantly chided the millowners for their superiority complex and their lamentable lack of desire to climb down and personally understand the aspirations of the workers. No longer can our millowners afford to rest content on the worn out argument that workers are easily excitable and often flare up on the slightest pretext when egged on by outside malcontents. It is for this explicit reason that the post of a responsible Labour Officer has been created, and it behoves the Bombay millowners to afford every assistance and facility even beyond the letter of the law so that success might crown the efforts of the holder of the new post.

• In an interview to a representative of the Indian Textile Journal, Mr. Gilligan, speaking about his new work, said that his chief duties were to prevent strikes as far as possible, and to settle them as soon as possible, while his other duties would be of such a general nature that he was ready to help and advise the workers at any time in their difficulties, not only in Bombay, but also in their villages. He hoped, in this way, to decrease the gap existing between employer and employed, and as time passed, to substitute trust and sympathy for prestige and unreasonableness. He declared: "Nearly everyone seemed to have some sort of a grievance as the result of not less than twelve years' unstable conditions. The employed mill-hand complained of too much work and too little pay, the unemployed fellow only asked for the opportunity of earning his living; yet the former, however much dissatisfied, was unwilling to exchange. Konkani and Deccani had been taught to believe themselves exploited, but there were men from distant Peshawar and Allahabad working in Bombay on the same wages. On their hand, owner and manager were faced with this constant unrest of the staff in their mills, in addition to the cut-throat competition of foreign manufacture that met them in the market, while the proverbial "last straw" was provided by those advocating the strike remedy, lecturing to a mob with smokeless stacks and empty chawls, all round them, the visible wreckage and record of previous strikes

(The Indian Textile Journal, 30-9-34).

Ahmedabad Labour Dispute:

Arbitration Board's Failure:

Question to be Submitted to an Umpire. †

Reference was made at pages 39-40 of the September 1933 report of this Office to the Ahmedabad labour dispute between the Millowners' Association and the Textile Labour Association. It will be remembered that the Conciliation Board consisting of Seth Chimanlal Parikh, and Mr. Shankerlal Banker failed to bring about a settlement and that the issue in dispute between the Millowners' Association and the Labour Association (the question of reduction of wages in local cotton mills) was thereupon referred back to ~~an~~ Arbitration Board consisting of Mahatma Gandhi and Seth Chimanlal Parikh. (For details regarding this dispute vide pages 13-14 of the October 1933 report of this Office, as well as pages 21-24 of the February 1934 report and pages 17-20 of the March 1934 report). But as Mahatma Gandhi was otherwise engaged and could not spare time to work ~~on~~ the Board, Mr. Manu Subedar of Bombay was chosen as the other member of the Board. According to the Hindustan Times dated 23-10-1934, this Arbitration Board held 19 sittings in Bombay when both the parties submitted detailed statements showing the plight of the industry. As, however, the arbitrators could come to no agreement, the question will now be submitted to an umpire, whose name is expected to be announced ~~in the course of a week.~~ ^{Soon.}

(The Hindustan Times, 23-10-1934)

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Bombay Trade Disputes Act Case:

All Accused Acquitted. †

Reference was made at pages 53-54 of our Report for August 1934 to the prosecution launched by the Government under the Trade Disputes Act against eight leaders of the recent textile strike in Bombay. The eight persons charged were acquitted by the Bombay Chief Presidency Magistrate on 23-10-1934, ~~as briefly reported in~~

This, the first prosecution under this Act, was launched as the sequel to the textile strike in Bombay which began on April 23 and ended on June 23 last. The trial lasted three months, and some 50 witnesses were examined. The ~~prisoners~~ ^{accused} were: A.A. Alwe, B.V. Karnik, Maniben Kara, B.T. Randive, Abdul Majid, K.N. Joglekar, R.S. Nimbkar, and S.C. Mhapenkar. They were charged with declaring, instigating, or inciting others to take part in, or otherwise act in furtherance of, a strike which was ~~a~~ illegal under the Act. The magistrate held that the prosecution had failed to prove that the strike inflicted severe, general, and prolonged hardship on the community.

As the decision has important bearings on the rights of workers to initiate strike action, a summary of the more important points raised in the course of the judgment is given below:-

The Case for the Prosecution and the Defence.- After setting out the facts of the case, the magistrate, in his judgment, observed that the prosecution contended that some of the demands (which were 20 in number) formulated by the strikers, were not in furtherance of a trade dispute, and that the strike was designed or calculated to inflict severe, general and prolonged hardship on the community and thereby compelled Government to take or abstain from taking some particular course of action. On the other hand, the accused contended that the object of the strike was in furtherance of a trade dispute and that it did not inflict the hardship, alleged by the prosecution.

Was the Strike Illegal? - As Dr. Ambedkar (defence counsel) had said, the only points for determination were (1) whether the accused instigated the strike of the textile workers in Bombay and (2) whether the strike was illegal within the meaning of section 16 of the Act. The magistrate said that the accused in their speeches did instigate the workers against Government, but that was not enough unless it was proved or the facts placed before a court were such as would lead to a reasonable inference that the intention of the accused was to cause such prolonged and severe hardship on the community that Government would thereby be sooner or later compelled to intervene in the matter. This element was wanting in the present strike.

Was there a Genuine Trade Dispute? - Under section 16 of the Act, a strike was illegal only if (a) it had any object other than the furtherance of a trade dispute within the trade or industry, and (b) if it was designed or calculated to inflict severe, general and prolonged hardship upon the community and thereby compelled Government to take or abstain from taking any particular course of action. In order to constitute a trade dispute, the dispute must be between employers and workmen within the trade or industry and which was connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of the employment or with the conditions of labour of persons in that trade or industry. It was not denied that there was a general strike of the mill-hands in Bombay.

Was it solely a Trade Dispute?- The next point for determination therefore was whether there had been any object of the strike other than the furtherance of a trade dispute. According to Mr. Maloney, Secretary of the Bombay Millowners' Association, the men had no grievances regarding wages inasmuch as the workers realised the position of the industry and had by agreement with the individual millowners agreed to take the wages given to them.

Wage Reduction - A Legitimate Ground for Strike.- In the Magistrate's opinion it was not correct to say that there was no trade dispute merely because the workers had agreed to accept a reduction of wages under certain circumstances. There would be a trade dispute even though the mills might be working, or even though there might not be any cessation of work. The reduction in wages and the dear food allowance would naturally cause a certain amount of resentment among the workers. This led to several strikes in individual mills. According to Rao Saheb Patwardhan (of the Bombay C.I.D) there were 41 such strikes in 1933, most of these being due to wage cuts. Rightly or wrongly, the men regarded the cut in their wages and dear food allowance as unjustifiable and it was a constant source of dispute between them and their employers.

Rationalisation - a side issue.- As to rationalisation or the efficiency system, there seemed to be divergent opinions held by the labour leaders and the millowners. It was not necessary for the purpose of the case to decide as to whether it was a fresh cause of grievance or not. On the evidence the magistrate was inclined to think that it really made for efficiency and that in the long run it did not lead to greater unemployment. The question before

the court was not whether the mill workers had a just grievance for going on strike but whether there was a trade dispute in the industry within the meaning of that word as used in section 16 of the Act. On the evidence, he held that there was a trade dispute in the industry between the workers and the owners as regards the wage cuts, the **nationalisation scheme or the efficiency system, and unemployment.**

Strikers' 20 demands exceeded legal objectives.- The prosecution had contended that the object of the strike was not to get only these grievances redressed. The all-India Textile Workers' Conference and the Joint Strike Committee formulated the 20 demands, and it was decided by them to bring about a general strike on the basis of those demands. According to the prosecution, four of the demands could not be in furtherance of any trade dispute. For instance, the withdrawal of the so-called repressive laws was a matter for the legislature and Government. So also was the question of the release of political prisoners entirely a matter for Government to decide, and Government were not the workers' employers. After referring to the speeches delivered by the accused at the several meetings held by them, the magistrate said it was idle to contend that these 20 demands, were not their real demands and that they were willing to call off the strike if their three demands for the restoration of the wage cuts, abolition of the efficiency **system and unemployment were granted.** The Magistrate was of the opinion that the strike was illegal because some of the objects were other than in furtherance of a trade dispute.

No severe hardship caused to community.- The magistrate thought that when the accused declared the strike they did contemplate that it would be a prolonged struggle and that it would cause severe hardship. So far as the millhands were concerned, there was severe, general and prolonged hardship inflicted on them. The millhands were poor and earned a **precarious living.** The magistrate did not think that the pecuniary loss to the mills could be regarded as a hardship within the meaning of that word as used in the section in question. Every mill was owned by a limited company with shares owned by thousands of people not only in Bombay but elsewhere. Even if the working of these mills were to result in a loss at the end of the year, a mere diminution in the receipts of the dividend by a shareholder of a few rupees could hardly be described as a hardship even to the individual shareholder. The prosecution had succeeded in proving that the Bombay strike resulted in severe, general and prolonged hardship to the millworkers. But the section required that the strike should be designed or calculated to inflict that hardship upon the community. In the magistrate's opinion the millhands like the railway people and others would be called "a community" but they could not be said to be "the community".

Workers only a Part of the Community.- According to Webster's dictionary, "the community" meant the public or people in

general, and the illustration given was "burdens upon the poorer classes of the community." The illustration was relied upon by counsel for the prosecution, but the magistrate failed to see how it helped him. The millhands were a part of the community, but they were certainly not the public of Bombay or the people in general of Bombay. The magistrate therefore held that the prosecution had failed to prove that the strike inflicted the hardship described above. Under the circumstances, he acquitted all the persons charged under the Act.

(The Times of India, 25-10-1934)

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Wages in Rationalised Occupations in Bombay Mills:

Report of Sub-Committee. †

(Not for Publication.)

At pages 33-34 of our June 1934 report were given details of the proposals of the Bombay Millowners' Association regarding the fixing of minimum rates of wages for workers in unrationalised occupations in the Bombay textile industry. Reference was made in that connection to the appointment of a special sub-committee of the Association to consider the position as regards rationalised occupations. The terms of reference of the ^{sub-Committee} ~~submitted~~ included the consideration of not only the rates of pay which shall be paid for time and piece-workers in any efficiency scheme which has been or may be introduced by individual mills, but also conditions which should be provided for the various occupations prior to the introduction of any efficiency scheme. The sub-Committee submitted its report towards the middle of August, 1934. A summary of the report is given below.

Blow Room:

Efficiency Scheme recommended- With very few exceptions, mills should be able to introduce a system of one man per two machines in the case of exhaust and lap machines, breaker scutchers, intermediate scutchers and finishing scutchers. No additional expenditure on equipment would be required before introducing the system recommended, nor would it be essential to make any changes in the cotton used as far as this process~~es~~ is concerned, though the type of

cotton used will necessarily affect the possibilities of introducing efficiency schemes in most subsequent processes.

Wages.- Where two machines per man are being worked, the wage paid should be on a time work basis and should be consolidated; the minimum rate recommended is Rs.28-7-0 per month of 26 working days.

Card Room - The possibility of increasing the allotment of cards per stripper and grinder depends to a very large extent on the quantity of cotton put through the card during the day. With conditions varying so greatly between mill and mill owing to the difference in the average count being spun, it has been found difficult to recommend any general system for adoption other than a minimum which should be achievable in any mill. The minimum allotment of cards per grinder and stripper should be that laid down in the Association's standardization scheme, namely, one grinder and one stripper per 20/24 cards where patent strippers are not in use.

As regards other occupations in the Card Room, the minimum number of cards allotted to each operative should be as under:(1) Fly Gatherer, one man for 40/50 cards; (2) Lap Carrier, one man for 27/30 cards; (3) Card Tenter or Can Boy, one man to each preparation, and (4) Sweeper, one to 40/50 cards. If greater numbers of cards than those specified are allotted to each operative, the wages paid should be somewhat higher than those ~~specified~~ specified in the schedule recently adopted by the Association for unrationallised occupations.

Drawing Frames. - Efficiency Scheme Recommended-- A system of two men per three heads of Drawing, irrespective of the number of deliveries, could be introduced in all mills for 12s and over. No further expenditure on equipment would be necessary.

Wages.- The wages for this system of work should be on a piece-work basis, and payment should be made at the rate of 20% higher than the rate paid per operative on the 3 men per 3 head system. The system of estimating the wages payable to drawing frame ~~tenters~~ tenters varies in different mills, and if and when a standardization of wages is attempted in the future, the system of payment of drawing tenters should be made uniform.

Slubbing Department. - No change in the present system of one man per machine is advocated.

Intermediate Frames.- The system of one frame per man is to be continued. In certain cases where conditions are exceptional, it would be possible to introduce a system of two frames per man with a back tenter, but the saving in such a system is too small to justify advocating its general adoption.

Roving Department:

Efficiency Scheme Recommended.- Where rovings are being made for counts 12s and over, a system of one man per two rovers is possible in all mills without any additional expenditure on equipment. The cotton used should, however, be sufficiently good to reduce sliver breakages to a minimum, as otherwise the possibility of introducing the efficiency system in the spinning department will be affected adversely.

Wages.- The wages paid for the system of work recommended should be on a piece-work basis with wages for 2 frames equivalent to two-thirds of the calculated wages, with 35% dear food allowance for a 10-hour day and two-thirds of the calculated wage with 40% dear food allowance when the 54-hour week is introduced.

Complement of Doffer Boys.- Though not essentially an efficiency scheme recommendation, the attention of all mills should be drawn to the necessity of maintaining their complement of Doffer Boys according to the scales recommended in the original Standardization Scheme of the Association framed in the year 1930, namely:-

- 1 per 150 roving spindles when hank roving is $2\frac{1}{4}$ and under;
- 1 per 160 roving spindles when the hank roving is between $2\frac{1}{4}$ & $3\frac{1}{2}$;
- 1 per 240 roving spindles when the hank roving is between $3\frac{1}{2}$ & 4;
- 1 per 300 spindles when the hank roving is between 4 and $4\frac{1}{2}$;
- 1 per 400 spindles when the hank roving is $4\frac{1}{2}$ and over.

Wages to be paid as specified in the recent Schedule for unrationalised occupations.

Ring Spinning:

Efficiency Scheme Recommended.- It should eventually be possible for practically all mills to introduce a system of two sides per man in the spinning department in all counts above 20s. In certain cases where spinning is exceptionally good, two sides per man is possible on counts 12s and over. It is not possible to recommend the compulsory adoption of the two sides system unless adequate safeguards are introduced which ensure that the spinning qualities of the yarn reach a minimum standard. The only real test of spinning quality is the breakage test. Details as to the number of breakages which take place in mills which have successfully introduced the two -sides system have been available and after a study of these particulars, the sub-Committee reached the conclusion that the introduction of the two-sides system should not ordinarily be attempted by mills unless the number of breakages which an operative working on two sides would have to piece up does not exceed two per minute. Generally speaking, where a change over to the two sides system is introduced, better cotton will be necessary.

Wages.- The wages to be paid where two or more sides per man are being worked, should be consolidated and on a time-work basis with a minimum equivalent to 33-1/3% higher than the minimum wage laid down in the recent schedule adopted by the Association for single side, that is,-

	Warp.			Weft.		
	Wages per month on single side.	Wages per month on double side.	Wages per month. on single side.	Wages per month. on double side.		
	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.	Rs. A. P.		
cluding						
300 spindles.	20 5 0	27 1 0	21 2 0	28 3 0		
pindles	21 2 0	28 3 0	21 15 0	29 4 0		
pindles	21 15 0	29 4 0	22 12 0	30 5 0		
spindles	22 12 0	30 5 0	23 9 0	31 7 0		

Weaving:

Efficiency Scheme Recommended. - The decision to adopt a three or four-loom system, depending as it does on so many different factors, must be left to the discretion of individual mills. The main points to be considered are:-

- (a) Quality of warp yarn being supplied to the weaver.
- (b) No matter what class of goods are being woven, it would be difficult to work an efficiency system in the weaving department unless the number of warp breakages per loom per hour is reduced to a minimum. For a 4-loom system, warp breakages should not, in our opinion, exceed two per hour, and on a 3-loom system, 3 per loom per hour.
- (c) Before any system can be successfully introduced, the layout of the machinery in the shed must be arranged to suit the system; for instance, a 3-loom system would be difficult to operate in a shed in which looms are arranged in lines of 4. The starting handles should also be arranged in groups; for example, in a 3-loom system, the starting handle for all the three looms worked by the same man should be in close proximity.
- (d) The class of work must be taken into consideration when a decision is being taken on the question of introducing a 3-loom or 4-loom system; for example, in a mill which is producing practically nothing but dhoties, the number of shuttle changes which have to be made per hour must be taken into consideration. If complicated headings are the rule, it would be found that in certain instances, the number of shuttle changes on a 4-loom system would be excessive, and might greatly reduce loom efficiency.
- (e) A further consideration is the average count of weft being used. If the average count is low the amount of shuttle changing involved in a 3-or 4-loom system might rule out the possibility of its adoption.

Speaking generally, where a 4-loom system is found possible after a scientific study by the management concerned, extra help should be given in the way of weft carriers and cloth carriers at the expense of the management. It is pointed out that the introduction of a 3-or 4-loom system is facilitated where coarse weft is being used, by supplying re-wound weft or using longer pirns. Re-wound weft would not, however, always be necessary even in moderately coarse counts if the length of yarn on the pirn is considerably greater than the normal owing to the use of large diameter rings on the spinning frame.

Wages.- Subject to the conditions provided being satisfactory for the introduction of an efficiency system in weaving, the wages paid should be on a piece-work basis with dear food allowances as laid down in the Association's Schedule with additional payment to the weaver equivalent to 50% of the wages earned on the additional looms, that is to say, where a 3-loom system is worked, wages should be five-sixths of the calculated wage, and on a 4-loom system three-fourths of the calculated wage.

The Recommendations of the sub-Committee are to be placed before the general body of members at a meeting to be held in October 1934.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during September 1934).

Factory Labour in Mysore State:

Introduction of 54-hour Week Contemplated.+

It is reported that, answering to an interpellation relating to factory labour, the Development Secretary of the Mysore State informed the Mysore Representative Assembly that the Mysore Durbar was having under consideration the question of amending the Mysore Factories' Regulation on the lines of the Indian Act ^{of 1934} restricting work to 54-hours a week.

(The Hindustan Times, 28-10-1934)

Conditions of Women Industrial Workers in Mysore:

Statement in Representative Assembly.

At the Dussarat (October) session of the Mysore Representative Assembly, a number ^{of} interpellations regarding the conditions of life and work of women industrial workers were put by Mrs. Kamamma Dasappa and Srimati Sakamma. Replying on behalf of the Government, Mr. K. Matthan, Member of the Executive Council, stated that there are about 206 factories, 20 Government and 186 private owned, in Mysore State. No statutory provision has been made for the grant of maternity benefit to women working in the factories. The Government have passed orders, providing for the grant of maternity benefit to women working in the factories under the control of the Department of Industries and Commerce. The maximum age of children that work in the factories was 11 years. ~~and~~ The maximum wages for women ^{raised from} 4 to 8 annas per day and for children 3 to 6 annas per day. A maximum limit of 11 hours per day is prescribed for women and 5½ hours per day for children. (The Statesman, 28-10-34).

In reply to Mrs. Dasappa's request that the maternity benefit scheme, now in force, in Government concerns, might be extended to all women labourers in the State, Mr. Matthan said that there were certain difficulties in respect ~~of~~ of passing such an act and to protect women labourers in factories. If factory owners were asked to provide maternity benefits they would prefer to dispense with the services of women labourers and thus throw a large number of women out of employment. The Government had the matter under consideration but it was a matter which had to be considered and decided after taking ^{its} several aspects into consideration.

(The Hindu, 25-10-1934)

✓ Factory Administration in B. & O., 1933*.

Number of Factories, Operatives and Inspections. - According to the report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1933, the number of factories on the register at the beginning of the year was 335. 25 factories were registered during the year. The most noteworthy feature of the new registration is the number of sugar factories (10). The increase amounts to 43 per cent over the previous year's figure for that industry. 13 factories were removed from the register during 1933, leaving a total of 347 registered factories at the end of the year. Of these 58 remained closed throughout the year. Of the 289 working factories, 247 were perennial and 42 seasonal. The number of persons employed during the year was 72,254 (66,998 males, 5,022 women and 234 children) as against 65,515 in 1932, an increase of 6,739 persons or 10 per cent. This is mainly accounted for in sugar factories but some of the other industries, though without new registrations, also show increase. The number of factories inspected during the year was 301 (against 322 in 1932) and the total number of inspections made was 432 (as against 442 in 1932). Of the 289 working factories, 15 remained uninspected, as against 2 in 1932.

Sanitation and Health of the Workers. - The report states that sanitation and water supply was fairly satisfactory during the year under report. Such complaints as were made during the year by municipalities or the Public Health Department bore upon conditions outside the factory. The Deputy Director of Public Health visited a good number of factories in his circle and in several cases reported on the nuisance and danger to public health from the situation of factories in the centre of residential or congested areas. Several cases of defaulting in respect of limewashing were noticed, and in one instance where the manager had been repeatedly warned legal action was taken and conviction obtained.

The establishment of medical inspection of factories was contemplated in 1932, and was intended to have been begun towards the end of 1933 in the non-cholera season, when three medical officers of the Public Health Department would have been available. It was proposed that these officers should begin by making an intensive investigation into ~~the possibility~~^{the possibility} of (1) pulmonary or other disease due to the atmospheric conditions in lac factories, and in (2) dusty mills; and (3) impaired vision and (4) lead poisoning in printing presses. It was thought that the result of such medical investigations would be the best data on which to base an opinion on the question whether the expense of permanent medical inspection of factories would be justified or not in Bihar and Orissa. The work was postponed partly owing to the absence on leave of the Director of Public Health and partly for lack of some of the laboratory apparatus required. Another impediment was the Bihar earthquake of

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the province of Bihar and Orissa, 1933. By the Chief Inspector of Factories, B. & O. -Supdt., Govt. Printing, B. & O., Patna, 1934. - Price Rs.1-8-0. -pp.33

January 1934 which deflected available medical staff for rescue work. The report states that if conditions permit medical inspection of factories would begin in the cold weather of 1934-35.

Wages. - The rates of wages in 1933, as compared with those in 1932, showed a slight increases in seven occupations and slight decreases in six. The report states that this fact, in conjunction with the comparative absence of illegal periods of labour, shows that there has been no general attempt to shift the burden of bad trade on to the employees. Considering the absence of effective trade unions, this ^{has been held} is very creditable to both Indian and European employers.

Women and Children.- For several years a progressive decline in the numbers of women and children relatively to men has been recorded, though occasionally there has been a check. The year under review provides another instance of this, the ratios being for all practical purposes the same as in 1932. This arrest of the movement, it is reported, though due in particular to the registration of new factories of the kind which most employs women and children, may possibly be the beginning of an end which must occur sometime unless the Act's discrimination against the employment of women and children is strengthened.

Safety.- The report states that the improvement of electrical equipment, with a view to the reduction of accidents in the Tatanagar area, was greatly advanced during the year. When such accidents were at their height in 1930 an informal agreement was arrived at between the Factories Department and the principal company concerned under which a sum of Rs.504,000 was earmarked to be spent in five years, in addition to the firm's ordinary electrical budget, on improving the safety of the electrical plant, and also to some extent in providing better lighting where this was considered to be less than considerations of safety required. The heads of expenditure are as follows:- (1) Renovation of motor and control wiring; (2) Installation of earth wire in the mills and shops; (3) Renovation of alternating current crane wiring; (4) Installation and replacement of wall plug fittings with 3-pin safety plugs; (5) Yard lighting; (6)(a) Fixing of protecting devices under cables in factory premises and grounds, (b) and also in town area; the fixing of pole guards and the shifting of low tension wires from high tension towers; (7) wire guard nets under towers over public thoroughfare in the town; (8) Individual earthing of towers and poles in factories and in the town; (9) Continuous earth wire on towers and poles in factories and in the town; (10) Shifting of telephone lines from towers carrying high power lines; (11) Installation of switchgear, transformers, etc., at the power plants; and (12) Continuous earth wire for the town lighting for residences, etc.

The fencing of machinery, it is reported, continued to improve. As in previous years, this matter received strict attention from inspectors. Initiative on the part of the management to fence dangerous machinery without waiting for instructions from the

inspector is, however, generally lacking; and it was especially noticeable in the case of new factories. In some of the seasonal factories the fencing taken down during general repairs and overhaul in the "off" season were not all replaced, and the inspector had to cover the old ground over again. Three factories were prosecuted, and conviction obtained, for this kind of offence.

During the year safety committees were established in thirteen factories, more or less on the lines advocated by the department. The chief objection made against the Chief Inspector's suggestions was the inclusion of workpeople on the committees, and they are reported to be excluded in most cases. The factories in which safety committees have been established vary from ~~xx~~ small mills up to the largest railway workshops. Some of the factories which declined to form safety committees drew up safety rules.

Accidents. - It is reported that the newly started sugar factories have distinguished themselves by their ^{large} number of ~~personal~~ accidents. Such a sudden expansion of an industry using heavy and highly technical machinery soon exhausted the scanty supply of skilled labour and of qualified supervisors. This, together with lack of discipline in the raw hands has resulted in making the total of accidents a little greater than in 1932.

The total number of accidents during the year was 1,981 as against 1,814 during 1932. Of these 1,981, 1,899 occurred in perennial factories and 82 in seasonal factories. The number of fatal accidents rose to 23 in the year under report from 20 in 1932. There were 391 serious accidents and 1,567 minor accidents during the year.

Prosecutions.- The occupiers and the managers of 6 factories were prosecuted for certain offences under the Indian Factories Act. There were 15 charges in all, resulting in 21 convictions against 9 persons. Of these charges, four were for not fencing dangerous machinery, one in connection with health and sanitation, four for not maintaining registers, two in connection with abstract and returns, and four for not allowing weekly holidays. The temptation to work excessive hours, and consequently to take liberties with registers and returns, was to a large extent absent on account of the trade depression.

(The Working of the Indian Factories Act in Bihar and Orissa during 1931 is reviewed at pages 40-41 of the August 1932 report and that during 1932 at pages 27-28 of the July 1933 report of this Office).

Industrial Organisation.
Employers' Organisations.

✓
31st Indian Railway Conference Association, Simla, 1934. †

The 31st annual session of the Indian Railway Conference Association was held in the Committee Room of the Legislative Assembly at Simla from 6 to 13-10-1934 under the presidentship of Mr. J. Williamson, Agent of the Bengal and North Western Railway. The Conference was attended, in addition to delegates representing the different railways in India and Burma, by Sir Joseph Phore, Member for Commerce and Railways, of the Government of India, Sir Guthrie Russell, Chief Commissioner of the Railway Board and Mr. P.R. Rao, Financial Commissioner.

Reorganisation of the Association. - In the course of his presidential address, among other matters, Mr. Williamson dealt with the proposed reorganisation of the Association, the chief features of which are the holding of two regular meetings of the Association yearly instead of one meeting as at present and the appointment of ad hoc committees for examining and co-ordinating views on questions affecting railways in particular areas and centres. The objective is to provide ways and means whereby the Association will be enabled more speedily to dispose of not only important matters, but routine business also, a need demanded by the ever-increasing activities of the country's industries and commerce, as well as in the interests of railway revenue.

Financial Position and Service Conditions. - Dealing next with the question of the financial position of Indian railways, Mr. Williamson said that the improvement in traffic of the past few months seemed to prove that, even if the hoped-for trade revival had not begun, the trough of the depression had at last been reached. If the present upward trend continued, a balanced railway budget would be possible, but the time was not yet come in his view, when any material lowering of rates and fares can be introduced. He then referred to the various measures of economy effected which had serious repercussions on the conditions of life and work of the 700,000 odd railway workers in India.

Wage Rates in Railways and Industrial Concerns. - Referring to this point Mr. Williamson said: "Never perhaps in the history of Indian railways has there been so intensive a campaign against working expenses, or operating costs under all abstracts of classification, than has been carried on during the past few years. Staff of all ranks and grades has been reduced; a percentage cut applied

to salaries and wages; rehabilitation of works and stock has had to be slowed down, expenditure on ordinary maintenance reduced to the minimum compatible with safety; and, although the search for further economies is not relaxed, whatever may yet be effected will represent no great sum of money compared with the deficit. Basic scales of pay especially in the superior and upper subordinate grades have been greatly reduced for new entrants, but some years will elapse before such reductions will have any noticeable effect on the wage bill. Compared with wages paid by business and industrial concerns generally, and to workers on the land, the emoluments of railway employees are not low, in fact the standard is high and whatever may be the dues of workmen in other callings, railwaymen enjoy a sheltered employment and wages of a purchasing value much increased by the fall in prices. But, although railways claim to be commercial undertakings, the vast number of employees dependent on them introduces considerations of economic and political expediency which have retarded more intensive retrenchment and reduction of the salary and wage bill.

Pope Enquiry Report.- Mr. Williamson then referred briefly to the Pope Enquiry Report regarding the possibilities of still further rationalisation of railway work and discussed the consideration that is now being given to such important subjects as the classification of goods, the need for tightening up control of motor transport, the railways' objection to acting as tax-collecting agencies, the difficulties in dealing with the ticketless traveller, steps to co-operate with airways and the seriousness of some of the tasks confronting railway engineers.

Important Decisions of the Conference: (1) Revision of the General Classification of Goods.- One of the sub-Committees appointed by the Conference dealt, among other subjects, with the revision of the general classification of goods, which for some time past had been receiving the consideration of the Railway Board. The proposal accepted by the conference was that the Calcutta group of railways should consider the revision of the classification of goods in the light of actual practice under the experienced chairmanship of Mr. Jarrad, who gave the conference an assurance that it would be dealt with expeditiously and that concrete results might confidently be looked for at the Spring conference next year.

(2) Reorganisation of the Conference.- Another important matter considered by the conference was the revision of the conference rules, re-arranging and bringing them up-to-date. The revision had received the approval of the conference and will now go to the Railway Board and the boards of Company Railways for their acceptance

Mr. J.C. Hight, Agent of the North Western Railway, was elected President of the Association for the year 1934-35.

(The Hindu, 6-10-1934 &
The Statesman, 15-10-1934).

Workers' Organisations.

✓
Progress of Trade Unionism in Burma-1933-34.

Registered Trade Unions.-There was only one registered trade union in Burma up to the 8th August, 1933, namely, the Burma Motor Drivers' Association, which was registered on the 28th October 1927. On 8-8-1933 a new trade union, namely, the Burma Railways Employees' Union, was registered and there were accordingly two registered trade unions at the end of the year. The Motor Drivers' Association opened with a membership of 115 and at the close of the period under review, namely, 31-3-1934, had a membership of 37. It had a closing balance of Rs.140. The Railway Employees' Union opened the year with a membership of 84 members and closed with 1107 members. It had a closing balance of Rs.136. Neither of the unions maintained a political fund.

There were no registered federations of Trade Unions in existence in Burma on 1933-34,

Applications for Registration. - The rules of the Oil-fields (Burma Oil Company) Employees' Association, Yenangyaung, which had applied for registration under the Act were examined and a number of alterations were suggested in the rules with a view to making them conform to the requirements of the Act. The Association was addressed on the 10-8-1933 and no reply was ~~so far~~ received from it ^{during the period under review}. No fresh applications for registration from ~~any~~ trade unions were received during the year.

Unregistered Trade Unions. - The report states that there is such a large number of unregistered trade unions in Burma that the compilation of an approximately ^{accurate} list of them is a task of great

difficulty. Therefore, no list of unregistered trade unions is given in the report.

Orders and Appeals. - No orders, disciplinary or otherwise, were passed by the Registrar during the year. Nor were there any appeals under the Act.

Trade Unions of Government Servants.- According to the report, the position with regard to trade unions of government servants is being regularised. Such trade unions are entitled to registration if they satisfy the conditions prescribed in sections 4 to 7 of the Act as well as those in the Burma Trade Union Regulations 3 to 8. The rules for the recognition of associations of industrial employees (including railways employees) of the Government of India which were issued in February 1934 provide as one of the conditions for the grant or continuance of official recognition to an association of industrial employees of Government that it must be registered under the Indian Trades Unions Act. The framing of similar rules in respect of industrial employees of the Government of Burma is under the consideration of the Local Government. The issue of rules under Rule 47 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules regulating the formation of associations of government servants is also under consideration.

General. - A few new trade unions were formed during the year and there is ^{reported to be} ~~is~~ a hesitation on the part of a number of trade unions in Burma to avail themselves of the facilities for registration provided by the Act. Although there is a wider recognition amongst workers of the utility of combination, they have yet to learn the advantage and usefulness of regular ~~is~~

and systematic activities. A press communique drawing the attention of organisers of trade unions in Burma to the suggestions made by the Royal Commission on Labour in India in their report with a view to helping them to serve better the interests of workers in particular and of the country in general was issued by the Labour Commissioner in November 1933. The first of the two important suggestions brought to notice was that as many members as possible of a trade union should be given a share in the work and the management of the union and that a variety of activities such as the development of co-operative stores and co-operative credit, savings-banks, libraries and reading-rooms, adult education, death benefits, workmen's compensation, restaurants and physical culture should be taken up. The second related to the development of leaders from among the workers themselves and the suggestion was that the organisers of trade unions should seek for suitable men and train them.

(Summarised from a cyclostyled copy of the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Burma (period 1-4-33 to 31-3-1934) forwarded to this Office by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Burma.)

(The progress of trade unionism in Burma during 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 35-36 of the October 1932 report and that during 1932-33 at pages 42-43 of the November 1933 report of this Office)

57

✓
The Annual General Meeting of ^{the} Bengal Press
Employees' Association, 1934. +

The annual general meeting of the Bengal Press Employees' Association was held at Calcutta on 22-9-1934 under the president-ship of Mr. Satyendra Chandra Mitra. The following is a summary of the more important of the resolutions passed at the meeting:

1. Need for A.I. Federation of Press Employees.- A resolution was passed expressing the opinion that the establishment of an all-India federation of press employees was essential to the welfare of press workers in India and inviting the attention of the unions of press employees in India to consider the practicability of the early establishment of such a Federation.

2. Piece-System Condemned.- The meeting recorded the opinion that "the conditions under which the piece-system is worked in all Government and other presses in Bengal are iniquitous, complex and opposed to principles of humanity and urges the immediate abolition of the system."

3. Medical and Quarantine Leave. - A resolution was passed disapproving of the recent order of the Government of India amending the rules regarding medical and quarantine leave which will, in effect, deprive the piece workers of both medical and quarantine leave hitherto enjoyed by them and urging the Government to take steps for its early cancellation.

4. Work given to outside Presses.- Another resolution recorded that "the present practice of Government presses giving work to outside presses is detrimental to the interests of Government press employees. The resolution urged on the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to abandon the practice as early as possible."

5. Improvement of Service Conditions.- A resolution drew "the attention of the Governments of India and Bengal, and of the members of the Legislative Assembly and the Bengal Council, to the most unsatisfactory conditions under which the industrial workers in general and the press employees in particular have to work and urges upon them to undertake suitable legislative measures, specially to secure to them (i) speedy and cheap mode of realising their wages; (ii) security from arbitrary and wrongful dismissals and (iii) the provision of provident funds."

6. Wage Payments and Arrears. - The practice obtaining in many private presses of allowing the salaries of the workers to fall into arrears for months together is condemned.

7. Hours of Work.- The practice obtaining in many private presses in Calcutta of compelling the low-paid workers to work longer than is permitted by the Indian Factory Act was condemned and the opinion expressed that if the Inspectors of Factories were more alive to the gravity of the problem it would not be possible for unscrupulous employers thus to take advantage of the poverty of the workers.

8. Lead Poisoning.- In view of the wide prevalence of lead-poisoning among the press workers and in view of the very serious nature of the disease it was urged on the Government "to make adequate provisions for periodically examining the health of the press-workers and take necessary steps, whenever and wherever the disease is detected, for allowing the sufferer to retire and have the compensation to which he is entitled under the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act paid promptly."

The following office bearers were elected for 1934-35:-

President:- Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose. Vice-Presidents: Sj. Satyendra Chandra Mitra, K.C.Ray Chaudhury, Prolhad Chandra Ray, Behari Lal Sen, Akhoy Kumar Mazumdar, Maulavi Mahabubul Huq, Syed M.Hafiz, Munshi Golam Sarwar, Md. Chand Khan. General Secretary:- Sj. Satish Chandra Sen.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika of 25-9-34 and 3-10-1934).

All India Socialists Conference, Bombay, 1934. +

References were made at pages 44-46 of our May 1934 report and in subsequent reports (vide page 39 of June, pages 42-44 of September 1934 reports) to the formation, policy and activities of the All-India Socialist Party and of its provincial branches. The first session of the All-India Socialist Conference was held at Patna on 17-5-1934. In order to define their relations with the Congress and to facilitate certain changes being made in the Congress constitution so that it may be made to conform to socialist ideals, the Congress' Socialists decided to hold a Conference at Bombay immediately before the Congress session scheduled to be held

in the last week of October at Bombay. This Conference of Congress Socialists was held on 21~~x~~ and 22-10-1934, and was attended by over 400 persons of whom about 150 were delegates from various parts of India. Swami Sampurnanand presided over the session.

Mr. Purushottamdas Tricumdas, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in welcoming the delegates explained how the Socialist Party came to be formed within the Congress. He said:

"During its evolution, the Congress has passed through many a crisis, particularly when the younger or bolder spirits were trying to drag it at a pace which was too fast for the then leadership and although a step forward was sometimes delayed by older hands, it was never prevented. The Congress is going through one of these crises today. It is this fact which makes our meeting historic. We represent today the elements who, having fought for nearly three years and having realised the limitations, both ideological and organisational, inside that great body (the National Congress), are asking for clearer understanding of the nature of national struggle, so that we may not allow weaknesses which were revealed during the last four years to continue to hamper our march forward."

"It is this realisation that has brought about the organisation of the Socialist opinion within the Congress and is mainly responsible for our meeting here today. The Socialists feel convinced that by reason of inevitable and inherent contradiction and conflict between the interests of landholding and capitalist classes on the one hand and the masses on the other, no single appeal which can satisfy both the possessing few and the exploited many is possible and the Socialists are therefore rightly asking the Congress to choose between the few and the many."

Outlining the policy of the Socialist Party, Mr. Tricumdas made it clear that the work of the Congress Socialist party would not be confined solely to the conversion of Congress, but that it would also devote its attention to the organisation of the workers and peasants. That important task would absorb their energies whether they, on the basis of the programme of the party, succeeded in converting Congress or not. The interests of the Indian masses were so utterly different from those who exploited them politically and economically, that any method of prayer, petition or pressure leading to a compromise must be rejected as useless.

No presidential address was delivered by Swami Sampurnanand, the President.

The following is a summary of some of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Conference:-

1- Constitution and Programme of the Socialist Party:and Official Bearers: The constitution and programme of the All India Socialist Party as drafted by the Drafting Committee were adopted with a few changes. The main features of the socialist programme are (1) the achievement of "Complete Independence" for India and the establishment of a "Socialist Society". The party is to consist of members of the Indian National Congress, who are also members of a Provincial Congress Socialist Party affiliated to the Party provided that they are not members (a) of any communal organisation and (b) of any other political organisation whose objects and programmes are in the opinion of the party inconsistent with its own. There is to be an affiliated Congress Socialist party in every Congress Province, including the Indian States, and, every Provincial party is to levy a membership fee of one anna per year, of which it should contribute 25 per cent to the funds of the party. Among the immediate demands of the party, accepted by the Conference was "unconditional repudiation of all debts contracted by the foreign government!"

The plan of action as laid down in the draft constitution was accepted with slight alterations. It required the Party to work within the National Congress with a view to ~~its~~ securing its programme accepted by the Congress. The object and programme of the party are the organisation of ~~and the entry into~~ peasants and labour unions for the purpose of participating in and developing the day to day economic and political struggle of peasants and workers and of creating a powerful mass movement for the achievement of independence and socialism, active opposition to all imperialist wars and utilisation of such other crisis for the intensification of the national struggle, refusal to enter at any stage into negotiations on constitutional issues with the British Government and convening, after the capture of power, of a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of formulating a constitution for India.

With the passing of the Draft Constitution, the All-India Congress Socialists Conference was formally inaugurated, and Mr. Jaya Prakash Narain was elected General Secretary of the Party.

2. Independence as India's Political Goal.- The Conference declared that the Congress goal of complete independence must mean the establishment of an independent State in which power is transferred to the producing masses and that such an objective involves the refusal to compromise at any stage with British imperialism. The Conference requested the All-India Socialists' Party to press this resolution both in the Subjects Committee and the open session of the Congress.

3. Socialist Party and War.- The Conference considered that, in view of the international situation and the danger of the sudden outbreak of a war in which the British Empire may be involved, it is necessary for the Congress to declare its opposition to the participation of India in any war in which the British Government may be involved and to undertake forthwith the preparation of the entire Indian nation to resist actively the utilisation of Indian men, money and resources for the purposes of a war, and utilise such a crisis for securing swaraj.

4. Suggested Changes in Fundamental Principles of Congress.-

The Conference was of opinion that to enable the masses to appreciate what Swaraj, as conceived by the Congress, will mean to them it is desirable to state the position of the Congress in a manner easily understandable by them. In order to end the exploitation of the masses political freedom must include real economic freedom of the starving millions. The Congress, therefore, should declare that the future constitution of the Indian State shall be based on the following fundamental principles: (1) The transfer of all power to the producing masses. (2) Development of the economic life of the country to be planned and controlled by the State. (3) Socialisation of the key and principal industries i.e., steel, cotton, jute, railways, shipping, mines, banks and public utilities. (4) State monopoly of foreign trade. (5) Organisation of co-operative institutions of production, distribution and credit in the unsocialised section of economic life. (6) Elimination of princes and landlords and all other classes of exploiters without compensation. (7) Redistribution of land to peasants. (8) Liquidation of debts owing by peasants and workers. (9) Provision by the State of work to every able-bodied adult and social insurance against unemployment, old age, sickness and accidents, maternity, etc. (10) Enunciation of the principle: "To every one according to his needs and from every one according to his capacity" to be the ultimate basis of distribution of economic goods. (11) Grant of adult franchise which shall be on a functional basis. (12) State neutrality in matters religious and non-recognition of any distinction based on caste or community. (13) Equality of sexes.

5. Workers' Demands Enunciated.- The Conference was of

opinion that the daily struggles of the workers, peasants and the other exploited masses for their immediate economic and political demands were an integral part of the struggle for independence. The Conference, therefore, resolved that the workers and peasants and other exploited classes should be organised for the immediate realisation of the following among other demands: (1) freedom of speech and of the Press, (2) freedom of association and combination, (3) the repeal of anti-national and anti-labour laws, (4) the release of all political prisoners and prisoners detained without trial, (5) the re-installment of all farmers and peasants deprived of their lands owing to their participation in the movement for national independence, (6) free and compulsory primary education and liquidation of adult illiteracy (7) drastic reduction by at least 50 per cent in the military expenditure of the Government of India (8) municipalisation of public utilities, (9) the control of usury direct or indirect, (10) a steeply graduated tax on all income including incomes from agricultural sources above a fixed minimum, (11) graduated death-duties, (12) freedom from serfdom and conditions bordering on serfdom, (13) the right to form Unions, to strike and to picket, (14) compulsory recognition by employers of the workers' Union, (15) a living wage, (16) 40-hour week and healthy quarters and conditions of work, (17) equal wages for equal work, (18) weekly payments of wages wherever demanded, (19) insurance against unemployment, sickness, accident, old age, etc., (20) one month's leave every year with full pay to all workers and 2 months' leave with

pay to women workers during maternity, (21) provision against employment of children of school-going age in factories and women and children in underground mining and hazardous occupations, (22) elimination of landlordism in Zamindari and Talukdari areas, (23) abolition of all feudal and semi-feudal levies on the peasantry, (24) encouragement of co-operative farming, (25) introduction of scientific agriculture at State cost, (26) liquidation of agricultural indebtedness and arrears of rent, (27) establishment of land mortgage banks to grant cheap credit to the peasants, (28) complete exemption from rents and taxes of all peasants with uneconomic holdings, (29) substantial reduction of rent and land revenue, and (30) freedom from attachment in the execution of rent or money decrees of homestead, agricultural resources and that portion of the peasants holding which is just sufficient to maintain an average peasant's family.

6. Socialists and Indian States. - Inasmuch as the Indian States constitute a principal political and military support to the British Imperialism and a source of feudal backwardness and reaction, the Conference declared that the abolition of the rule of the Indian Princes alone could assure the complete Independence for the whole of India, and invited the people of the Indian States to fight side by side with the people of British India in the struggle for Independence.

7. Socialists and Congress. - The Conference was of opinion that the resolution passed by the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress at Bombay (vide page 59 of our June 1934 report) and later at Benares concerning the confiscation of property were uncalled for and misleading. The Conference claimed that participation in class war and advocacy of expropriation of property were not inconsistent in any way with the Congress creed. The Conference took note of "the concerted attempts of the right wing to take back the Congress to the old discredited path of constitutional agitation and to convert it into an instrument of the Indian upper classes in their bargains with the British Imperialism. This Conference is emphatically of the opinion that these attempts run counter to the creed of the Congress and to the fundamental principles and policies it has been following since 1920. This Conference, therefore, resolves to resist these attempts and to rescue the Congress from the hands of the right wing by educating and organising the rank and file on the basis of a clear-cut programme of national revolution and also resolves to carry on a consistent propaganda for the exposure of the reactionary aims, policies and programme of the right wing.

8. Sub-Committee to Explore Possibilities of Joint Action with Other Groups. - The Conference authorised the Executive Committee to appoint a Sub-Committee to explore the possibilities of joint action on specific issues with the different Labour and Radical groups in the country.

9. Sub-Committees to Organise Peasants and Workers.- The Conference directed the Executive Committee to appoint the following three sub-Committees: (1) Propaganda Sub-Committee, (2) Peasant Organisation Sub-Committee, and (3) Labour Organising Sub-Committee,

(The Hindu of 22-10-34).

On the second day of the Conference a split occurred in the Socialist ranks as a result of a resolution which the Conference adopted placing a ban on Congress Socialists accepting office under the Congress. About 20 members from the United Provinces who were opposed to the motion resigned their membership of the Party.

(The Hindu, 23-10-1934)

All-India Press Workers' Meeting, Bombay. +

A meeting of representatives of press workers from all over India was held at Bombay on 28-10-1934. A Committee was formed, to organise an All India Press Workers' Conference, to be held during December 1934, as also regional press workers' unions with central direction.

(The Hindu, 29-10-1934).

Intellectual Workers.

✓
Indebtedness among Public Servants; Malaya

Government's move to Collect data. +

It is reported that the Government of the Federated Malay States is taking action to compel Government Officers who are in debt to disclose the extent of their indebtedness. A Government circular, it is stated, has been recently issued by the Under-Secretary of the Federated Malay States Government to this effect. It is also understood that similar action is taken by the Government of the Colony of the Straits Settlements in respect of their public servants.

(The Hindu, 26-9-1934).

✓
Indebtedness among Ceylon Public Servants:

Government's Move to check growth. +

It is reported that with a view to checking indebtedness among public servants, the Ceylon Government has issued a circular to all Government Departments calling upon the staffs of the Departments to sign a declaration to the effect that (1) they are at the moment of signing the declaration not in debt of any kind, and (2) that they will not, in future, incur debts of any kind, either by running up trader's bills, signing promissory notes for themselves or on behalf of others which would result in their becoming financially involved.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-10-1934).

Economic Conditions.

✓
Protection for Indian Woollen Industry:

Tariff Board Enquiry Ordered. *

According to a notification published in the Gazette of India dated 20-10-1932, the Government of India have received representations from certain woollen mills in India requesting that protection may be extended to the woollen industry. The Government have decided that the claims of the industry should be the subject of an enquiry by the Tariff Board and the Board has been directed to survey the present position and to make recommendations as to the form, the extent and the articles or class or description¹ of articles to which protection should be given, if the Board finds that protection should be afforded.

(The Gazette of India, dated 20-10-1934, Part I -page 1182).

✓
The Madras Money-lenders Act, 1934. *

Reference was made at page 55 of the May 1932 report of this Office to the Madras Money Lenders Bill, 1932, for the regulation of money lending, scheduled to be introduced in the August 1932 session of the Madras Legislative Council by Mr. C. Basudev. The Bill was introduced in the Council on 3-8-1932. The Bill with some changes^{was} passed by the Council on 24-10-1934.

(The Hindu, 24-10-1934).

Employment & Unemployment.✓
Unemployment in Assam: Inspector of SchoolsAdvocates Vocational Training. *

Reference was made at pages 44-45 of our March 1934 report to the Report submitted by the Committee appointed by the Government of Assam to enquire into the problem of unemployment in the Province and to suggest measures for relieving it. Recently Mr. S.C. Roy, Inspector of Schools, Surma Valley and Hill Districts, has submitted a note to the Local Government on the problem of unemployment in the Province and making a few suggestions by the adoption of which the incidence of unemployment can be reduced.

He says that the problem of unemployment has not yet reached an acute stage in Assam. There is no lack of resources to be developed nor of enterprise in the young men. With a wise lead and careful handling, the situation can well be brought under control before it is too late. Mr. Roy has no ready-made scheme for the provision of employment to all the educated young men of the bhadralog class but his note is intended to give a few hints regarding the practical lines along which educational institutions can be organized in order to enable the youths of the province to become self-reliant and earning members, ~~of the family~~. Mr. Roy criticises the excessive literary trend of ~~the~~ present-day education and suggests that manual work and a knowledge of agriculture must be insisted upon as an indispensable condition for promotion from the primary to the middle, ^{and} from the middle to the higher grade of school education.

and that some practical knowledge of agriculture and industry, school gardening and arts and crafts, must be made a sine qua non for the grant of certificates to boys on the completion of their secondary stage of education.

Mr. Roy also suggests the formation of an employment board in each district with branches in each Sub-division, for the purpose of ^{Co-ordinating} ~~conducting~~ the activities of different organisations aiming at the provision of training and facilities ^{with} ~~to~~ those ^{who} ~~was~~ need employment and want to earn their livelihood by self-help.

(The Statesman, 12-10-1934).

✓ Free Training in Small-Scale Industries:

Success of Courses Opened by Industrial Department
in Bengal. +

Reference was made at pages 43-44 of our May 1933 report to the starting of free training classes in various productive industries by the Department of Industries of the Bengal Government in order to relieve middle-class unemployment. A press note recently issued by the Government of Bengal shows that a very large number of the students so far trained have either opened small factories of their own or have secured employment in the existing factories. From the statistics collected of the supply and demand of brass and bell-metal articles, including common utensils, it is learned that there is still very wide scope for the expansion of the industry and the Department of Industries is rendering all possible help in ~~the matter.~~

the matter. The press note further states that the Department of Industries, Bengal, is arranging to enlist a fresh batch of students for giving them free training in the brass and bell-metal industry and in the manufacture of bar and moulded soaps as ^a small industry. As usual, the training class will be held at the Industrial Research Laboratory and the full course will cover a period of 6 to 8 months for the brass and bell-metal industry and a period of 4 months for ~~soap~~^{Soap} manufacture.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,
10-10-1934).

David Sassoon Industrial & Reformatory
Institution, Bombay: Progress during 1933 - 34.* †

According to the annual report on the working of the David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Matunga, Bombay, there were 386 boys in the Institution at the end of the year under review as compared with 371 in the previous year. The number of admissions during the year was 108 as against 99 in the last year and the number discharged was 97 compared with 79 in the previous year.

The report records considerable progress in the technical education of boys in the Institution. During the year under report, 8 boys were receiving instruction in carpentry, 5 in tailoring, 4 in agriculture, 2 in black-smiths' work and 1 in fitter's work, one boy was attending the school of Arts for instruction in stone engraving.

Out of the 97 boys discharged during the year, 18 were taught spinning; 15 blacksmiths' work; 15 painting and polishing; 11 tailoring; 10 carpentry; 10 cane weaving; 8 motor-mechanics' work; 7 fitters' work and 3 gardening. The report ~~shows~~ shows that the value of things made in the workshops of the Institution during the year amounted to Rs.8,248-4-4 as against Rs.7842-1-10 in the previous year.

The amplified scheme of agricultural training, mentioned in the previous year's report, progressed in a most encouraging degree. The agricultural master combined practical and theoretical instruction and the value of the products of the garden of the institution showed a satisfactory increase.

(The Progress of the David Sassoon Industrial & Reformatory Institution, Matunga, Bombay, for the year 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 47-48 of the October 1933 report of this Office.)

1 Report of the David Sassoon Industrial and Reformatory Institution, Matunga, Bombay, for the year 1933-34-- Bombay: Govt. Central Press.--Price As.2 of 3d.

The Bombay Devadasis Protection Act, 1934. +

Reference was made at pages 62-63 of our September 1933 report to the introduction in the Bombay Legislative Council on 14-8-1933 of a Bill to protect Devadasis (Servants of God) and to prevent the dedication of women to Hindu ~~idols~~ deities, idols, objects of worship, temples and religious institutions in the Bombay Presidency. The Bill was passed by the Bombay Legislative Council on 17-8-1934 and received the assent of the Governor General on 11-10-1934. The text of the Bombay Devadasis Protection Act, 1934, (Act X of 1934) is published at pages 460-463 of Part IV of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 15-10-1934.

Co-operation in

✓
Progress of Co-operation in Travancore State,

1932 - 33. *

According to the annual report of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Travancore State, for the year 1932-33, the work of the Cooperative department during the year was characterised by a policy of consolidation and rectification. 38 societies were wound up, and only 14 were registered during the year. The total number decreased from 1,810 to 1,786. As many as 1,681 societies did only credit business, and although a separate inspector was appointed to give an impetus to the non-credit side of the movement, the work done was very little. The total paid-up share capital of the societies rose from Rs. 3,465,239 to Rs. 3,585,356, giving an average of Rs.2,347 per society against Rs. 1,972 during the previous year. The total reserve fund of the societies increased from Rs. 741,149 to Rs. 941,891. Both in the number and the amount of loans the Central Co-operative Bank showed progress, but the total loan of Rs.1,992,060 granted by primary societies was for the discharge of prior debts. Loans for trade amounted to Rs. 303,779 and loans for agriculture to Rs. 233,518.

(The Times of India, 20-10-34).

Maritime Affairs.Administration of Bombay Port Trust, 1933-34.* +

General Remarks. - Although the main obstacles to international trade continued to operate during the year under review and any prospect of their early removal was shattered by the breakdown of the World Economic Conference in July 1933, faint but encouraging signs of improvement in trading conditions were discernible in the latter part of the year and there was some revival of industrial activity in India and other countries, particularly those comprised in the sterling group. Although the process of adjustment to changed conditions must necessarily be laborious, the improvement in demand and in price levels of various commodities, recorded towards the close of the year, indicated that the intense economic nationalism which has been strangling international trade during the past three years is slowly yielding to the necessity for compromise and reciprocity and that a gradual restoration of confidence and stability may reasonably be hoped for, provided the world is spared from further political upheavals.

Bombay, whose fortunes are inextricably bound up with India's foreign trade on the one hand, and the prosperity of the local cotton and textile industries on the other, experienced a variable year. During the first six months of 1933-34, the volume of trade handled in the Port appreciably exceeded the budget expectation of a 2 per cent improvement, but the imposition of heavy additional duties in order to safeguard indigenous industries, and the

* Bombay Port Trust Administration Report, 1933-34. -

retaliatory measures adopted by other countries—notably Japan's boycott of Indian cotton from July to December 1933—adversely affected the trade returns of the latter half of the financial year. After prolonged negotiations the anxiety caused by Japan's threat was relieved by the conclusion of the Trade Agreement between India and Japan which came into operation last January and which, it is hoped, will help to restore prosperity to the cotton trade and textile industry of India. Taking the Port as a whole, the financial result of the year was practically an equilibrium between revenue and expenditure.

Income and Expenditure.— The actual receipt of revenue for the year 1933-34 amounted to Rs. 24.537 millions and the actual expenditure to Rs. 24.534 millions.

Import Trade.— The cargo handled at the docks and bunders amounted to 5,272,000 tons, an increase of 583,000 tons as compared with the volume of the previous year. Imports accounted for about 56 per cent and exports 44 per cent of the total tonnage. The increase in tonnage was equivalent to 12 per cent. Imports increased by 6.8 per cent and exports by 20.6 per cent. The heaviest decreases in imports were recorded under oils (vegetable, etc) (1,505,000 gallons), cotton (114,000 bales), tea (81,000 packages) and piecegoods (77,000 bales and cases). The importations of bulk petrol, which reached the record figure of 22 million gallons in 1929-30, increased from 18 million gallons in 1932-33 to 20 million gallons in 1933-34. An increase in rice imports (73,000 tons) is also to be noted.

Export Trade.— In the export trade there was an increase in cotton (143,000 bales), packed kerosene oil (228,000 gallons), seeds (121,000 tons) and wool (33,000 packages). Decreases in exports occurred under piecegoods (67,000 bales and cases), and petrol (10,000 gallons).

Vessels in Harbour.— Vessels which entered the docks or were berthed at the Harbour Walls (excluding ferry-steamers) totalled 1,813 with an aggregate tonnage of 5,099,247 net register as against 1,836 vessels with a tonnage of 4,691,183 in the preceding year. The dry docks were occupied during the year by 149 vessels as against 134 vessels in the preceding year 1932-33. The total tonnage increased to 564,468 tons, being 67,483 tons more than the previous year.

Total Staff.- The approximate total number of staff employed during the year under review was 9,184 as compared with 8,451 during 1932-33. Of these, 172 were permanent staff receiving salaries over Rs.300 per mensem; 650 clerical staff and 1,067 outdoor staff receiving salaries from Rs.50 to Rs.300 per mensem; 423 permanent inferior staff receiving salaries below Rs.50 per mensem; 764 temporary staff getting between Rs.50 and Rs.300; 2,897 temporary staff getting below Rs.50 and 3,211 who were daily paid workers.

Housing Conditions.- 326 of the 1,889 permanent superior staff, 94 of the 423 permanent inferior staff and 2,926 of the 6,872 temporary staff were housed by the Port Trust during the year under review. This represents a total housing of 37.5 per cent of the total staff by the Port Trust as against 39.1 per cent during the previous year. In consequence of curtailment of the capital programme, no further expenditure was incurred during the year on staff housing.

Indianisation of Port Trust Services.- During the year under review, the Board considered a reference from Government requesting, with reference to a resolution passed recently in the Council of State, information regarding the Indianisation of Port Trust Services. The reply of the Port Trust showed that since 1925 there had been an increase of 13 per cent in the number of Indians holding appointments in the Bombay Port Trust graded at Rs. 500 and over per month, despite the number of such appointments abolished or reduced in grade under the retrenchment scheme. In five of the principal departments there remain now only eight Europeans in all, and no European has been recruited to any post in the Trust carrying a salary of Rs.500 and over during the past ten years, except in the case of certain specialised appointments in the Port and Engineering Departments requiring technical qualifications not yet possessed by Indians, such as Dredging Masters and Engineers with B.O.T.certificates or Master Mariners with Foreign-going certificates. The steps taken by the Trustees during the past ten years to ensure that there will be in the future Indians in all departments of their service suitable for promotion to such of the higher appointments as have not already been Indianised, were also set out. These schemes include the deputation of junior Engineers to Great Britain for practical training in Dock and Harbour Constructional Engineering; creation of special appointments exclusively for Indians in the Mechanical Branch of the Engineering Department and arrangements for their practical training in Great Britain; special apprenticeships in the Workshops; regular recruitment of Indian probationers in the Decks Department; entire Indianisation of the Light-house service, and recruitment of Indian Berthing Masters. As regards the Pilotage service the Trustees, in 1929, in order to encourage Indians to qualify for appointment in the Bombay Pilot Service,

Indian Credit on the endowed two annual scholarships of Rs.100 each per month open to Indian Mercantile Marine Training Ship "Dufferin", each scholarship being tenable for a period of three years from the date of passing out, subject to the holders obtaining appointments as

apprentices or junior officers in one of the recognised Steamship Lines and continuing their sea-career during the period of the scholarship. The Trustees undertook that the holders, on obtaining their Master's Certificate, and subject to the necessary technical qualifications, good health and satisfactory sea-record, should be given preference of appointment to future vacancies in the Pilot Service.

Retrenchment in Staff Expenditure.- The emergency cut on the pay of the permanent and temporary staff drawing over Rs.84 per mensem was continued during the whole year under report. The cut effected a saving of about Rs.163,000.

Fires and Accidents in Docks. - There were 9 fires at the docks, wharves and sheds and on board vessels and craft while in the docks. None were serious or involved loss of life. The number of accidents to persons in the docks was 459, of which 8 were fatal, 42 serious and 409 slight. Of the fatal cases, 2 were caused by falling into holds or lighters, 2 by goods falling out of slings and breakage of slings, 1 by being run over by a motor lorry and 3 from other causes. No accident occurred to vessels in the docks during the year.

(The Report of the Administration of the Bombay Port Trust during 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 69-70 of our October 1933 Report).

77

General.

48th Session of the Indian National Congress, Bombay, 1934. *

The 48th session of the Indian National Congress was held at Bombay from 26 to 28-10-1934 under the presidentship of Babu Rajendra Prasad. Two important items on the agenda of this year's session were (1) the amendment of the Constitution of the Congress so as to eliminate the purely spectacular aspect of the sessions and to facilitate the transaction of business in a more efficient manner and (2) the scheme drawn up by Mahatma Gandhi to form an All-India Village Industries Association in order to revive dead or dying cottage industries with a view to promote and encourage the rural masses pursuing subsidiary occupations. A point of interest attaching to this year's session is the announcement by Mahatma Gandhi of his retirement from the Congress organisation.

A feature of the Presidential address was the bitter attack on the White Paper on Indian Constitutional Reforms and on the repressive policy of the Government towards national aspirations. Babu Rajendra Prasad reaffirmed that the aim of the Congress was complete independence and that it was to be attained by "active, non-violent mass action". Referring to the proposed changes in the Congress Constitution, he appealed to the delegates for support for those changes. The chief points in his speech were: (1) the constitution outlined in the White Paper and sought to be foisted on India will make the political situation worse than it is today; (2) the proposed Federal Legislature will be more reactionary than the present central Legislature, as representatives of Indian States, who would be included in the Federal Legislature, would be even less amenable to popular opinion than

nominated British Indian members of the present legislature; (3) the Government's sole economic policy during the depression has been to keep itself solvent and to widen the market in India for British goods without affording adequate relief for the sorely pressed masses.

The following is a summary of the more important of the resolutions passed by the Congress:-

(1) Ratification of Past Resolutions of Working Committee.- The first resolution requested endorsement of a number of resolutions passed by the Congress ~~Wm~~ Working Committee since May 1934. Among these resolutions attention has to be specially directed to a resolution adopted by the Working Committee on 19-6-1934 which repudiated the class-war idea advocated by Congress Socialists (vide page 39 of the report of this Office for June 1934). The reaffirmation of this resolution is important in that it defines the position of the Congress on the class-war issue. (Details regarding the Congress Socialists' Conference held at Bombay on 21 and 22-10-1934 are given at pages 58-68 of this report).

~~(2) Formation of All-India Village Industries Association.- The President then requested Mr. Gandhi to move the following resolution:-~~

"Whereas organizations claiming to advance swadeshi have sprung up all over the country with and without the assistance of Congressmen, and whereas much confusion has arisen in the public mind as to the true nature of Swadeshi, and whereas the aim of Congress has been far from its inception progressive identification with the masses, and whereas village reorganization and reconstruction is one of the items on the constructive programme of Congress, and whereas such reconstruction necessarily implies the revival and encouragement of dead or dying village industries besides the central industry of hand-spinning, and whereas this work (like the reorganization of hand-spinning) is possible only through a concentrated and special effort unaffected by and independent of the political activities of the Congress, Mr. J. C. Kumarappa is hereby authorized to form under the advice and guidance of Mr. Gandhi an association, called the All-India Village Industries Association, as part of the activities of Congress. The said Association shall work for the revival and encouragement of the said industries and for the moral and physical advancement of the villages, and shall have power to frame its own constitution, to raise funds and perform such acts as may be necessary for the fulfilment of its object".

The resolution was moved by Dr. Pattabhi Seetaramaya. Mr. Jaiprakash, Socialist, opposing the resolution said that the aim of the Congress was the attainment of complete independence and not the opening of factories and industrial homes. The industrial revival of the country and the reconstruction of villages were impossible without freedom. Such attempts would only fritter away the energy of the Congress which was primarily a political organisation and must restrict itself to mass organisation.

(3) Organisation of Swadeshi Exhibitions during Congress Sessions.

This resolution gave expression to the conviction that Reception Committee of the Congress was too important a body to be saddled with the task of organising exhibitions and spectacular demonstrations and recorded that "as exhibitions and spectacular demonstrations are a necessary part of the annual national gathering, the duty of organising these is hereby entrusted to the All-India Spinners' Association and the All-India Village Industries' Association, which bodies shall organize these functions, so as to combine instruction with entertainment of the general public, especially of villagers, with a sole view to illustrate and popularise the activities of the two associations and generally to demonstrate the potentiality of village life".

(4) Changes in the Congress Constitution.- Certain important changes in the Congress Constitution were adopted as the result of a resolution moved by Mahatma Gandhi. This subject proved the most controversial item on the agenda. The salient features of the resolution, as it was finally passed, are:- (a) Five-hundred primary members will elect one delegate to the Congress, but the maximum number of these delegates shall not exceed 2,000; (b) Provincial delegates will form provincial congress committees provided no provincial Congress committee exceeds 100 in membership. Wherever there is an excess of delegates in the province those delegates shall elect from among themselves 100 members constituting the provincial Congress committee; ~~(c) Congress will hold its annual session with 2,000 delegates;~~ (d) The President will be elected by these delegates and not by provincial Congress committees and he will have the right of selecting his own Working Committee. These delegates will also elect the All-India Congress Committee whose strength will be one-twelfth of the total strength of the delegates, which means that the All-India Congress Committee can never be more than 165 in number; (e) Provision will be made that one day will be allotted for non-official business at every Congress session; (f) The Working Committee will ~~elect~~ the members of the A.I.C.C. for each province. Bombay City will elect 20 delegates instead of 30; (g) The Working Committee will decide on the questions of voting by single transferable vote and plural or single member constituencies; ~~It seems that the Special Committee's time was mostly taken by the amendment regarding communal activities. The Franchise clause as finally amended in this respect runs as follows:-~~ (h) No Congressman being a member of any elective Congress committee shall be a member of any similar committee of any communal organization whose politics are, in the opinion of the Working Committee, anti-national and in conflict with those of the Congress. (i) Of the 2,000 delegates 511 are to be elected from urban constituencies and 1,489 from rural constituencies; (j) Primary members could be enrolled on payment of four annas and after signing the Congress creed, but those who desire election to the executive bodies of the Congress must be khaddar clad, that is, ~~he~~ must be a habitual weaver wholly of hand-spun and hand-woven khaddar; and (k) No person shall be eligible to be a candidate for election to membership of any Congress Committee unless he has spun 500 yards of fine-spun yarn per month, ~~or~~ or performed some manual labour continuously for six months on behalf of or for the Congress, equal in ^{value} ~~in~~ every month to 500 yards of well-spun yarn and in respect of time to eight hours work.

(5) Mahatma Gandhi's Retirement.- "This Congress reiterates its confidence in the leadership of Mahatmaji and is emphatically of opinion that he should reconsider his decision to retire from the Congress. But in as much as all efforts to persuade him in that behalf have failed this Congress, while reluctantly accepting his decision places on record its deep sense of gratitude for the unique services rendered by him to the nation and notes with satisfaction his assurances that his advice and guidance will be available to the Congress whenever necessary". (The Amrita Bazar Patrika, of 28, 29 & 30-10-34)

New Working Committee of the Congress.- President; Babu Rajendra Prasad; General Secretaries: Dr. Syed Mahmud and Acharya Kripalani; Treasurer; Seth Jammalal Bajaj; Members; Sardar Vallabhai Patel, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Sardar Sardul Singh, Dr. M.A. Ansari, Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Mr. ~~Gandh~~ Gangadhar Rao Deshpande, Dr. Pattabhi Seetharamaya, and Mr. Jairomdas Daulatram. During the absence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, permanent General Secretary, who is in prison now, Mr. K.F. Nariman will act for him.

(The Hindustan Times, 31-10-1934)

Mahatma Gandhi resigned from the Congress on 31-10-1934.