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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for April 1943

N.B. Each section of this report may be taken out separately.

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NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATION

Government of India

Compulsory Recognition of Trade Unions by Employers: Legislation under consideration. *

The Government of India is having under consideration an amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act by which any trade union fulfilling certain specified conditions would be entitled to recognition by the employer. The conditions are that the Union is registered, maintains regular accounts and is certified by the Registrar as fulfilling certain other legal requirements. Departmental experts of the Government, it is understood, have already approved the draft. It is further reported that the proposal that any provincial Government may also impose a condition requiring such a union to have on its rolls a certain percentage (not exceeding 30) of workers whose cause is espoused by the union has been dropped, as such a limitation would hinder the development of trade unions. In view, however, of the varying conditions in the provinces, discretion is to be left to the provincial Governments to impose any further conditions for compulsory recognition of unions.

(The Statesman, dated 9-4-1943.)*

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SOCIAL POLICY

GENERAL

Agenda for May Meeting of Tripartite Standing Labour Committee, Bombay,
7 and 8-5-1943.

Various schemes to secure the welfare and efficiency of labour in wartime will be discussed by the Tripartite Standing Labour Committee at their next meeting which will be held in Bombay on 7 and 8-5-1943. The main items on the agenda are; collection of statistical information regarding wages, hours of work, etc., establishment of joint labour management committees on the U.S.A. model in undertakings engaged in war production; insertion of a fair wages clause in Government contracts; a scheme to establish employment exchanges for skilled and semi-skilled personnel; and a plan for labour legislation and labour welfare during wartime.

(The Statesman, dated 15 14-4-1943.)

Tripartite Standing Labour Committee Meeting - Bombay, 7 and 8-5-1943:
Labour Welfare in War Time - Employment Exchanges - Fair Wages
Clause in Government Contracts.

Questions relating to welfare of labour, production for war, employment of skilled and semi-skilled personnel, industrial disputes and collection of statistical information in labour problems were discussed at the meeting of the Tripartite Standing Labour Committee which ~~concluded on 5-5-1943, after a two-day session in Bombay.~~ Dr. Ambedkar, Labour Member, Government of India, presided.

Subjects Discussed - Employment Exchanges.- There was a general opinion in favour of the scheme for establishing employment exchanges for skilled and semi-skilled personnel, the scheme being conducted on a voluntary basis. The suggestion that there should be representatives of Provincial Governments on the advisory committees attached to employment exchanges was also adopted.

Fair Wages Clause in Government Contracts.- Another item on the agenda was the one regarding the insertion of a fair wage clause in Government contracts. There were suggestions to the effect that contracts other than those of the Public Works Department should also be covered.

Labour Legislation and Labour Welfare during War Time.- The item - plan for labour legislation and labour welfare during wartime - covered aspects like social security, wages and welfare; the question whether wage boards were desirable in India also came for discussions. The delegates were assured that the Government of India were anxious to use the machinery of the tripartite conference as an advisory body to help them in achieving further progress in respect of labour welfare measures. It was generally agreed that it was advisable that labour officers should be appointed in industrial undertakings with a view to maintain close touch with labour, hear its grievances and secure redress as expeditiously as possible. Reference was made to the scheme for the training of labour officers by the Bombay Millowners' Association.

(The Hindustan Times, 10-5-1943.)

Working of the Mysore Workmen's Compensation Act in 1941-42

The number of persons injured by accidents and eligible for compensation under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the industrial establishments of Mysore State during 1941-42 was 3,525, representing an increase of 164 over the figures of the previous year. Out of these 56 were fatal, 746 were permanently disabled and 2,723 were temporarily disabled.

Compensation paid by employers amounted to Rs. 333,431 as against Rs. 279,010 in 1940-41, the mining companies on the Kolar Gold Field alone, accounting for Rs. 322,055. The compensation paid to the ~~dependent~~ dependants of those involved in fatal accidents amounted to Rs. 43,650 as against Rs. 33,620 in the previous year. Compensation paid in respect of those permanently disabled amounted to Rs. 265,172 as against Rs. 321,662 in the previous year. Out of this, compensation paid in "silicosis" cases by the mining companies on the Kolar Gold Field amounted to Rs. 245,797 as compared to Rs. 199,502 in 1940-41 and Rs. 24,956 in 1939-40. Those temporarily disabled were given compensation to the extent of Rs. 24,569 as against Rs. 23,727 in 1940-41.

The average amount of compensation paid in respect of each fatal accident was Rs. 780, Rs. 367 in each case of permanent disablement and Rs. 8.2 in that of temporary disablement, the corresponding figures for the previous year being Rs. 800.4, Rs. 327.9 and Rs. 8.9 respectively.

(The Mysore Information Bulletin, March 1943.)+

Factory Administration in India in 1940.*

(The Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934, for the year ending 31-12-1940 is marked "For Official Use only" and is not a priced publication. In giving the New Delhi Office two copies of this publication, one of which is meant for the Head Office (this copy was forwarded to Montreal with our minute D.L./410/43 dated 27-5-1943), the Labour Department, Government of India, specially reminded me of the change, which, I understand, is ~~due~~ due to the acute scarcity of paper. There would therefore be no objection to the Head Office making use of the information given in the publication for its usual official purposes.)

Amendments to the Factories Act, 1934.- During the year the Act was amended extending its provisions dealing with health, safety, children and registration to power factories employing 10 to 19 persons, if any of those persons is not qualified to work as an adult. Provincial Governments were given full power to extend these provisions to power factories employing less than 10 persons on the same condition.

Number of Factories.- The total number of registered factories was 12,136 as compared with 11,629 (revised) in 1939. The number of factories actually working, including 1,970 factories notified under section 5 (1) of the Act, was 10,919 of which 7,320 were perennial

*Statistics of Factories subject to the Factories Act, 1934 (XXV of 1934) for the year ending December 31, 1940. Together with a Note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. Published by order of the Government of India (For Official Use Only). Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Simla. 1942. pp. 39.

and 3,599 seasonal. The percentage of registered factories that worked during the year was 89.9 as in the preceding year. The extension of the Act is expected to regularise the working conditions and also to give much needed relief to the women workers.

Statistics of Operatives.- The average number of operatives employed during the year increased from 1,751,137 to 1,844,428, the highest figure recorded so far. Of the 1,844,428 operatives, 169,163 worked in Government and local fund factories (168,125 in perennial factories; 1,038 in seasonal factories) and 1,675,265 in other factories (1,379,896 in permanent factories; 295,369 in seasonal factories). The most marked increases were in Bengal (21,886), the United Provinces (20,896), Bombay (14,564), Madras (13,928), Bihar, (8,611), the Central Provinces and Berar (3,761), the Punjab (2,895) and Sind (2,185). In Bengal, the United Provinces and Bombay the increase was owing to the increased employment in ordnance, textile, engineering, leather and shoe and other allied factories engaged on war supplies. The number of workers employed in the cotton textile industry increased from 488,554 to 490,815. In Bombay, however, the number of adult shifts worked in the cotton textile industry was 86,544,129 as against 89,393,809 in 1939. The decrease was due to fluctuations in the night shifts, and to a general strike in Bombay of about six weeks' duration. Jute mills employed 303,777 in 1940 as against 298,967 in 1939.

Employment of Women and Children.- The number of women employed in factories increased from 239,414 in 1939 to 243,464 in 1940, while the number of children employed decreased from 9,403 to 9,399. The percentage of women to the total factory population was 13.19 as compared with 13.7 in 1939. The percentage of children slightly decreased from .54 to .51. Madras (5,330), Bihar (851), Sind (446) and Bombay (301) were mainly responsible for the increase in the number of women employed. In the United Provinces, the decline in the number of women workers continued ~~in~~ during the year, mainly due to the introduction of the Maternity Benefit Act, when the employers preferred dispensing with the services of women and employing men or boys instead. There was an appreciable increase in the number of children employed in these provinces - ~~in~~ 333 in the United Provinces, 211 in Bihar and 147 in Ajmer-Merwara.

Hours of Work; Extensions Granted.- Percentage of factories in which the normal weekly hours are:-

	Not above 42.	Between 42 and 48.	Above 48.
<u>Perennial</u>			
For men	5	23	72
For women	11	17	72
	Not above 48.	Between 48 and 54	Above 54
<u>seasonal.</u>			
For men	26	10	64
For women	36	7	58

The majority of factories worked to the full limits permitted by the Act. Exemptions were granted in different provinces to a number of factories from the provisions of the Factories Act relating to hours of work, weekly holiday, spreadover, etc., of adults to meet conditions arising out of the war. In Bengal, 30 concerns engaged in war work were granted exemptions under sections 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 of the Act. In Bombay, 346 temporary exemptions were granted to meet seasonal pressure of work in the small factories, and the demand on industry

as a result of the war. 20 temporary exemptions were also granted under section 8 of the Act. Particular care was taken to ensure that overtime was remunerated at the enhanced rates. No trouble was experienced in larger factories but several of the small notified concerns only paid up after the special check visits of the Inspectors. In the United Provinces the employment of workers in overlapping shifts, particularly in the textile factories continued to increase and detection of irregularities in respect of periods of employment was practically impossible. In the Central Provinces and Berar closer control had to be exercised over the working hours and holidays of the workers especially in the seasonal factories where there has been a tendency to exploit labour and to violate the provisions regarding the hours of work. In the North-West Frontier Province, the Government Grass Farms situated at various stations and the Grain Crushing Depot, Peshawar, continued to avail themselves of the exemption granted for the period of the war from the application of sections 34, 35 and 36 of the Act.

wages.- The wages of skilled and unskilled labour were more or less steady in the majority of the Provinces. In Assam, Bihar, Delhi, Madras and Sind some well established concerns granted their workers war time bonus and dearness allowance.

safety of Workers.- The number of recorded accidents increased from 36,006 in 1939 to 41,079 in 1940. Fatal accidents increased from 221 to 236, serious accidents from 5,837 to 6,857 and minor accidents from 29,948 to 33,986. The incidence of all accidents per 100,000 operatives rose from 2,056 to 2,227 during the year. The increase has been attributed to increased activities in the various industries due to war, carelessness of workers and better reporting. The safeguarding of machinery and plant continued to receive close attention in all Provinces. In the jute mills in Bengal, although certain minimum standards of fencing and safeguarding with respect of jute process machinery have now generally been secured, yet accidents continued to occur generally as the result of the hazardous behaviour of the workers. The circumstances of all such accidents have been carefully studied and where improvements have been possible, they have been adopted. Special attention was paid to hazards connected with war work in the shape of manufacture of special fabrics and special methods of packing. Attention has also been paid to ordnance works consequent on the employment of workers not ordinarily used to machine shop hazards and also to the workers engaged on hazardous operations (lead, aerated water, rubber, chromium, cellulous spraying and miscellaneous). Safeguarding of machinery in printing presses, rice, flour, oil, paper and board mills, glass works, shellac, tea and small engineering and other small miscellaneous concerns also received due attention. Apart from fencing associated with process machinery, safeguarding connected with the railway sidings, coal bunkers, jetties and river bank erosions has been effectively pursued. In the United Provinces, prohibitory orders were issued in a number of cases under section 26 (2); in a few cases, prohibiting the use of machinery was resorted to instead of prosecution. The importance of the use of tight fitting clothings was as usual strongly impressed on the factory managers. In Bihar, while improvement was maintained in the Province as a whole instances were not wanting wherein conditions were allowed to deteriorate and safeguards neglected or not replaced after repairs to machinery. The total number of safety committees formed in Bihar was 40; active interest on safety and adoption of safety measures was taken by some of them. In Bombay, the guarding of machinery in rice mills and gurdhals (cane crushers) has improved. Due attention was also paid to the developments that have occurred in the standard of fencing adopted by makers of machinery in the artificial silk industry, which is not as high as

in the cotton textile industry. A safety film prepared by the Welfare Department of the Government of Bombay was shown to the gatherings of mill operatives at the Government Welfare Centres and also at the exhibitions held by the Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association.

- Inspection.- The number of factories inspected during the year was 9,965 or 91.3 per cent. of the working factories as against 86.4 per cent. in ~~the~~ 1939. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 93.6 and 86.4 as against 90.1 and 79.2 during 1939. In the United Provinces there was only one factory left uninspected and in Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi, Coorg and Bangalore none was left uninspected. †

Legislation to check flotation of Banks on Unorthodox Lines:
Reserve Bank's Representation to Government of India.

The Central Board of the Reserve Bank of India recently urged the Government of India to undertake legislation for the amendment of certain sections of the Indian Companies Act so as to check the undesirable development of banking industry in the country on unorthodox lines. In a representation addressed to the Government, the Board says:

Inadequate Paid-up Capital.- "We have been maintaining a careful watch over current banking developments, and in view of the recent flotation of a number of new banks have considered it desirable to collect and study particulars about new banks organised since the outbreak of war. Since September 1939, 38 new banking companies, including two in Indian States, have come into existence. Out of the 36 banks which have been registered in British India, 16 have an authorised capital of Rs. 500,000 lakhs or over, and in six cases the paid-up capital is also known to be over this limit. The authorised capital ranges from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2000 lakhs. The majority of new institutions seem to have commenced business with paid up capital which would be generally regarded as inadequate. What, however, seems to us to be really disquieting is that of the 13 banks whose subscribed and paid-up capital are known only four banks satisfy the proportion suggested by us, viz., that the subscribed capital should be half the authorised capital."

Distribution of Shares: Control by Groups.- "There is a further undesirable development to which it would invite the attention of Government. Particulars regarding the division of capital into preference, ordinary and deferred shares are available in respect of 23 banks or over. Of these, four have preference, ordinary and deferred shares, three have preference and ordinary shares, while the remainder have only ordinary share capital. In one case the preference share capital is more than twice the ordinary share capital and there are no deferred shares, but where all three kinds of capital occur, the ordinary share capital is larger than the preference, which in turn exceeds the deferred. In several such cases the inference is that the distribution of shares among the various categories has been so arranged as to ensure a controlling voice in the management to an individual or a small group. The dangers of this practice are not confined to the preference and ordinary shareholders, who, it might be argued, should read the prospectus and judge for themselves. What we are concerned about is the risk to the public. As, if profits in any particular year are large, a disproportionately large share will accrue to the deferred shareholders, there will be a strong temptation to the management to indulge in unsafe or speculative business without proper regard for the interests of the depositors."

Management.- "A similar danger attends the various devices to get round the principle underlying Section 277-H of the Companies Act, which prohibits a bank being managed by a managing agent other than another banking company. Many of the banks appear to owe their origin to the efforts of one or two enterprising individuals, who have got themselves appointed as the Managing Directors, and it is not uncommon for the Managing Director to enter into an agreement with the Bank for a long term varying from 15 to 20 years, the latter period being the most usual ensuring him a fairly high salary and allowances and in certain cases a percentage of profits, after the bank is able to declare a specific rate of dividend, which is generally fixed at a low figure. Where the prospects of profit-sharing are high the salary of the Managing Director

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is kept low so as to make the fixed part of his remuneration look modest. Eight of the new banks have provisions of this sort in their constitution. ... Section 277-H thus seems capable of evasion, and we are referring these cases separately to Government so that they may examine whether they comply with the law, and consider whether any drafting amendment of the section can be effected to stop what we consider an undesirable development."

Post-War Banking.- "Whether in the existing conditions the mere organisation of new banks is or is not likely to provide the necessary avenues for profitable employment of funds is a matter on which there might be difference of opinion, but the Board feel that more than ordinary caution is called for in the organisation and management of new banks in view of the difficulties and the disturbances, which the post-war period is certain to bring. In their view it is of the utmost importance that the capital structure and the system of management of banks should be of such a nature as to minimise the temptation towards an over-ambitious and get-rich-quick policy, and to encourage in its stead caution and steady banking on well-tried orthodox lines."

Suggestions.- The Board, therefore, has requested the Government to have the Companies Act so amended as to provide that the subscribed capital of a bank may not be less than half the authorised capital and also that no banking company may have other than ordinary shares. It is pointed out that, since the capital structure of a bank has an important bearing on the mode of its management and since the failure of a bank does far greater harm than the failure of any other kind of company owing to its repercussions not only on the savings and fortunes of the actual depositors, but also on the general economic fabric of the country, measures should be taken to eliminate these factors which are likely to encourage speculative banking in these uncertain times.

Government eliciting Public Opinion on Board's Suggestions.- It is understood that the Government of India has asked provincial Governments to elicit commercial and public opinion before the end of July 1943 on the proposals, so as to be able to place the necessary amendment of the Indian Companies Act for consideration by the Central Legislative Assembly in August, 1943.

(The Times of India, 8-4-1943.)

Dangers of Inflation:
Statement by Leading Indian Economists:

In the second week of April 1943, twenty leading economists of India issued a joint statement regarding the financial and economic policy of the Government of India. Copies of the statement have been sent to the Finance Member, Government of India, and to Mr. William Phillips, President Roosevelt's personal representative in India. The statement received wide publicity in the press. The main points brought out in it are summarised below:-

Expansion of Currency.- The rapid rise in the general price level during the past two years and the enormous expansion of currency in India are causally related. The unprecedented expansion of currency since the war began is due chiefly to the system adopted for financing the large British and other allied purchases in India, under which the Government of India accepts payment in sterling and provides rupees in exchange. For all these purchases India acquires, under present arrangements, sterling assets in London and against these there occurs an expansion of currency in India. The provision of internal finance in

India for these purchases is a necessary concomitant of this accumulation of sterling assets in London and the responsibility for this financing falls on the Indian Government in the same manner as that for any part of the expenditure included in its regular budget. The failure of the Government of India to recognise this fundamental and essential fact has prevented it from taking the proper view of the economic and financial situation in the country.

Deficit-induced Inflation.- The Government seems to act as if it is enough for it to take care of its own budget deficit while meeting the needs of the British Government by printing more notes. This is a grave misreading of the whole situation and has resulted in an ever-increasing expansion of currency unrelated to the needs of internal production and trade. As a result, the inflationary spiral is already at work in India. The net inflationary gap in India's finances, counting in the finance made on behalf of His Majesty's Government is thus being wholly filled by the creation of more currency. The inflation in India is, therefore, a deficit-induced, flat-money inflation. It is the most disastrous type of inflation. The repatriation of India's sterling obligations does not act as an anti-inflationary factor, except to the extent to which the rupee counterparts are taken up by the public but this has so far been only small in proportion.

Dangers of Inflation.- Inflation is the most inequitable way of distributing the war burden and usually involves large transfers of wealth from the poorer and the middle classes to the richer classes. It is also undesirable because it increases the cost of war and impairs the war effort by hindering production and distribution. Its consequences to economic society are immediately felt; it, however, also holds the threat of bringing about, later, political consequences of an even graver nature.

Increased Taxation and Borrowing Urged.- Immediate and drastic measures to check inflation are called for. The primary necessity is to close the 'gap' by increased taxation and borrowing. Taxation should be raised to the highest practicable pitch, adjusted to shoulders that can most bear it. Other steps are a much steeper progression in income-tax rates, the laying of a maximum limit to individual consumption, and income, and absorption of all profits above the limit either to revenue or into special loan contributions. To increase the volume of borrowings to the required level, it is necessary to institute a comprehensive scheme of compulsory savings as well as a rigid control of all investment outlets.

A Curb on Profits and Wages.- This programme should be brought into effect with great rapidity. However, it will take some time before the inflationary gap is completely closed and the total currency in circulation is today already greatly redundant even at the existing high prices. To tie up this vagrant purchasing power, the immediate initial step of a blanket control of all prices, followed by a strict examination of all later allowable increases, is necessary. In order to make this price control measure effective, a policy of centralised supervision and direction of productive effort will be necessary. This will in its turn involve equally strict regulation of transport and distribution machinery on a national scale. A rationing of the essential necessities of life should be undertaken to as large an extent as possible. An effective control of prices will involve a wage stop, but this will mean no hardship as long as the price rise is stayed. An equally strict profit stop is indicated as a corollary of this policy as well as independently on account of financial considerations.

Among the 20 signatories are included Professors V.G. Kale, P.A. Wadia, K.T. Shah and C.N. Vakil. (The Bombay Chronicle, 13-4-1943.)

Textile Industry.

Conditions in Textile Industry in 1942-43:
Review at Millowners' Associations (Bombay)
Annual Meeting.

Conditions in the textile industry during 1942-43 were reviewed by the Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, at the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at Bombay on 5-4-1943. The more important points in their speeches are briefly noticed below:-

Speech of Chairman (Mr. Krishnaraj M.D. Thackersey):- Production in 1942-43.- Japan's successes in the Far East and the imminence of the war scare led to panic in this country, and not only prices collapsed, but evacuations followed on a very large scale from industrial centres like Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. In Bombay, production in cotton mills suffered a severe setback, absenteeism cutting down output in the second shift by ~~an~~ about 50 per cent. Though, as expected, the operatives came back in large numbers from the end of May onwards, immediate resumption of normal output was, with the reshuffling of labour which had taken place, out of the question. The disturbances and the hartals in August, and the isolated strikes which were reported from several parts of the country were also responsible for a drop in production, and it is estimated that, in the year 1942-43, the cotton mills in India produced about 4,000 million yards as against 4,500 million yards in the previous year.

Mill Industry ready to reserve 60 per cent. of Production Capacity for Standard Cloth.- The cloth supply position in the country was unsatisfactory even in 1941, and though the Government of India had certain plans for the manufacture and distribution of standard cloth, the matter had not, for reasons known only to Government, gone beyond the discussion stage. Market prices shot up in consequence of the lag between supply and demand, and the standard cloth scheme was revised towards the end of 1942, and certain proposals acceptable to the Government and the industry were put forward and tentatively agreed to at a conference held in Bombay recently, which was presided over by the Hon'ble the Commerce Member. At this conference, the representatives of the industry, inter alia, agreed to place at the disposal of Government 60 per cent. of its productive capacity for the manufacture of standard cloth and the cloth required ~~f~~ by the army.

Production for War Demands.- The textile industry's relations with the Textile Directorate of the Department of Supply, Government of India, continued to be extremely cordial. The requirements of the Supply Department, which amounted to 1,000 million yards per year, have now been reduced to 700 million ~~a~~ yards per year. With the rising tempo of war, a strict control in respect of a number of raw materials and stores used by the industry became absolutely indispensable, and though control in any form is generally repugnant to human sentiment, it must be said to the credit of the Directorate that these control laws have been administered in a fair and straightforward manner.

Restrictions on Export of Cloth.- To relieve the pressure on the cloth supply position in this country, a limitation in the exports of cotton piece-goods was suggested. The details were discussed with representatives of the Government of India at a series of conferences in Bombay, and as a result, Government have agreed that exports would not be allowed to exceed a maximum of 600 million yards of cloth per annum. This figure is subject to review. Government also agreed to set up an Advisory Committee to be associated with the Export Trade Controller.

Future Prospects.- The industry's fortunes will fluctuate with the events of the war. Though the military situation is not, by any means, as gloomy as it was ~~xxxxxx~~ a year ago, there is no room for complacency. This country is still capable of making a very substantial contribution to the war effort if the proper atmosphere conducive to such contribution were created. So long as the war continues, and provided nothing unfortunate happens to its great industrial cities, the cotton textile industry of the country will thrive. This does not mean that in 1943-44 the industry will be able to earn the same profit as in 1942-43. The reasons are not far to seek. Firstly, about 60 per cent. of this country's productive capacity has been placed at the disposal of Government for the manufacture of cloth required by the army and standard cloth, and the net yield on these cloths is nothing like what it is on the cloth sold to the market. Secondly, the general tightening up of the export regulation in respect of cloth would have a sobering effect on cloth prices, and thirdly, there are strong indications that control of the industry in some form or other would be brought in by the Provincial Governments if not by the Central Government.

Speech of Deputy Chairman (Sir Vithal Chandavarkar):- Reviewing loss to the industry occasioned by labour disputes, he said:- In Bombay City alone, there were 27 strikes in 1942 resulting in a loss of 224,000 man-working days as against 15 strikes and 163,000 ~~xxxx~~ man-working days in the preceding year. Almost all the strikes in 1942 were in contravention of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act. In addition, there were stoppages aggregating to about 925,000 man-working-days for political and other reasons, thus bringing the total loss of production in man-working-days to 1,149,000 in 1942. This reveals a very unsatisfactory state of affairs. We had expected that the machinery provided in the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act and in the various Orders issued by the Government of India under the Defence of India Rules for the investigation and settlement of workers' grievances would do away with lightning strikes and put an end to avoidable ~~xxx~~ loss of production. These expectations have not borne fruit, and in spite of everything operatives still continue to resort to lightning strikes whenever it suits them. It is unfortunate that the authorities concerned seem inclined to bring about resumption of work, not by upholding the law, but by ~~xxxx~~ resorting to a policy of appeasement of labour, regardless of the psychological effect of such a policy on labour, and with the pressure which is often brought to bear on him, the employer has perhaps no option but to yield. The Committee of the Millowners' Association had occasion to draw the attention of the Central and Provincial Governments to the dangers underlying this policy, but without result.

Prolonged Adjudication Proceedings in Labour Disputes.- ~~Thinking~~ ~~xxxx~~ Another matter which has been causing considerable anxiety to the Committee is the lack of finality to the proceedings which can be instituted under the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, and even if a worker failed to convince the Conciliator and/or the Industrial Court, he could still so manipulate things and secure the appointment of an Adjudicator under the Ordinance. There is no limit to the matters which can be referred to adjudication under the Ordinance, and there have been instances in which the same worker, who was the subject of proceedings in three separate Courts and lost every time, finally succeeded in securing the appointment of an Adjudicator under the Defence of India Rules, and the management out of sheer desperation entered into a compromise with him. This state of affairs is not conducive to the maintenance of internal discipline in mills. There have been cases in Bombay where the disciplinary action taken by the management strictly in accordance with the Standing Orders and subsequently endorsed by the Government Labour Officer has been made the subject of a notice of charge by the other operatives. The Bombay Industrial Disputes Act clearly

Annual Meeting of Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, - 3-4-1943:
Review of Labour and Economic Conditions.

The following are some of the more important points stressed in the speech delivered by Mr. Sakarlal Balabhai, President, Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, at the annual general meeting of the Association held at Ahmedabad on 3-4-1943:

Production for War Needs.- ^{textile} The industry during 1942-43 has enjoyed a spell of prosperity. Unlike the last war, however, India has this time become a theatre of war and on account of international factors aggravated by Japan's active participation in the war and her preliminary success, the economic resources of ~~the~~ country were taxed to the utmost limit and a correspondingly heavy demand has been made upon the textile industry. The industry, along with other principal industries of the country, supplied to the Supply Department their requirements, including the needs of some of the countries in the Middle East. Unfortunately, however, the Government simultaneously permitted exports for civilian markets to a considerable extent. As was only natural, therefore, considerable shortage of cloth was experienced in our own country. Consequently, the scheme of standard cloth for the masses has been evolved to which the industries are making adequate contribution.

Grain and Cheap Cloth Shops.- Since February 1942, the Millowners' Association apprehended a shortage of foodstuffs and, therefore, in addition to its normal activities, immediately opened cheap grain and sugar shops. ~~Its efforts have mitigated the difficulties of the public in very large measures.~~ It has also opened grain shops at each mill which will ensure a regular supply of food grains to the workers thus resulting in convenience to them as well as in maintaining their morale. It has also recently undertaken a scheme of selling cheap cloth to the needy public in the city. By the 31st March 1943, it is estimated that over 160,000 persons would have taken advantage of the scheme.

Labour Conditions.- Labour throughout the country has received its due share of attention in the year. Workers at all the centres have received adequate dearness allowance and have received further benefit in the form of bonus. Measures were also adopted to maintain their morale and adequate provision was made for their protection as well as to ensure supplies of food grains to them and to their families in emergencies. During the year, the Government of India also convened a Tripartite Conference consisting of representatives of Government, employers and labour. The Conference has appointed a Standing Labour Committee and it is expected that various labour problems will be dealt with by them in a manner satisfactory both to employers and workers. The Government of India have also selected a labour representative in their Labour Welfare Officer. The designation, however, is a misnomer inasmuch as, according to the information available, he has been entrusted with the work of making far-reaching proposals to the Government. It was, therefore, only right that an employers' representative should also have been selected to work in coordination with him in order to establish and maintain harmony between employers and workers without disturbing the economic stability of the industries. As a matter of fact, the Association had made a representation to the Government to this effect but it is disappointing that the plea has not been accepted. The textile industry is paying full dearness allowance and, in addition to this, the workers also obtain their essential food and clothing requirements at cheap rates from mill shops. The industry has also granted them bonus. It can legitimately claim that, so far as the textile workers in Ahmedabad are concerned, their interest and welfare have always received its sympathetic consideration.

It is gratifying to note that it was possible to arrive at a settlement with the Textile Labour Association without recourse to conciliation or arbitration.

Transient Prosperity.- The industry is at present passing through a period of prosperity. This prosperity is not only transient, but the post-war slump, which is inevitable, has also to be considered. The industry should look ahead and make suitable provision for the future. In spite of the high earnings of the mills, on account of the increased burdens in the form of taxation, the net available surplus will be comparatively small and may not be adequate for any future period of depression. The claims and needs of various components of the industry have also to be met to a reasonable extent, and a wise and balanced distribution, will, therefore, be essential. At this juncture, it would not be out of place to refer to ~~the~~ suggestion for restricting dividends, which has been mooted in certain quarters. This, however, ignores local conditions prevailing in each industry and each centre. In my opinion Government would be well advised to consult industrialists before taking any decision.

Need for Planned Reorganisation.- The Ahmedabad textile industry is handicapped by economic ills such as high level of wages, disparity in railway freights, etc. In addition to these, recently its burden has also increased by the increase in supertax and incometax. All these will have vital effect on the economics of the industry. A planned reorganisation of each unit on a scientific basis eliminating all possible waste is therefore necessary, and unless this is done as quickly as possible, the Ahmedabad industry will be faced with the problem particularly of increased ~~competition by outside centres.~~ In the matter of employment also, rationalization will have to be adopted on a large scale. In regard to industrialization, no substantial achievement has been made and it is a matter of serious disappointment to the country that the opportunities occasioned by the War have not been utilised to any appreciable extent. Only a few small industries have come into existence. In the future scheme of reconstruction, these few industries which have come into their own or which have received impetus should be safeguarded to enable them to withstand the vicissitudes of post-war adjustment. In regard to old and existing industries also careful and mature planning will be necessary because, apart from the broader issue of vital changes in fundamental concepts and values, few industries in India are in a position to withstand the economic upheaval which is bound to ensue at the end of the War.

(The Indian Textile Journal, April 1943 issue). +

Income Levels in British India in 1940-41;
All-India Income-Tax Report Statistics.

Interesting details regarding the level of incomes during the first two war years are given in the All-India Income-Tax Report for 1940-41.

Individual persons with total incomes of over Rs. 200,000 per year were only 120 in the whole of British India. Of these 68 were in the Bombay Province, 24 in Bengal, 8 in Madras, 6 in the Central Provinces, and 4 in Delhi. Those with an annual income of over Rs. 50,000 per year were only 1,456 in the whole country. The total number of assesseees - those with annual incomes of over Rs. 1,500 per year - were just over 3 1/2 lakhs, in the year 1938-39, the number was less than 286,000. The total income assessed in 1940-41 was Rs. 21,494 lakhs as against Rs. 17,626 lakhs in 1938-39.

Super-tax returns for 1940-41 show that the number of individual assesseees with annual incomes of over Rs. 5 1/2 lakhs were only 19 in the country. The total number of individual super-tax payers were 6,696 in 1940-41.

1940-41 (annual incomes over Rs. 25,000) as against 2,864 in 1938-39 (annual incomes over Rs. 30,000). The number of companies and other concerns assessed at company rate for super-tax were 3,829 in 1940-41 as against 891 in 1938-39. (One lakh = 100,000).

(The Hindustan Times, 5-4-1943). +

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during December 1942. +

The index numbers of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during December, 1942, as compared with the preceding month:

<u>Name of Centre</u>	<u>Base = 100</u>	<u>November 1942</u>	<u>December 1942</u>
Bombay	Year ending June 1934	178	188
Ahmedabad	Year ending July 1927	137	149
Sholapur	Year ending January 1928	143	147
Nagpur	August 1939	190	208
Ludhiana	1931-35	256	288
Cawnpore	August 1939	224	224
Patna	Average cost of living for five) years preceding 1914	228	222
Jamshedpur	Ditto	242	226
Jharra	Ditto	234	248
Madras	Year ending June 1936	156	158
Madura	Ditto	153	167
Coimbatore	Ditto	170	174

(Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India for December 1942.). +

SOCIAL INSURANCE

Government's Sickness Insurance Scheme: Employers' and Workers' Representatives to Advise the Special Officer Nominated.

Reference was made at page 12 of our March 1943 report to a scheme of sickness insurance for industrial workers that is being drafted by Professor B.P. Adarkar, special officer appointed by the Government for the purpose. According to an unofficial note dated 20-4-1943 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, the following employers' and workers' representatives have been nominated by the principal organisations of employers and workers to advise Professor Adarkar. Messrs. S.C. Joshi and N.N. Mirajkar (All-India Trade Union Congress); Messrs. V.M. Tarkundo and George Lobo (Indian Federation of Labour); Messrs. J.C. Lancashire, G.M. Gerry and A.H. Bishop (Employers' Federation of India); Sir Shri Ram and Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai (All India Organisation of Industrial Employers). Professor Adarkar will also have the assistance of the office of the Superintendent of Insurance, Bombay.

The Note also points out that the scheme will be based on compulsory contributions from employers and workers and there will be no contributions from the Central or Provincial Governments. Most of the Provincial Governments, however, have agreed to give a guarantee to the Fund by way of advances in the event of any deficit arising in any particular year or a series of years. The Government concerned will be called upon to make such advances pro rata on some agreed basis. They will be reimbursed later from surplus in the Fund brought about by readjusting contributions and benefits.

A questionnaire is being circulated among the Provincial Governments and the various organisations of employers and workers inviting their ~~own~~ opinion on matters like the workers' eligibility to contribute, their eligibility to receive benefits, the nature and extent of contributions to be made by employers and workers, the extent and duration of cash benefits, and the advisability of bringing Maternity Benefits under Sickness Insurance. The problem is being studied in the light of the measures introduced in foreign countries.

(A copy of the questionnaire was sent to Montreal with this Office's minute B.1/361/43 dated 19-4-1943.)

(Summarised from Unofficial Note dated 20-4-1943 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India.)

The New Delhi Special Representative of the Times of India reports that Professor Adarkar may be expected to make his report before the middle of July and the draft Bill may be ready by November for consideration of the Assembly during the budget session.

(The Times of India, 14-4-1943.)

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING

Bihar Employment Bureau: Work in 1939-40.*

The following brief account of the work of the Employment Bureau, Bihar, during the year ended 31-3-1940, is extracted from the Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar, for the same period.

During the year under report the work of the Bihar Employment Bureau was enlarged and its activities extended. It registered the names of 792 candidates possessing different qualifications making a total of 3,416 candidates registered up to 31-3-1940. The Bureau gave wide publicity to 472 vacancies occurring in the various railways running through the province and also to the vacancies advertised by the Federal Public Service Commission and by the various departments of Government.

During the year enquiries with regard to prospects in different industries and professions and also regarding the particular type of education to be given to the young men of the province in order to make them fit to earn their livelihood, were made by approximately 1000 students and their guardians and the required information was supplied to them. The Bureau made a census of educated unemployed through the educational institutions of the province (both general and technical) from 1-1-1939 to 31-12-1939. The number of the unemployed as reported by these institutes totalled 1,675.

The Bureau continued its efforts as in previous years in requesting firms and factories situated in the province and outside from whom purchases of stores are made to employ the candidates nominated by the Department of Industries. As a result of the efforts made by the Bureau, the percentage of Biharees employed in some of the big firms both within and outside the province has risen as compared with the number of the Biharees employed in these concerns before the existence of the Bureau. During the year requisitions for 793 posts were received making a total of 2,893 posts requisitioned up to 31-3-1940 and 141 persons were appointed either in posts or in apprenticeships making a total of 666 persons appointed up to that date.

The proposal for launching an apprentice scheme for imparting both theoretical and practical training to young men of the province which was formulated in accordance with the resolutions passed by the Employment Board at its meeting held on 4-6-1938 and which was submitted to Government for approval in 1939 is still under consideration of Government.

* Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar, for the year 1939-40. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna. 1943. pp.92.

No Despatch of Indian Labour to Ceylon Rubber Estates:
Ceylon Government drops Negotiations.*

In the course of a statement in the Council of State on 3-4-1943, Mr. G.S. Bozman, I.C.S., Secretary, Indians Overseas Department, Government of India, announced that the negotiations that were being carried on by the Government of Ceylon with the Government of India for supplying Indian labour for the rubber estates of Ceylon (vide pages 17-19 of our February 1943 report) have been dropped, the Government of Ceylon having informed the Government of India that it has been now found possible to obtain locally additional workers needed for increasing the rubber output for war needs.

(The Hindustan Times, dated 4-4-1943.)-

Family Budget of Indian Estate Labourers in Ceylon:
Report of 1941 Enquiry.*

The Ceylon Government instituted in 1941 an inquiry into the family budget of the Indian Estate Labourers in the Island. The main ~~but~~ findings of the Inquiry Commission's report (published in October 1941) are summarised below:-

Method of Inquiry.- The inquiry relates to the labour population numbering in 1939 about 679,000 in the tea and rubber estates of Ceylon. Before the inquiry started, it was decided that the estates on which the inquiries should be conducted should be selected by the Chairmen of the District Planters' Associations who, it was expected, would choose estates, the Superintendents of which were likely to take an interest in the conduct of the inquiry, and subject to this the District Chairmen were advised to nominate estates as widely separated from each other as possible. It was also decided that in each district five per cent. of the estates should be chosen. The families on each estate were chosen by the process of random selection. The Superintendent was instructed to select each 50th name on the check-roll, i.e., pay-roll, and the particulars for the family of which that worker was a member were to be collected. The intention was that the estate should be chosen by the method of purposive selection and the families by the process of random selection.

Scope of Inquiry.- In this inquiry the usual distinction between up-country, mid-country and low-country estates has been maintained. Altogether returns were received for 227 families from up-country, 169 families from mid-country and 120 families from low-country estates, which gives a total of 516 families whose budgets were collected. The total number of persons in the 516 families may be classified as follows:

	<u>Up-country</u>	<u>Mid-country</u>	<u>Low-country</u>
<u>Workers:</u>			
Men	268	210	143
Women	224	171	95
Children (between 10 and 15 years).	155	159	86
<u>Non-workers</u>	407	339	207

*Report of an Inquiry into the Family Budget of Indian Estate Labourers (M. Rajanayagam, Esq., Deputy Controller of Labour). October 1941. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. 1941. pp.38.

The total number of workers on tea and rubber estates in Ceylon in 1939 was 205,134 men; 191,651 women, and 62,744 children, which gives the total number of workers whose families have been selected at .3 per cent. of the total. During the quarter August to October, 1939, the labour population was approximately 377,000 on up-country estates, 173,000 on mid-country estates, and 129,000 on low-country estates. The percentages of each area are ~~2x~~ .26 for up-country, .45 for mid-country and .37 for low-country. The mode of living, standard of life and social customs of the labourers being more or less the same, the report points out that the .3 per cent. covered by the inquiry may be regarded as a fairly representative sample.

Income.- The average monthly (24 working days for adults and 20 for children) earnings of a man, woman and child in the three regions is as follows:

	<u>Up-country</u>	<u>Mid-country</u>	<u>Low-country</u>
Man	Rs. 14.34	Rs. 13.82	Rs. 13.41
Woman	Rs. 9.45	Rs. 9.97	Rs. 9.12
Child	Rs. 9.98	Rs. 9.10	Rs. 8.63

A family's income is usually made up of various items - basic wages, war bonus, overtime wages, income from rice allowance, etc. The average basic earnings of a family are estimated as follows:-

<u>Up-country</u>	Rs. 31.79
<u>Mid-country</u>	Rs. 35.36
<u>Low-country</u>	Rs. 25.28

War bonus is paid at the rate of Re. 1 per male adult, Re. 0.75 for a woman and Re. 0.5 for a child. In addition the estates are bound to supply a certain quantity of rice to each labourer at a price which should not exceed a certain maximum fixed by agreement with the planting community. The price fixed at estates does not fluctuate so violently as in the open market and in many cases estates sell rice to the labourer at a figure which is less than the market-price. The average income of a family from this source is as follows:-

<u>Up-country</u>	Re. .63
<u>Mid-country</u>	Re. .42
<u>Low-country</u>	Re. .34

The employer also has to supply $\frac{1}{8}$ of a bushel of unblended rice to every adult man worker above the age of 16 and to every widow with at least one child below 10 years, residing on the estate, or in the alternative to provide one or more meals of rice and curry of specified standard. In addition, women workers are entitled to maternity benefits.

The following table indicates a family's income from various sources:

	<u>Up-country</u>	<u>Mid-country</u>	<u>Low-country</u>	<u>Weighted Average</u>
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Normal earnings	31.79	35.36	25.28	31.38
Other earned income (War bonus, weeding contract, Pence or Head Money, Cash plucking, Overtime, etc.)	1.9	1.68	1.56	1.76

(table continued)

	Up-country	Mid-country	Low-country	Weighted Average
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Income on rice including free rice or free meals.	2.12	1.83	1.48	1.91
Free benefits (sick rice, pensions, medical help, free milk, maternity benefit, etc.)	.33	.59	.64	.47
Foodstuffs grown	.82	.65	.40	.70
Other sources (kaddai dividand, children's pay).	.92	.73	.42	.78
Total	37.06	40.19	29.38	36.30
Total per equivalent adult male.	11.03	10.47	9.07	10.50

A labourer obtains two other free benefits, namely, housing and fire-wood, regarding which data could not be obtained. With these benefits added, the average total monthly income per adult male is Rs. 12.43, Rs. 11.87 and Rs. 10.47 for up-country, mid-country and low-country estates respectively.

Expenditure.- The expenditure items are classified under five heads: food, rent, clothing, fuel, light and miscellaneous. Of these, charges for lodging and firewood, for which the labourer does not pay from his pocket (these are given free by the employer) are assessed at Re. .9 and Re. .5 in all three areas. Rice is predominantly the most important article of diet and it consumes nearly 50 per cent. of the total expenditure on food. Miscellaneous items include, among others, education, medicine, transport, amusements and ceremonials. Below is given the full table of expenses:-

	Up-country	Mid-country	Low-country	Weighted Average	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Exp. Rs.	Percent.
Food	7.125	6.901	6.377	6.93	60.0
Rent	.9	.9	.9	.9	7.8
Clothing	1.37	1.228	.89	1.24	10.7
Fuel and Light	.72	.744	.712	.72	6.2
Miscellaneous	1.85	1.814	1.46	1.77	15.3
Total	11.965	11.587	10.339	11.56	100.0

The following table gives the percentage expenditure on the different groups for Colombo City, Madras, Bombay, and Ahmedabad:-

	Colombo City(1940)	Madras (1938)	Bombay	Ahmedabad
Food	52.40	52.63	52.32	57.90
Rent	15.96	11.14	7.67	11.74
Clothing	8.36	4.50	8.40	9.45
Fuel and Light	6.28	6.67	7.29	7.04
Miscellaneous	17.00	25.06	20.32	13.87

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Anti-Indian Legislation in South Africa:
senate passes the Trading and Occupation of Land (Transvaal and
Natal) Restriction Bill.

Reference was made at page 15 of our March, 1943, report to the Inquiry Commission that had been appointed by the South African Government to inquire into the extent of Indian penetration in the European areas of the City of Durban. On the basis of the findings of the Commission, Mr. Lawrence, Minister for Interior, introduced in the South African Assembly, on 10-4-1943, the Trading and Occupation of Land (Transvaal and Natal) Restriction Bill, imposing certain restrictions on the rights of Asiatics to carry on trade and acquire and occupy land in the Transvaal and Natal. The Bill provides for the extension for another three years (commencing from 1-5-1943) of the Transvaal Asiatic Land and Trading Act, 1939. It prohibits transactions between Indians and Europeans for acquisition or occupation of premises in Durban except under Government permit. No European is permitted to occupy premises unless the premises are considered to have been occupied by a European on 22-3-1943. Similarly, no Asiatic is permitted to occupy premises which were not occupied by an Asiatic on 22-3-1943. In both cases exceptions may be made under an authority permit issued by the Minister of the Interior. Also, the Governor-General may, by proclamation, declare that the restrictive provisions for ownership and occupation shall be extended in any area in Natal.

Indian's Protest.- In a memorandum submitted to Mr. Lawrence on 10-4-1943, the Natal Indian Association alleged that the Durban City Council had never allowed Indians to purchase land within the old Borough of the city, and that this was one of the reasons why the more wealthy Indians acquired property in the predominantly European areas. The delegation pointed out that 24,350 Indians were entitled to only 204 acres in the old Borough, whilst 70,710 Europeans were entitled to 5,312 acres. "A more arbitrary method of consigning a growing community to an unreasonably limited area cannot be conceived." Three more reasons, according to the delegation, actuated Indians to acquire properties: first, the deliberate sabotaging of the Lawrence Committee by the Durban City Council, which engendered the feeling that the Durban Council never at any time would make available sites for Indian acquisition; secondly, the abnormal conditions brought about by the war which had resulted in greater fluidity of money and greater ease with which Indians were able to obtain finance for purchasing property; and thirdly, the greater restrictions in the control of trade, industries and other businesses by Government brought about an accumulation of money which Indians, in common with other people, diverted to investment in properties.

In India, protest against the segregation measure has been raised from all quarters.

The Bill was passed by the South African Senate on 26-4-1943.

(The Statesman, dated 11,12,13 and 28-4-1943.).

PROFESSIONAL WORKERS, SALARIED EMPLOYEES AND PUBLIC SERVANTS

Training and Registration of Practitioners of Indigenous Medical Systems:
Punjab Government setting up Board

The Punjab Government's decision to set up a board of indigenous medicine to organize the registration of practitioners and improve the system of training and education of future practitioners, was referred to by Mian Abdul Haye, Minister of Education, inaugurating on 1-4-1943 the Punjab Tibbi Conference which has been organised to support the indigenous system of medicine. He said Government had always appreciated the importance of the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine and the need for their revival. It had been granting grants-in-aid of Rs. 10,000 per annum to various Ayurvedic and Unani teaching institutions in the province; and had been permitting local bodies in the province to employ hakims and vaids in their Unani and Ayurvedic dispensaries.

(The Statesman, dated 4-4-1943.)

Plea for Higher Salaries for Doctors;
Resolution at 19th session of A.I. Medical ~~Association~~
Conference.

At the 19th session of the All India Medical Conference held at Patna from 23 to 26-4-1943, Dr. A. Amaseur presiding, a resolution, among others, was adopted urging an increase in the pay and raising the status of medical men in the provincial medical and Health Services. Captain P.B. Mukherji, I.M.S., speaking on the subject pointed out that in many cases medical graduates and licentiates were given scanty regard by the employers, the result being a positive danger to the entire medical profession 'vis-a-vis' the public health of the country. He expressed the view that industrial and commercial concerns were more generous in fixing salary scales for their medical employees, but that scales in the Government medical services were more unsatisfactory.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-4-1943.)

LIVING CONDITIONS

Nutrition

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Inquiry into the Dietary of Middle Class Gujaratis in Bombay City

The results of an enquiry carried out by the Gujarati Research Society, Bombay, into the economic and nutritional conditions of Gujarati middle class families resident in the city of Bombay have been published in the January 1943 issue of the Journal of the Society. The objects of the survey were to obtain a picture of the income and expenditure of Gujarati middle class families in Bombay, to arrive at an evaluation of the diet of these families in terms of its nutritional qualities and its effects on health and physique, and, on the basis of the data collected, to indicate measures for improvement of economic conditions or reform of the dietary. The survey was financed by Sir Furshottamdas Thakurdas and the work was carried out by Dr. J.J. Shah and Dr. M.H. Patel, the former looking after the nutritional and medical aspects and the latter after the economic aspects of the investigation.

It is pointed out that the intake of milk is inadequate and to supplement this as a source of animal proteins, it is suggested that the use of cheese should be encouraged. There is deficiency of vitamin A in the diet which, it is recommended, should be made up, easily and cheaply, by the more frequent use of green leafy vegetables. There is a greater tendency towards obesity in the groups under investigation than among other strata of society, attributed partly to the sedentary habits of the persons, but mainly to the high intake of fats. The general conclusion that is drawn is that a balanced dietary on the principles outlined in the investigation and regular physical ~~exercise~~ exercise are very necessary if improvement is to be brought about in the present condition of health and physique of middle class families residing in Bombay city.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 6-4-1943.)+

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Workers' Organisations

20th session of the All-India Trade Union Congress, Nagpur,
1 and 2-5-1943

The 20th annual session of the All-India Trade Union Congress was held at Nagpur on 1 and 2-5-1943, Dr. Charuchandra Bannerjee presiding. Over 300 delegates attended the Conference.

Mr. N.M. Joshi, General Secretary, presented the report of the A.I.T.U.C. for 1942-43; this was adopted.

The Congress enunciated the following 14 demands:- (1) release of political prisoners; (2) dearness allowance to workers in proportion to the rise of the prices of foodstuffs and other commodities; (3) general reduction in the abnormal prices of food and clothing; (4) war bonus; (5) unemployment, war and sickness insurance; (6) maternity benefit; (7) one month's leave with pay; (8) security of service; (9) stoppage of all retrenchment; (10) civil liberties, freedom of speech, press and organisation; (11) recognition of trade unions; (12) sufficient protection during air raids; (13) proper compensation to the wounded and their families in case death is caused from injuries due to ~~accidents~~ ~~from war effects~~; and (14) transference of power to a national government.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 3-5-1943)

(A full report of the proceedings of the 20th session of the A.I.T.U.C. will be sent later.)

EDUCATION

Need for Mass Education stressed at All-India National Educational Conference

In his presidential address at the All-India National Educational Conference held at Haradwar ~~mm~~ on 12-4-1943, Dr. Radhakumud Mookerji of the Lucknow University emphasised that national education should minister to the moral and material needs of the nation in consonance with its indigenous ideals and traditions.

He explained how national education must relate itself to the life and economic needs of the nation. India from the economic point of view was a country of 700,000 villages and only about 40 cities. It was a country of agriculturists who showed only 3 per cent. literacy with three annas daily income and were out of work for about half the year in the off-seasons of agriculture. The problem of national education in India, concluded Dr. Mookerji, was the problem of its mass literacy. There was no future for the country on the basis of 3 per cent. scientific literacy and three annas daily income per head. No nation could survive the struggle for existence except by mobilizing its entire manpower for that struggle.

(The Statesman, 14-4-1943.)

Literacy Statistics of India:
1941 Decennial Census Report.

The following information about progress in literacy in India is taken from a Note on literacy by Mr. M.W.M. Yeatts, Census Commissioner, Government of India, published in Part 1, Vol. I, of the 1941 Census of India (Extracts from the Note ~~mm~~ are published in "Indian Information" dated 15-4-1943):

Progress in Literacy: 70 per cent. over 1931 figures.- The general tale is one of a pronounced increase in literacy amounting in the case of India as a whole to 70 per cent. over 1931 for the whole population. The male increase is 60 per cent. and the female 150. There was, of course, an enormous field for the improvement of female literacy.

Position in British Indian Provinces.- The Punjab returned the most remarkable figures, professing a 140 per cent. increase to a present literacy of 13. This covers a 110 per cent. increase for males and no less than 390 per cent. for females. The Census Commissioner, however, adds in reference to these figures; "One would prefer to wait for a definite sorting based on examination of the slips before further discussion of such phenomenal figures." In the United Provinces the literacy figure is still below that of other areas and all major provinces and only 8 per cent. for the whole population, but the decade increase was 80 per cent. all over, 70 for men and 170 for women. Even now, however, the percentage of literacy among women is only 2. Bombay leads the provinces as it did in 1931 and shows an increase of over 100 per cent. to produce a 30 per cent. literacy for males and 9 for females. Bengal follows with 16 per cent. all over, representing 25 for males and 7 for females.

Literacy in Travancore and Cochin.- These figures are left far behind by Travancore and Cochin which have been grouped together and have a literacy figure of 45 per cent., 56 for men and 34 for women. The latter figure is four times the highest for any province of British India. Even allowing for the smallness of area, Mr. Yeatts observed that

it is "A tribute to the people and to the administration and culture of that characteristic part of India". The Census Commissioner finds in the growth of literacy observed in 1941 the results of the steps taken between 1920 and 1930 to develop schools, recruit teachers and in general to strengthen the whole primary education side.

("Indian Information", 15-4-1943)..

Plea of Government of India Ministerial Staff for Increased Dearness Allowance.

At a joint meeting of the Imperial Secretariat Association, the Army and Air Headquarters' Association, the Civil Accounts Association, the Directorate General of Posts and Telegraphs Association, and the Attached and Subordinate Officers' Association held at New Delhi on 6-4-1943, a resolution was adopted urging the Government of India to grant further increase in the dearness allowance so as to avoid further deterioration in the general position and indebtedness ~~on the part~~ of its employees. The resolution urges the Government of India to grant 75 per cent. dearness allowance to those drawing ~~from Rs. 100 to Rs. 500~~ Rs. 100 or less, 50 per cent. to those drawing from Rs. 101 to Rs. 500, 20 per cent. to those drawing between Rs. 501 and Rs. 1,000 and 10 per cent. to those drawing between Rs. 1,001 and Rs. 1,250. Regret is expressed at the "failure of the Government to appreciate the extent of the hardship caused to its employees by the continuous rise in prices of all commodities, particularly foodstuffs, dairy-products, piecegoods, medicines, fuel, etc., the increase in most cases being 400 to 500 per cent. above pre-war rates.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-4-1943.)+

Higher Wages and other amenities for Tailors:
Resolution adopted at Workers' Rally in Madras. +

At a workers' rally held at Madras on 11-4-1943, under the auspices of the Indian Federation of Labour, a resolution demanding among other things, a 50 per cent. increase in the wages of tailors working under military clothing contractors and better sanitary and other conditions in places of work was adopted. Mr. R.S. Nimbkar, Labour Welfare Adviser, Government of India, who was present at the meeting, pointed out that Government was following a liberal policy as regards labour. He also assured the tailoring workers that if their case was referred by the military authorities to the Government of India, he would support their demands.

(The Hindu , 12-4-1943.)+

Lucknow Municipal Sweepers:
Dearness Allowance raised to 3 annas in the Rupee.

Following a short strike by about 1500 sweepers of the Lucknow Municipality, the authorities have reached on 17-4-1943 an agreement with the sweepers' leaders granting the sweepers 50 per cent. increase in dearness allowance, which raises the rate of dearness allowance from 2 annas to 3 annas in the rupee. In the case of private sweepers it has been decided to increase their charges by 50 per cent., the minimum charges being four annas per month. ~~xxxxxx~~
~~xxxxxx~~

((The Hindustan Times,
20-4-1943).)

WagesDemand for Increased Salary Scales:
U.P. Secretariat Staff Association's Resolution.

In the first week of April, 1943, the U.P. Civil Secretariat Staff Association adopted a resolution requesting the U.P. Government to restore the old scales of pay and grant adequate dearness allowances to those drawing up to Rs. 240 a month, with immediate effect. The resolution says that factors which in 1931 necessitated the reduction in the scales of pay of the upper and lower divisions of the secretariat services have now disappeared and therefore this measure becomes imperative. (By the 1931 cut, the upper and lower division salary scales of Rs. 150-Rs. 360 and Rs. 75-Rs. 150 were reduced to Rs. 100-Rs.240 and Rs. 50-Rs. 100 respectively.) The Secretariat Association's representation further points out that the Government have already revised the scales of pay of some superior services, such as the provincial executive, judicial and ~~police~~ police services, and adds: "It would be calamitous if the same considerations are not applied in the case of the low paid secretariat services."

(The Statesman, 10-4-1943.) +

Plea for Higher Dearness Allowance of Bengal Provincial
Labour Conference, 1943.

At the ~~2nd~~ 1943 session of the Bengal Provincial Labour Conference (organised by the Indian Federation of Labour), held at Calcutta on 25-4-1943, Mr. A.K. Mukherjee presiding, resolutions were adopted condemning the attitude of the employers of Bengal towards the workers "in refusing their legitimate demands for increase in wages and supply of foodstuffs", and demanding uniform grant of dearness and other allowances and also profit-sharing bonus. It also appealed to the authorities to improve civil defence measures in the industrial centres of Bengal.

(The Hindustan Times, 27-4-1943.) +

Labour Welfare in War Time:
Review of Action taken by Government of India.

A note entitled "Labour Welfare in War Time" published in Indian Information dated 15-3-1943 (Vol. 12, No. 3) reviews the more important measures initiated by the Government of India for ensurance of labour welfare since the outbreak of the present war. The main points brought out in the note are briefly noticed below:-

Central Government - A Co-ordinating authority.- Labour is mainly a provincial subject in India and the Government of India have, therefore, hitherto been responsible mainly for securing uniformity in labour legislation and adherence to such of the International Labour Conventions as are practicable for India. Legislation at the Centre, though comprehensive, has in the past been confined more to conditions of service and industrial relations than to such matters as wages and welfare.

War Changes - Government's Concern for Fair Conditions of Work.- The war has necessitated some curtailment of labour's rights to ensure continuance of production, but in the very process of effecting this necessary curtailment it has been possible to give labour certain very considerable advantages. Thus under the Essential Services Maintenance Ordinance workers are required to stick to their jobs. This Ordinance simultaneously provides powers to secure for the men in essential industries certain fair terms of employment. So also in making provision to ensure the best use of technical personnel, statutory provisions have also ensured that the conditions of service of such men are fair. Again, while strikes without notice have been made illegal, adequate provision has been made for adjudication and power has been secured to enforce the results of such adjudication. Till March 1943, adjudications have actually been enforced in no fewer than 25 cases of industrial disputes. The recognition in Indian labour legislation of the right of the workers to fair wages and fair conditions of service and the provision for compulsory arbitration and enforcement of an arbitrator's award in an industrial dispute involve two new basic principles which, having found a place in the labour code under the exigencies of the present situation, are not likely to be dislodged hereafter.

Training Schemes - "Bevin Boys" and 70,000 Skilled Technicians.- Other matters in which war-time developments are likely to have a lasting effect are the training schemes of the Labour Department and the Bevin Scheme for sending skilled workers to England for further training. The Bevin Boys whose training in England has given Indian labour an insight into English working class conditions and organisations, have themselves benefitted by the training to such an extent that on their return to India they are able to earn on an average two and a half times their former salaries. The scheme for training raw hands in India will have turned out 70,000 skilled workers by June 1943 and must have ~~xxxxx~~ even greater results as this large increase in India's skilled labour force must be of great value during the post-war industrial revival.

Labour Welfare Organisation.- In pursuance of the Government's resolve to actively interest itself in the matter of labour welfare, Mr. R.S. Nimbkar was appointed in 1942 as Labour Welfare Adviser to the Government of India. In addition, 8 Labour Welfare Officers also have been appointed. These men, after a short period of training in Delhi in the Labour Department, have been posted to various areas where their task is to maintain contacts on behalf of the Central Government with labour. On the one hand, they are expected to keep the Central Government apprised of labour conditions and feeling in different parts of India and, on the other, they have to explain to workers the policy of

the Central Government in labour matters. It is expected that Mr. Nimbkar and his Assistants will help in another matter of considerable importance to labour. This is the organisation of Air Raid Precautions in factories.

War Time Relief Measures.- In attending to the welfare of labour the Government of India have helped to open cost price grain shops for workers and have agreed to bear any loss ~~now~~ incurred in running these shops. The Government have provided dearness allowances for their own low-paid employees and workers in factories run by Government departments and have thus encouraged private employers to do the same. In fixing the amounts of these dearness allowances, the principle accepted by Government has been a flat rate dearness allowance rather than a percentage rate, as a flat rate ordinarily gives the lower-paid worker relief to a greater extent than a percentage rate.

Tripartite Collaboration - Tripartite Conference and Standing Committee.- Another important aspect of the Government's labour policy in war time has been the effort to secure collaboration between employers, employees and the State in all matters affecting labour and labour conditions. The first Tripartite Conference, attended by representative of workers and employers and of the Central, Provincial and State Governments, was held in New Delhi in August 1942, and the Standing Labour Committee created on the recommendation of that conference met last November. It is hoped that the institution of this conference and Standing Committee will lead in time to a well-developed labour policy throughout the country.

("Indian Information", 15-3-1943).+

Cotton Textile Position:
Control of Exports, Stepping up Production and Manufacture of Standard
Cloth: statement by Commerce Secretary in Council of State.

During the last session of the Central Legislature, the Hon'ble Mr. N.R. Pillai, Secretary, Commerce Department, Government of India, speaking in February 1943, in the Council of State on a resolution tabled by Mr. Hossain Imam recommending the setting up of a committee to examine the distribution and control of prices of the necessities of life, dealt, ~~with~~ inter alia, with the steps taken by the Government of India to control the price of textile goods and for the manufacture of standard cloth to meet the cloth requirements of the poorer classes. The main points of the speech are briefly noticed below:

~~Higher Prices - Increased Cost of Production, the main cause.~~

Cotton Piece-goods Prices.- The most important of the non-food items is cotton piece-goods. Prices of cloth have, in common with those of other commodities, shown an upward trend since the outbreak of war, and have risen very steeply during the last six or seven months and they are now nearly three times as high as they were in April 1941. Occasionally checks and setbacks have taken place, but, broadly speaking, it is correct to say that the ~~uprush~~ uprush of prices has not been arrested, and Government are fully aware that considerable suffering and hardship has been caused to the public, particularly to the poorer sections of the public.

Higher Prices - Increased Cost of Production, the main cause.

The disturbing price movement is not wholly attributable, as some people suggest, to profiteering. It is the result of a large number of factors, chief of them being the heavy increases that have taken place, in the prices or charges for all those elements which go to make up the cost of production. Between April 1941 and now the index number of raw cotton has gone up by about 70 per cent., wages and fuel by 60 per cent., and mill stores by 175 per cent. Allowing for all that, it must be admitted that the increase in the price of cloth has been more than in proportion to the increase in the cost of production, and the reason for this must be sought in the physical shortage of goods in relation to current demand. It has been Government's endeavour to rectify this disequilibrium, and they have proceeded along lines which, though not spectacular, are at any rate in the short run likely to be more effective.

Control Measures.- Whatever form of control is undertaken, one of the first things to do is to try and increase the quantity ~~xxxx~~ available for civilian consumption. This involves, first, the stepping up of production; second, reducing the demand for cloth required for purposes other than civilian consumption; and, third, adoption of measures to prevent hoarding and speculation.

Increased Production.- In regard to the first point, procurement and shipping difficulties make it impossible to contemplate an extension of the existing plant and machinery in India, and the same factors impose a serious limitation on the quantity of essential mill stores which must necessarily be obtained from abroad. Nevertheless, within the limits imposed by these factors, it is possible, by standardisation of designs and types and by the adoption of a variety of methods to increase to a substantial extent the productive capacity of Indian mills. Government have the whole question under their most anxious consideration.

Reduction of Exports and Supply Department's Offtake.- The whole question of reducing the demand for cloth for purposes other than

civilian consumption, that is to say, Supply Department's offtake and exports, has been carefully examined. The Supply Department's requirements have been subjected to the severest scrutiny and pruning and it is expected that purchases to be made by Government this year will be on a very much lower scale than in 1942. Concurrently, the volume of exports has been ruthlessly scaled down. It has not been possible to eliminate exports altogether. India, as part of her war effort and on humanitarian grounds has to satisfy, in part, the essential minimum requirements of a wide belt of countries extending from West Africa in the West to Australia in the East. These countries, to the extent that they are not in a position to satisfy their requirements either from their own resources or from imports from the United Kingdom, are wholly dependent on India; and to deny them the essential supplies which they need would reduce them to conditions of indescribable hardship and misery and incapacitate them for sustained effort in the cause of the United Nations. Such export, apart from being a moral ~~obligation~~ obligation, is sound business also. One of India's commercial objectives, and also one of the cherished ambitions of the industry itself, has been to develop external markets for piece-goods, because only so could the foundation be laid of a healthy textile industry not wholly absorbed in the contemplation of the possibilities of a large but protected domestic market. The war gave India that opportunity, and India must seize it. All the same, a very drastic reduction has been made in the quota of exports, and the percentage of the reduction is in the neighbourhood of 55 per cent.

Prevention of Hoarding and speculation.- This is a field where ~~the application of effective measures is a matter of extreme difficulty.~~ But arrangements are in train which, when put into effect, will go a long way towards removing these anti-social evils.

Standard Cloth scheme.- The most notable contribution of Government to the solution of the cloth position, is the introduction of the standard cloth scheme. The production of standard cloth is now an accomplished fact. The Government of India have never relaxed in their efforts to get the scheme going, and the inertia displayed by certain people was probably due to the fact that it was not until six months ago that the cloth problem became really acute. In November 1942, the Government of India knew what was coming; and although it had not received the acquiescence of all the parties concerned, it proceeded to place orders for about 16 million yards of standard cloth straightaway. Of this, 150,000 of yards have been delivered and supplied to Assam; a further quantity of 15 million yards will be on sale in different parts of India by the middle of March 1943. The bulk of this quantity has either been despatched to the various destinations or is ready to be despatched. But this arrangement, which was purely tentative, has now been superseded by a more permanent scheme, agreement to which was secured at the discussions held in Bombay on January 31, 1943. ~~and~~ The scheme would not have seen the light of day but for the helpful accommodation and co-operative attitude of all sections of the textile industry, which have all of them subordinated the profit motive to the motive of public service.

Price of Standard Cloth : 40 per cent. below current prices.- The central feature of the scheme is that the industry is pledged to reserve 60 per cent. of its productive capacity for the manufacture of goods ordered by the Supply Department or of standard cloth. This means, in effect, that as large a quantity as 1,500 million yards - perhaps more - of standard cloth will be available in time, for distribution. Prices will be fixed by Government, and they are expected to be not less than 40 per cent. below the current level of prices.

Prices today were about four times as high as they were before the ~~sub~~ outbreak of war; that is to say, if 100 were taken as the index number for August, 1939, the index number today is about 400. Now, this 40 per cent. reduction is to be calculated on the figure of 400, not on 100; that is to say, if a person now has to pay Rs. 400, he will only have to pay Rs. 240 for the standard cloth produced under the scheme.

("Indian Information", 1-4-1943.)+

standard Cloth: Arrangements for Price Fixing and Distribution.

The following additional information about the Standard Cloth Scheme is taken from a speech on the subject made by Mr. T.S. Pillai, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department, in the Central Legislative Assembly on 22-2-1943:-

After reviewing the action taken by the Government of India to bring into effect the standard cloth scheme, from its inception in September 1941 when the ~~then~~ then Commerce Member, Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar, propounded the scheme at the Cotton Textile Conference held in Bombay, up to the present. Mr. Pillay proceeded to describe the procedure for the fixing of the price and distribution of standard cloth.

Fixing of Prices.- At the Conference of cotton textile representatives held at Bombay on 30-1-1943, the industry agreed that it would devote as much as 60 per cent. of its productive capacity, if necessary, to manufacture cloth to the order of the Supply Department of the Commerce Department for standard cloth. Regarding price, it was agreed that it should be fixed quarterly by the Central Government on the advice of the representatives of the industry and the price fixed will only take into account certain features which go to increase the cost of production. This applies both to the price of standard cloth and the price of cloth supplied to the Supply Department for war purposes. The Central Government has also taken steps to ensure that on the plea of standard cloth, cheap cloth of inferior quality is not passed on. There is a Specifications Committee at which the experts of the industries and also experts of Governments are associated, and the specifications are so framed as to make the cloth durable, if not very attractive.

Distribution Arrangements.- The Central Government have also taken the entire responsibility to purchase the cloth from the mills for which they place orders and then to make allocation of these to the Provincial Governments who are willing to participate in the scheme. It has also been arranged that the distribution arrangements should be made up in various places in such a manner as to satisfy the ~~Central~~ Central Government that the cloth actually reached the consumer at the prices scheduled. The Government has appointed a Standard Cloth Commissioner who has taken charge of his duties at Bombay. He is arranging for the manufacture of about 50 million yards of cloth which Government hope to allocate to various Provinces in the course of a month or two.

("Indian Information", 1-4-1943).+

Increase in Production of Standard Cloth for Civilian
Consumption: Decision of Standard Cloth Panel.

At a meeting of the Standard Cloth Panel, held in Bombay on 9-4-1943, it was agreed that the production and marketing of standard cloth on the basis of the scheme which has been adopted should be brought into full operation. The present high prices of cotton yarn and piece-goods were also reviewed. It was the unanimous opinion of the industry that, in order to mitigate the hardship of the needy public, the following measures, amongst others, should be taken immediately so that prices might be brought down substantially.

- (a) that with the help of Government the production of mills should be increased considerably; and
- (b) that the holding in stock of cloth and yarn by mills and/or dealers for more than a very limited period should be made illegal.

It is anticipated that the quantity of cloth available for civilian consumption in 1943 will be at least double the amount available in 1942. This, coupled with the measures outlined above, may be expected to afford considerable relief and bring down prices to a more equitable level.

(Industrial Bulletin dated 19-4-1943
issued by Employers' Federation of India,
Bombay.) +

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Control Measures

The United Provinces Oilseeds (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order, 1943.

The United Provinces Government has, under the Defence of India Rules, promulgated on 20-4-1943, the United Provinces Oilseeds (Futures and Options Prohibition) Order, 1943, under which no person is to enter into any futures or options in oilseeds after 21-4-1943. Undertakings already entered into are to be settled at rates current on 19-4-1943. The oilseeds covered are mustard and ~~xx~~ rapeseed.

(The U.P. Gazette Extrarodinary dated
20-4-1943.)

The Sulphate of ~~xxxx~~ Alumina Control Order, 1943

The Government of India has under the Defence of India Rules issued, on 19-4-1943, the Sulphate of Alumina Control Order, 1943, providing for the registration and licensing of traders and consumers of sulphate of alamina. All persons carrying on any transaction in the substance are required to submit monthly returns of stock to the licensing authority.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated
19-4-1943, page 319.)

The Bobbins Control Order, 1943.

The Government of India has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued, on 17-4-1943, the Bobbins Control Order, 1943, under which no transaction in the following articles used by the textile industry—other than the jute and Hemp sections of the industry, is to be effected except in accordance with the directions of the Deputy Director General, Cotton Textiles, Bombay. The articles controlled are; (a) Slubbing tubes, (b) Roving tubes, (c) Ring Rabbeth, (d) Ring Weft Pirns (including Universal and Wadia Pirns), (e) Ring doubler bobbins, (f) Warper bobbins, and (g) Paper tubes and cones.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary,
dated 19-4-1943, page 320.)

The Bengal Food and Fuel Retail Trade Returns Order, 1943

The Bengal Government has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 16-4-1943, the Bengal Food and Fuel ~~xxx~~ Retail Trade Returns Order, 1943, under which the retail traders in foodstuffs and fuel are required to furnish all information concerning their purchases, stocks and annual turnover when demanded by Government. The Order is confined in the first instance to the "Calcutta region" only.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary,
dated 19-4-1943.)

Rent Control in Lahore

The District Magistrate of Lahore has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued, on 3-4-1943, an order directing landlords in the area administered by the city of Lahore corporation, ~~not~~ to charge rent at a rate higher than that which is payable under the provisions of the Rent Restriction Act of 1941. No tenant may be evicted so long as he is ready to pay rent according to the terms of his tenancy nor is accommodation to be refused to a tenant unless the same is required for the personal use of the Landlord.

(The National Call, 4-4-1943.)

The Bihar Control of Country-boat Traffic Order, 1943.

The Government of Bihar has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued, on 20-4-1943, the Bihar Control of Country-boat Traffic Order, 1943, under which all owners of heavy country boats (capable of carrying 10 maunds or more - 1 maund=82 lbs.) are required to have their boats registered by the Registering Officer. With effect from the date on which the Order comes into force, such country boats are not to carry food grains through any part of the Province unless permitted by Government.

(The Bihar Gazette Extraordinary
dated 21-4-1943.)

Comprehensive Food Plan for India:
General Wood's Broadcast;
Regional Food Commissioners Appointed. +

Details of a comprehensive food plan for the whole of India, now under consideration of the Government of India, were dealt with by Major General Wood, Additional Secretary, Department of Food, Government of India, in a broadcast talk from Delhi on 16-4-1943. The main points brought out in the talk are briefly noticed below:-

Distribution of Responsibility; Provinces and States to Co-operate with Centre.- Explaining the plans to feed India for the next 12 months, General Wood said that the first point was the basic distribution of responsibility. The Food Department would procure surplus food grains and distribute them between the deficit provinces and States. The provinces and States would act as agents of the Central Government to procure surpluses and the deficit areas would make a proper and equitable distribution. Also to ensure that the surpluses were sold at prices related to what had been paid for them and that the goods did not go into black markets or hoarding, it was essential that the Government owned the goods.

Purchase Scheme; Ensurance of Fair Prices for Cultivators.- This means a very extensive programme of buying ~~gr~~ food grains to the value of something over Rs. 1000 ~~crores~~ ^{million} in the next 12 months. The financing will be by the Central Government and in the course of its operations, the Central Government will see to it, by normal commercial methods and not by any system of controls, that prices are fair, both for the consumer and for the producer. As for the producer, Government will guarantee him a fair price for his production and Government will see to it that for the duration of the war and one year thereafter prices are not allowed to ~~x~~ fall below that level.

Reserves for Maintaining Balance; Ordinary Trade Channels to be Used.- A division of supplies for 12 months ahead has been decided. The machinery required for this purchasing and movement activity is being completed in every place in India. It is Government's policy to use trade methods, trade machinery and the channels of trade to the maximum extent. Continuing, General Wood explained that the Government was not merely going to buy food grains to move them from one place where there was too much to another where there was too little. "An equally important purpose is that the aggregate of all stocks at any time in Government's hands will be a weapon to be used to establish and maintain an equilibrium of supplies and prices all over the country." He also explained that the Government was not feeding any particular place or area. The feeding would substantially be done from the domestic resources of the area and ~~that~~ the Central Government's job was to give them the balance that permitted their accounts to be squared. It was required that a deficiency area would make the fullest use of its domestic resources before it was justified in expecting help from the Central Government.

No Undue Supplies for the Army.- Referring to the charge that the so-called shortage in India was due to the enormous requirements of the defence forces, General Wood said that the Army requirements of rice amounted to one part out of 265 of the rice production of this country, and that the same figures for wheat were one part out of 40. Another charge was that the Army kept high reserves, totalling even one or two years' requirements. What the Army had was more easily counted in terms of weeks rather than months.

Six Regional Food Commissioners Appointed.- Following the Government decision announced in March 1943 (vide page 49 of our March report), six Regional Food Commissioners have been appointed to the six areas into which India has been divided under the new scheme.

(The Times of India dated 17-4-1943)

The Bengal Food and Fuel Distribution Inquiries Order, 1943

* The Government of Bengal has, under the Defence of India Rules, issued on 16-4-1943 the Bengal Food and Fuel Distribution Inquiries Order, 1943, under which heads of families and messing groups (not including residential and catering establishments) are required to furnish accurate information to the Inquiry Officer as to the food and fuel requirements of their houses or messes. The Order is confined to the "Calcutta region" only in the first instance.

(The Calcutta Gazette Extraordinary dated 19-4-1943.)

supply of Grains and Cooked Food to Workers

An Unofficial Note dated 25-4-1943 issued by the Principal Information Officer, Government of India, deals with the measures adopted by employers in the various Provinces in response to the Government's suggestion for opening cheap grain shops and supplying ~~cooked food to workers during periods of emergency~~ (vide page 25 of our October 1942 report). The Note points out that considerable progress is reported from the Provinces with regard to various measures recommended by the Government and that employers in general are showing interest in making adequate provisions for their employees in respect of foodstuffs and other essentials of life. A number of cheap grain shops have been opened in Madras, Bengal, Bihar, C.P. and Berar, Sind, Bombay, Punjab and the United Provinces. More such shops are being opened either by the employers or by the workers' co-operative societies. In almost all the important industrial provinces necessary storage arrangements have been made by the employers for the supply of foodstuffs to their employees in an emergency. In the United Provinces employers are being encouraged to start co-operative shops and store reserves of food grains with the assistance either of the Employers' Association of Northern India or of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies. In Madras, Bengal and Sind arrangements have been made to supply cooked food to workers in an emergency. A number of employers are running canteens where meals are provided for workers at cheap rates. Workers of a textile mill in Madras can have tea at the rate of annas four per 30 cups.

Madras Government's Foodstuffs Supply Scheme:
Co-operative Societies to be Supply Agencies..

The Government of Madras has sanctioned a scheme for the distribution of foodstuffs to a part of the population in 34 fairly big towns in the Presidency through the agency of co-operative societies. If the scheme proves successful, it will be extended to a few more towns. The commodities that will be brought under the scheme are: rice, millets, redgram, tamarind, salt, chillies, oils (gingelly, groundnut and coconut oil), jaggery, and sugar.

The object of the scheme is to build up two months' stocks of important commodities in wholesale stores and up to one month's

stock in the retail primary stores which will enable them to serve an increased number of consumers, both members and non-members. According to this scheme, the agency for distribution of commodities will be the primary stores which will ~~enable~~ obtain the stocks required from the wholesale stores. It is estimated that the cost of the articles required to be stocked under the scheme for three months in the 34 towns will roughly amount to Rs. 3.2 millions and the Government has guaranteed the repayment of the loans advanced in connexion with the special stocks to be held under the scheme, to the co-operative wholesale stores, by the District Co-operative Central Banks from their own funds or from borrowings from the Provincial Co-operative Bank.

(Press Communique dated 6-4-1943, issued by the Development Department, Government of Madras.) -

International Post-War Food Conference in U.S.A. in April 1943: Government of India to participate.

The Government of India, says a Press Note issued by the Government of India, have been invited, through their Agent-General in Washington to send a small number of technical and expert representatives to a conference to be convened in the United States of America by the Government of the United States about the end of April 1943 for an exchange of views and information and for an exploratory examination of post-war problems connected with food-stuffs and other essential agricultural products, including problems of nutrition. The final terms of reference of the conference are not yet available. ~~Decisions on policy and the concluding of international trade agreements,~~ it is understood, will not be within the scope of the conference. The Government of India have accepted the invitation, and deputed as their representative to the conference Mr. P.M. Kharegat, Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, and Dr. W.R. Aykroyd, Director of Nutrition Research. In America they will be joined by the Agent-General, Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, who will be the leader of the Government of India delegation, and by Mr. H.S. Malik, India's Trade Commissioner in the U.S.A.

(Industrial Bulletin dated 19-4-1943 issued by Employers' Federation of India, Bombay.) -

The Tata Iron and Steel Company's Scheme for Supply of Essential Foodstuffs to Employees.

The Tata Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur, decided on 24-2-1943 to introduce a scheme whereby rice, wheat, atta (wheat flour), dal (pulses), sugar and gur (country sugar) will be made available to each employee, subject to the following maximum quantities per week:-

- (a) Rice (3 qualities-Coarse, Medium and Fine) and/or Wheat and/or Atta... .. 10 seers
- (b) Dal 1 seer
- (c) Sugar or gur 1 seer

1 seer = 2 lbs.

The weekly-paid employees will be supplied rations once a week for a unit period of one week, and the monthly-paid employees, once a fortnight for a unit period of two weeks. There will be 16 shops or stores located in various parts of the town for the sale of provisions and each employee will be allocated to a particular shop conveniently close to his residence, and days will be fixed on which he can obtain his provisions at the particular shop, so as to avoid,

unnecessary crowding at the shops. Provisions will be supplied only on production of food coupons at the shops. The value of the coupons issued to an employee will be deducted from the wages due to him for the period of validity of the coupons. Special permission has been obtained from Government to make such deductions in the case of those who come under the payment of Wages Act, 1936. No coupons will be issued against actual cash. Supplies will be made available at prices prevailing on 1-10-1942, which is the date on which the last cash increase in the scales of dearness allowance was sanctioned. The difference between the lower October prices and the higher current prices will be borne by the Company.

The War Dearness Allowance will be frozen at the existing rates and irrespective of all future price increases, rice, wheat, atta, dal, sugar and gur will continue to be supplied to the employees at the October rates, subject to supplies being available. Employees who wish to take advantage of the Food Supply Scheme should signify their willingness in writing through the Heads of their Departments to purchase the articles from the Company's shops and also give written authority for the deduction of the prices of such articles from their wages. In view of the concession that it has decided to make in respect of supplies of certain essential foodstuffs, the Company has decided to increase the Works Hotel prices which up till now have been kept at the pre-war level, in spite of steep increases in the cost of food grains, edible oil, etc. Care has been taken to see that the revised prices are substantially below the prices prevailing at various eating houses in Jamshedpur.

~~The Scheme for the supply of foodstuffs at the various grain shops, the scales of dearness allowance and the Works Hotel prices will be reviewed and, if necessary, revised by the Company, if the prices of rice, wheat, atta, dal, sugar and gur, considered in conjunction with the cost of living index figure, as published by the Government of Bihar, drop to an extent which is considered sufficient by the Company to warrant such action.~~

The scheme came into operation on 9-3-1943.

(The Tisco Review, March, 1943.) -

Rationing in Bombay City to be introduced on 2-5-1943

Reference was made at pages 48-49 of our March, 1943, report to a scheme of food rationing to be introduced in Bombay City. At a Press Conference on 21-4-1943, Mr. Gorwala, Commissioner, Civil Supplies, Government of Bombay, announced that the scheme will come into operation on 2-5-1943 in the city. He added that the recent arrival of 18,000 tons of Australian wheat has enabled the Government to double the amount of wheat which it was expected could be distributed to each person under rationing. The rationing will apply for the present to wheat, rice, jowari and rajri and ~~60~~ flour and similar products made from them. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~

(The Bombay Chronicle, 22-4-1943.) +

Post-War Reconstruction Committee: Changes in Structure:
Six Policy Committees and a Permanent Secretariat.

Reference was made at pages 35 to 37 of the report of this Office for January 1941 to the setting up by the Government of India of a Reconstruction Committee and four Sub-Committees: the first on labour and demobilisation with the Defence Secretary as chairman; the second on disposals and contracts with the Secretary, Supply Department, as chairman; the third on public works and Government purchases with the Labour Secretary as chairman; and the fourth on trade, international trade policy and agricultural developments with the Commerce Secretary as chairman.

On 15-4-1943, Sir ~~Jawahar~~ Jwala Prasad Srivastava (Civil Defence Member, Government of India) gave at a press conference details of certain changes which had been introduced in the structure of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee and its sub-committees; the main points brought out are summarised below:

Executive Council Committee to initiate, control and co-ordinate Policy.- At the top of the organisation will be a committee of the Viceroy's Executive Council consisting of the Viceroy (President), Sir J.P. Srivastava (Deputy President), the Commander-in-Chief or his representatives and the Members for Defence, Labour, Supply, Commerce, War Transport and Finance. The committee will deal with all matters of policy, will exercise initiative, co-ordinate and eventually sanction plans. Sir Jwala Prasad said that the committee has every intention of reaching definite conclusions and, speaking for himself and his colleagues said: "If we are still at the helm when the time comes we shall see to it that all practicable plans are put into execution." A permanent secretariat (not a Government department) is being provided for the committee by combining its office and that of the War Resources Committee, and its secretary will be Gen. Hutton. Sir Theodore Gregory will be economic adviser to the committee and its ex-officio secretary.

Six Policy Committees.- To assist the Committees of the Council six policy committees have been formed as follows: Demobilization and Labour Committee; Disposals, Contracts and Government Purchases Committee; Public Works and Communications Committee; Internal and International Trade Policy Committee; Agricultural Policy Committee; and Consultative Committee of Economists. These committees will include members from provincial Governments, States, trade and industry. Each of these policy committees will be presided over by the Member of the Council primarily concerned. Later on it will be necessary to set up other policy committees to deal with questions such as finance for which material is not yet available. The Committee of the Executive Council is likely to meet in a fortnight to consider selection of non-official personnel for the policy committees and decide when to start their meetings.

Six Official Sub-Committees.- The six policy committees will be assisted by official sub-committees each under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Government of India Department primarily concerned who will prepare data for the policy committees, co-ordinate departmental work and carry out approved policy. These sub-committees will collect data and, if possible, place concrete proposals before the policy committees. Sir J.P. Srivastava stated that he ~~was~~ was still studying the various phases of his work and that he could not indicate at present how long it would take to collect data and to frame policies and plans.

Expansion of Industry foreshadowed.- Sir Jwala Prasad emphasized that the essential conditions of success were an efficient governmental machinery, sound finance, co-operation of provincial and State Governments and co-operation of the people at large as well as leaders of industry. All must help to control inflation by savings and curtailment of expenditure. He stated that steps are in hand to investigate very fully the requirements of industry in capital goods, conversion of war industries to peace production and the expansion of industry generally. He added that more important perhaps than these is the organization of marketing, especially overseas. This will require action both by the Government and trade organizations.

Short-range term and Long-term Objectives.- The work of reconstruction, it was explained by General Hutton, falls into two categories, problems that will be an immediate and unavoidable result of the end of the war, such as demobilization and disposal of stores, etc., and those which are of a long-term nature and deal with development and improvement of conditions, generally. A good deal of preparatory work has already been done about re-settlement of soldiers and the problem of resettling labour employed in war work was recognized as one of equal urgency. Asked whether he could give a categorical assurance that the final plans for reconstruction could be judged by the test that they provide for social security, Sir J.P. Srivastava answered: "Most certainly".

(The Statesman, 16-4-1943 and the Hindustan Times, 16-4-1943.)+

Need for Planning Ahead;

Mr. N.R. Sarker's Address at the 2nd Session of All-Bengal Economic Conference.

The 2nd session of the All-Bengal Economic Conference was held at Calcutta from 11 to 14-4-1943, Mr. G.L. Mehta presiding.

Mr. Sarker's Address: Post-War Reconstruction.- Declaring the Conference open, Mr. N.R. Sarker, ex-Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council, ~~formally opening the Conference~~ declared that the main task of evolving a satisfactory programme of post-war reconstruction in India should be entrusted to a small competent body of experts, led preferably by an eminent industrialist, who should get into contact with industrial interests and prepare concrete plans in collaboration with commercial interests and assisted by the Government. "It appears to me" he added, "that under the present system of Government, plans for post-war reconstruction evolved by the Government or under their auspices alone are not likely to prove very fruitful. Government assistance we must have. But it must be in the nature of assistance only. Any international plan which would merely seek to maintain or improve the standard of living of advanced countries by perpetuating very low standards of life in countries like India and China was bound to fail."

"Beveridge Plan" for India.- Referring to the Beveridge plan, Mr. Sarker said: "A Beveridge plan for India would be unthinkable till our productive activity has risen to the requisite level. We have to begin our work of reconstruction right from the start and work our way up to a higher standard of living from an incredibly low level. Barring China there is hardly any other important country in the world which is steeped in such poverty as ours. India should be left free to grapple with the vast problem which has been inexorably pressing for solution."

~~self~~ ~~of~~ Government - a vital need.- Expressing the view that an over-riding factor in considering any scheme of post-war reconstruction should be the elimination of economic fear between nations, Mr. Sarker said that to deny backward countries like India and China the freedom to mould their future destiny would not only run counter to the spirit of the Atlantic Charter and the aims for which the present war was being fought, but would involve us again in iniquities and inequalities and which would be a perpetual threat to world peace.

Mr. Mehta's Presidential Address: Expansion and Protection of Industries.- Mr. G.L. Mehta, in his presidential address, emphasised the need for comprehensive and accurate survey of India's industrial expansion during the war. It was essential to ensure that industries started during the war were not left high and dry as after the last war, but received an adequate measure of State support, particularly because they would in all probability have to face the impact of competition from outside and possibly a period of depression. The food problem before the country was not merely one of purchase or production, but of efficient distribution. All-India control was essential. Only a Government which derived its strength and power from the people and which was in intimate contact with the masses could take action against ~~the~~ recalcitrant and anti-social forces. Mr. Mehta also emphasised the need for constructive utilisation now of sterling balances and of providing adequate safeguards for India's assets.

(The Hindu, 12-4-1943.)

New India Planning Groups:
100 already started.

To stimulate interest in and help the study of post-war economic and social problems, a number of unofficial groups, called the New India Planning Groups, have recently been set up in India. Interpellated in the Central Legislative Assembly on the nature, scope of work and objects of the Groups, Sir Sultan Ahmed, Leader of the House, gave the following information on 31-3-1943:

The New India Planning Groups are autonomous bodies which framed their own rules, selected their own subjects for discussion and were entirely non-official in character. About 100 of these Groups have already been formed. The central organisation of the new India planning groups was responsible for suggesting subjects for discussion, though the ~~new~~ groups might or might not accept these subjects, and for putting out facts and figures to assist these groups in their discussions. The central organisation was wholly precluded from expressing opinion or in any way seeking to influence the opinions of the groups.

(The Leader, 3-4-1943.)

A number of pamphlets on current economic and social problems, and post-war adjustments, are being issued to provide subjects for study by these groups. The titles of two pamphlets already issued are: (1) Freedom from Want, and (2) Is Industrialisation Desirable? (Requisition has been made for copies of these pamphlets, and when received they will be forwarded to Montreal.) +

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New Department of Industries and Civil Supplies Created

A communiqué issued by the Government of India on 14-4-1943, announced the Viceroy's decision to create a new Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, with Mr. M.S.A. Hydari as Secretary. Explaining the object of the department, the communiqué says: Since the outbreak of the war, under the stimulus of the vast demands to meet Defence Service requirements, and of the difficulties in importing from overseas, Indian industry has shown remarkable development. When, however, war demands disappear, and overseas trade becomes normal, these new and expanded industries will come up against a variety of difficulties, and it is of the greatest importance that all possible guidance should be given to Indian industry so that when Peace returns, the momentum that has now been received by industry may not be lost, and industrial development continue over an ever widening field. Allied to this vital question, there are also numerous problems relating to civil supplies (other than the supply of foodstuffs), satisfactory solution of which requires continuous and careful attention; these are of great importance not merely so long as the war lasts but also thereafter. The importance of the work that the new Department has in itself and in relation to reconstruction and future industrial development and civil supplies needs no emphasis.

The department which began functioning on 22-4-1943, deals with the following heads of business:- Statistics and Research: (a) industrial statistics; (b) inventions and designs; (c) Federal agencies and institutes for industrial research, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, Board of Scientific and Industrial Research, Industrial Research Utilisation Committee and Directorate of Scientific and Industrial Research. Development: (a) development of industries generally; (b) development of industries (Federal aspect); (c) protection to industries other than tariff protection; (d) industrial exhibitions in India. Controls: (a) industrial controls; (b) civil supplies other than foodstuffs; (c) price control over civil supplies other than foodstuffs; (d) coffee Market Expansion Act, (e) rubber production; (f) cotton textiles including standard cloth. Miscellaneous: Administration and control of the Indian Stores Department, London, and the Government Test House, Alipore.

(The Statesman, 15-4-1943, and "Industrial Bulletin" of the Employers' Federation of India, 26-4-1943.)+

Employment for Ex-Servicemen:

Views of Bombay Provincial Rural Development Board. +

Problems relating to the employment of service-men after demobilisation were discussed by the Bombay Provincial Rural Development Board at a meeting held at Bombay in the last week of March 1943.

So far as resettlement on the land was concerned, it was held that the amount of land available in the Province was limited and situated in excessively malarious areas, so that resettlement must form part of a general rural reconstruction programme. The Board was of opinion that intensive rural reconstruction work should be undertaken in villages where the greatest number of ex-soldiers and their families were found, land improvement schemes being undertaken to improve the fertility and production of the village lands, ~~special assistance being given for ex-soldiers' lands~~. Where land improvement work resulted in new cultivable land being available, this should be given only to returned soldiers.

The Board recommended that Government should prepare schemes for training ex-soldiers in agriculture, including fruit growing and similar agricultural operations, and also in village industries. For this training, returned soldiers ~~should be selected from men~~ with homes in the area in which the instruction is to be given. If returned soldiers could be made available in the shape of a force under military discipline for land conservation work, large-scale land improvement work should be undertaken in the Deccan. A start might be made by the examination of 20 villages in ~~and~~ one district and 20 villages in another to see how far general improvement schemes might be able to benefit the returned soldiers. Some scheme of pre-emption of land on behalf of soldiers might be beneficial. A suggestion that reclamation of land which is out of cultivation should be undertaken was also adopted.

The question of post-war employment of returned soldiers in factories was also raised at the meeting. A suggestion was made that if returned soldiers should wish to start small industries, or even larger ones, with their savings, the Government should help them to the best of its ability.

(The Bombay Information, 10-4-1943.)

Post-War Transport Problems:

Views of Indian Roads and Transport Development Association.

A deputation of the Indian Roads and Transport Development Association waited on the Member for Posts and Air and War Transport, Government of India, in the third week of April 1943 to direct the attention of the Government to transport problems that will arise after the war.

The deputation pointed out that India's 300,000 miles of metalled ~~and~~ and "kutchra" roads will have to be multiplied several times if the villages are to be linked with main roads for the marketing of agricultural produce. With this end in view, the Association has for many years been successfully pressing forward the construction of more and better roads. Prior to the war a Road Fund was instituted which now has an annual income of about Rs. 15 million, distributed in a certain proportion to the provinces for building new roads. The war has resulted in the slowing down of the ordinary road programme and recently it was decided as an anti-inflationary measure to stop all work on roads not of immediate necessity. Some time ago the Association passed a resolution and suggested that post-war road construction should be paid for out of capital borrowing, and that unless this is done India will never get a proper road system. The Association also recommended that roads should be the responsibility of a special body and not part of the general P.W.D. The Association also offered to prepare with Government's assistance a "pilot" road plan for a particular area of a province which, if approved, could be a model for other provinces.

The deputation was informed that the subject was under examination by the Government and that their suggestions would be considered.

It may be recalled that one of the Committees set up by the Government of India for post-war reconstruction deals with the co-ordination of road, rail, inland, water transport and coastal shipping. The problem is being considered in two parts, namely, a short-term and a long-term policy. Immediately after the war, road construction will be undertaken to give employment to demobilized servicemen and to find use for motor transport and trained personnel which will be released from war work. The long-term plan aims at providing an adequate

road system to meet the needs of agriculture and industry.

(The Statesman, 20-4-1943.)

Commission set up to deal with Demobilisation Problems
by Government of India.

The Government of India has appointed a commission to deal generally with demobilization problems. The commission consists of Sir Colin Garbett (senior Member) and an officer of the Demobilization Directorate, G.H.Q. (Member). The members of the commission will shortly visit different provinces to find out in consultation with local Governments the possibilities and problems of post-war reconstruction.

(The Statesman, 9-4-1943.)

Employment

Prevention of Hartals except in Furtherance of Trade Disputes:
Amendment of Defence of India Rules.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 2 of the Defence of India Act, 1939, the Government of India has made certain amendments to the Defence of India Rules the object of which is the prevention of hartals in places of employment. A hartal is defined as "any concerted cessation of work or refusal to work by a body of persons employed in any place of employment, except a cessation or refusal in furtherance of a trade dispute with which such body of persons is directly concerned." "trade dispute" means a trade dispute as defined in the Trade Disputes Act, 1929.

The amendments effected empower Provincial Governments to order the owners or managements of places of employment where a hartal is in progress to take steps to stop the hartal and to keep such places of employment open for the unimpeded employment of workers therein. Contravention of the order is made punishable with ~~imprisonment~~ imprisonment up to ~~six~~ 5 years or with fine which may go up to Rs. 500,000.

(The Gazette of India, Part I, Sec. 1,
dated 17-4-1943, pages 414-414).

Women's Work

Women's Auxiliary Nursing Service.

The following information about the progress registered by the women's Auxiliary Nursing Service, instituted in 1941, to meet the growing need for an adequate nursing service occasioned by the war, is taken from "Indian Information" dated 15-4-1943:

The first training class of the Auxiliary Nursing Service began in October 1941. By October, 1942, there were 1,563 members trained and 99 under training. There were 1,026 Auxiliary Nurses, including 57 members of the old I.V.A.S. in service with the Army. All provinces participated in the scheme, the Nurses Registration Committee gave it their support and 87 civil hospitals with training facilities co-operated. During the first year the original target of 1,000 members was passed and a new scheme of training was adopted from October, 1942, in which emphasis was laid on the selection and training of candidates with certain minimum qualifications prepared to volunteer for general service and to ~~serve~~ serve till the end of the war and for six months after. To avoid the absorption of nurses in the Women's Auxiliary Corps, it was decided that candidates with nursing training would not ordinarily,

be accepted for that body.

A statement on the recruiting position by the Chief Lady Superintendent shows that up-to-date over 15,000 applications have been received for admission to the service, nearly one-third of these (4,930) being from Madras, 1,450 from Bengal and 1,300 from Bombay. Up-to-date 1,953 nurses have been trained or are under training - 1,656 for general and 297 for local service. Of the 297 candidates who have offered to serve overseas 150 are already outside India. Madras has contributed nearly a third of the total number of nurses and Bombay one-fifth. Classified by communities, 603 of the nurses are Anglo-Indians, 543 Indian Christians, 123 Hindus, 24 Parsis, 5 Sikhs and 11 Muslims.

The dearth of Indian candidates was commented upon and a number of suggestions were made for raising the status of the nurses, providing better accommodation and generally making the service more acceptable to good class Indian girls. The Government of India are revising the conditions of service for the members of the Auxiliary Nursing Service, India (General Service). In addition to free board (rations, messing and mess servants) and lodging (accommodation, ~~further~~ furniture and light) the rates of pay will now be Rs. 100-2/2-120-3-126 for the Uncertificated Auxiliary Nurses.

("Indian Information", 15-4-1943.)

War Transport

Sorley Scheme for Country Craft Traffic on West Coast to be Revised.

Reference was made at pages 47-48 of our February, 1943, report to the recommendations submitted by the Sorley Committee for increasing the volume of traffic carried by country craft on the west coast of India and the Government's action thereon. It is now understood that the scheme will be reviewed shortly. The plan has relieved the burden on railways, but has not attained the expected efficiency. In some areas cargo for the return journey is lacking; in others, shipping companies compete with country craft for the same goods. By May the monsoon breaks and for four months country craft will not be used. The period will be utilized for readjustment according to the experience gained. It is possible that ~~the~~ control will be exercised on steamships plying between Karachi and Bombay to eliminate competition and make country craft and steamship complement each other. Fleets of country craft may be organized to ensure regular two-way traffic between certain areas on the west coast.

(The Statesman, 8-4-1943.)

Navigation

Seamen's Work under War Conditions:

National Seamen's Unions Demands:

Wages during periods of sickness and Detention by Enemy.

Efforts are being made by representative bodies of Indian seamen to ventilate their grievances and to seek remedies. A deputation of representatives of the National Seamen's Union, Bombay, waited on Mr. T.S. Pillay, Joint Secretary, Commerce Department, Government of India, on 19-4-1943 at Bombay.

The deputation desired that some sections of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act should be amended and the section relating to the system

of licensed brokers should be abolished altogether. They pointed out that it was necessary to provide that, in case of shipwreck, the agreement of service should not be terminated, as all ships were fully covered; also that when a seaman was reported sick, he should continue to receive his wages. The deputation further urged that provision should be made in the Act enabling a seaman, detained in ~~any~~ an enemy country or at any port belonging to the Allies, to continue to receive his wages for the full period of such detention either during or after the war.

In his reply to the deputation, Mr. Pillay pointed out that the Act could not be amended during the war unless the amendment was urgent and imperative. He assured the deputationists that cases of late payment and immediate relief to rescued crews would be considered and promised that he would communicate with shipowners on the need for improvement in the accommodation given to Indian seamen on ships and that the question of revision of pensions would be sympathetically considered by Government.

It is learnt in this connection that a conference of seamen and shipowners will be held in Delhi shortly to consider questions affecting seamen, arising from war conditions. The conference aims at certain provisions being made in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act to safeguard the interests of seamen.

("Indian Finance" dated 24-4-1943.)

SOCIAL INSURANCE

Compensation for War Injuries

Government Bill referred to Select Committee.

Reference was made at pages 51-52 of our March 1943 report to a Bill introduced in the Central Legislative Assembly, by the Labour Member, Government of India, for imposing on employers a liability to pay compensation to workmen sustaining war injuries.

A motion to refer the Bill to a Select Committee was adopted by the Assembly on 31-3-1943.

During the debate on this motion, Mr. Miller (European Group) raised objection to the Bill arguing that the Bill favoured certain workmen, as against the ordinary citizens, giving these workmen more than double the compensation payable to others under the war injuries scheme.

Supporting the motion, Mr. N.M. Joshi pointed out that no justification was required for the so-called "discrimination" referred to by Mr. Miller, as workmen had to stay and work in factories under great risks, and as such had every right to be fully compensated. He, however, wished that the Bill provided for compensation to all classes of workmen, and especially the Assam plantation labourers and seamen.

Answering the points raised by Mr. Joshi, Dr. Ambedkar, Labour Member, explained that the measure had to be restricted to certain classes of workmen, as it was impossible for Government to increase generally the scale of relief under the war injuries scheme or to undertake an indefinite liability to pay further compensation to a particular class of employees from Government funds. He added that the Bill, however, contained provision for extending when necessary ~~the~~ the benefits of the scheme to other classes of workmen, and said that Assam plantations were not exposed centres at present, but should they become exposed centres, the Government would take steps to bring Assam labour within the scheme.

(The Hindustan Times, 1-4-1943.)

Views of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce
on War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Bill, 1943.

The Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce has raised the following points in regard to the Government of India's War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Bill, 1943, (Vide pages 51-52 of our March 1943 report) introduced in the Central Assembly on 11-3-1943:

(1) The Committee is of opinion that the cost of compensation for injuries to workmen arising directly from hostile attack should essentially be for the account of Government.

(2) The following points in the Bill require clarification: (i) The definition of 'workmen' appears to include clerical staff of the employers. If this was intended, the Bill should specifically say so. (ii) War allowances which were, or should be, of temporary war-time operation should not be included with the wages in the assessment of compensation and they should be specifically excluded.

(3) Finally, the Committee considers that the Bill should have been circulated for opinion before it was introduced into the House. It required a great deal of study, and it is probable that many difficulties would have become apparent after more detailed examination than was possible in the short time available.

(4) The Committee feels that there was no need to push the Bill through at the last minute and that it may be adduced that Government's anxiety to do so was for revenue purposes rather than anything else.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for March, 1943.)+

Scheme for Merger of Small States with Larger States:
Crown Representative's Decision. †

According to a communiqué issued by the Government of India in the second week of April 1943, a scheme of qualified merger of small Indian States with neighbouring larger ones with whom they have geographical, economic and political affinities has been decided upon by the Crown Representative.

The scheme, says the "communiqué", is intended to deal with the "perplexing political and administrative problems" which arise from the existence of literally hundreds of such small units. These units fall within the category of "Indian States", but owing to the slenderness of their individual resources and general aversion from neighbourly co-operation, they are unable to provide adequate amenities for their subjects. The communiqué refers to the ~~similar~~ discussion of the problem in the period preceding the Government of India Act, 1935. Later, the Government of Baroda State (to whom many of the small units in Western India and Gujerat are tributary) brought forward proposals to bring these tributaries into closer relations with Baroda State. A fresh approach to the problem has since been made on the lines of these proposals and on a wider basis with a view to affording to other larger States an opportunity to assume similar responsibilities in respect of units which have similar geographical, economic and political affinities with them. As a result, the Crown Representative, acting with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, has decided to adopt a wider scheme of merger. The States, to which such responsibilities are to be transferred have been apprised of these details, as also have the units to be attached which collectively cover an area of over 7,000 square miles with a population of over 800,000 and an annual revenue of more than ₹7,000,000.

(The Times of India, 17-4-1943.)

The Times of India in an editorial article commends the merger scheme ~~of~~ and says: "The people of the small States....should benefit from incorporation in larger units with better administrative and educational facilities. There may be room for improvement as regards the details of the Viceroy's scheme, but with its principle there will be general agreement." (*The Times of India 17-4-43*).

The Hindu dated 17-4-1943 in a leading article on the subject sounds a note of criticism mainly on the ground that the change is not sufficiently democratic and progressive, but means only the creation of a new feudal tenure. It says: "But why should the merger be with States alone? It is obvious that there are many small States which have far greater affinities with the adjacent British Indian territories..... The proposed merger is described as 'partial'; but whether partial or full, it will be a transaction that will profoundly affect the future of the inhabitants of these small States. Should they not have a voice in such a transaction? At a time when the States peoples are pressing for self-government and democratic institutions which would bring them into line with their compatriots outside the States and lead without undue delay to the evolution of a common citizenship, common loyalties and uniform institutions for all India, the Crown Representative's decision cannot but be regarded as a reactionary move..... If the Crown Representative persists in putting this scheme through in the teeth of popular opposition which we foresee, it will be difficult to avoid the conclusion that it is the result of a deliberate move on the part of Britain to organise the bigger States as a second line of defence against India's demand for freedom."

(The Hindu, 17-4-1943.)+

Viceroy's Executive Council:
New Appointments

The following appointments were announced on 2-5-1943 to the Viceroy's Executive Council:-

To be Member for Supply: The Hon'ble Dewan Bahadur Sir A. Ramaswami Mudaliar, K.C.S.I., at present a representative of India ~~on~~ the War Cabinet.

To be Commerce Member: Sir Muhammad Azizul Haque, C.I.E., at present High Commissioner for India in London.

To be Member in charge of Information and Broadcasting: The Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed.

To be Law Member in succession to the Hon'ble Sir Sultan Ahmed: Sir Ashoke Kumar Roy.

To be Member in charge of the Department of Indians Overseas: Dr. N.B. Khare.

* The Governor-General has appointed Sir S.E. Ranganadhan, at present an Adviser to the Secretary of State for India, to be High Commissioner for India in London in succession to Sir Muhammad Azizul Haque.

The new appointments bring the total strength of the Executive Council to 13.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-5-1943.)+

List of the more important publications received in this Office
during April 1943.

National Labour Legislation.-

- (1) The Travancore Maternity Benefit Bill, 1942.
 - (2) The Mysore Labour Act, 1942 (Act XXII of 1942) (price Re.0-1-6).
 - (3) The Mysore War Injuries Act, 1942 (Act XXVI of 1942) Price Re.0-1-6).
 - (4) Essential Services (Maintenance) Act, 1942 (Act No. XXIII of 1942 - Mysore) (Price Re. 0-0-6).
 - (5) Mysore Motor Vehicles (Drivers) Act, 1942 (Act XXVI of 1942) (price Re. 0-0-6).
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- (4) ~~Guide to Current Official Statistics. Vol. I - Production and Prices. Prepared under the instruction from the Economic Adviser by S. Subramanian, Statistician. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1943. Price Rs. 4-0-0 or 6s.6d.~~
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