

H.

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

---  
Report for June 1937.

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

C O N T E N T S.

	<u>Pages.</u>
1. <u>References to the I. L. O.</u> ...	1 - 12
2. <u>National Labour Legislation.</u>	
(a) <u>Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923: Certain Provisions Extended to Delhi Province.</u>	13
(b) <u>The Delhi Factories Rules, 1937.</u>	14
(c) <u>The Delhi Maternity Benefit Rules, 1937.</u>	14
(d) <u>Revised Leave Rules for Permanent and Temporary Salaried Government Press Employees of the Bombay Presidency.</u>	14
(e) <u>Mysore Civil Procedure Code (Amendment) Act, 1937: Arrest and Imprisonment of Honest Debtors Prohibited.</u>	15
3. <u>Conditions of Labour</u>	
(a) <u>General Wage Census, Bombay: Labour Office Report on Textile Industry.</u>	16-22
(b) <u>Prevention of Bribery in Bombay Textile Mills: Action taken by Millowners' Association, Bombay.</u>	23-24
(c) <u>Employment of Women in Underground Work in Mines: Complete Exclusion postponed to 1-10-1937.</u>	25-26
(d) <u>New Labour Code for French India: 8-Hour Day for Industrial and Agricultural Workers.</u>	26-29
(e) <u>Conditions of Work of Indian Shop Assistants in Calcutta: Calcutta Dress and Cloth Assistants' Association formed.</u>	29-30
(f) <u>Eliminated Underground Workers: Bihar Government's Efforts to find Alternative Occupations.</u>	31-32
(g) <u>Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter ending 31-3-1937.</u>	32-33
(h) <u>British Administered Areas in Hyderabad State: Extension of Factory Act.</u>	34
(i) <u>Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for various Centres in India during March 1937.</u>	34-35
(j) <u>Payment of Wages Act, 1936: Results of Application in Bombay Textile Mills.</u>	35-36
4. <u>Industrial Organisation.</u>	
<u>Workers' Organisations.</u>	
(a) <u>16th Annual Conference of the E.B. Railway Employees' Association, Lalmonirhat, 1937.</u>	37
(b) <u>Bombay Textile Workers' Conference: Formulation of General Demands.</u>	37-39
(c) <u>Minimum Demands of C.P. Textile Workers: Formulated by Nagpur Textile Union.</u>	39-40
(d) <u>14th Half-yearly Meeting Between the A.I.R.F. and the Railway Board: Agenda of Meeting of 5 &amp; 6-7-1937.</u>	40-42
(e) <u>11th Annual Conference of M.S.M. Railway Employees' Union, Arkonam, 1937: Comprehensive Labour Code Advocated.</u>	42-47

	<u>Pages</u>
5. <u>Economic Conditions.</u>	
(a) Development of fisheries: Sind Government's Plans.	44-45
(b) 3rd Session of the Industrial Research Council: Session to be held at Bombay on 5-7-1937.	45-46
(c) Protection of Minor Industries: Government of India institutes Inquiry.	46-47
6. <u>Employment and Unemployment.-</u>	
(a) Educated Unemployed in U.P.:Scheme for an Indus- trial Co-operative Society.	48
(b) Unemployment in Ceylon:Collective Farms for Un- employed.	49
(c) Unemployment in C.P.:Personnel of Unemployment Advisory Committee Announced.	49-50
(d) Unemployment in the Punjab:Statistics to be collected.	50
(e) Educated Unemployment in Aligarh:Employment Bureau Set up by Aligarh University.	50-51
(f) Settling Landless Unemployed on Forest Lands: Details of Successful Bombay Scheme.	51-53
(g) Unemployment in Bihar:Government Creates new Portfolio of Employment.	53
(h) Unemployment in Sind:Scheme to start Industries.	54
(i) Unemployment in Assam:View of Assam Chamber of Commerce.	54-55
7. <u>Social Conditions.</u>	
Beggars Nuisance in Delhi:Scheme for starting Poor House.	56-57
8. <u>Public Health.</u>	
(a) Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines,1935-36.	58-61
(b) Inaugural Meeting of Central Advisory Board of Health, Simla,23-6-1937:Coordination of Public Health Services.	61-63
9. <u>Co-operation.</u>	
(a) Progress of Co-operation in Ajmer-Merwara,1935-36.	64-65
(b) Growth of Co-operative Societies in Bombay Mills:	65-66
(c) Progress of Co-operation in Cochin State,1935-36.	66
10. <u>Women and Children.</u>	
Women Workers in C.P.:Prohibition to work in Certain Services of Public Works Department.	67
11. <u>Education.</u>	
(a) Industrial and Vocational Education in Baroda.	68
(b) Bureau of Education: Government of India's Decision to revive Institution.	68-69
12. <u>Agriculture.-</u>	
(a) Agricultural Marketing in India: Work of Central Marketing Staff.	70-72
(b) 5-year Plan of Rural Development in Hyderabad State.	72-73
(c) Debt Conciliation Boards in Cochin.	74
13. <u>Maritime Affairs.</u>	
(a) 1st Session of All India Seamen's Conference, Calcutta,5 and 6-6-1937.	75-78

- (b) Recruitment of Indian Seamen: Conditions in Bombay . 79-80
- (c) National Seamen's Union, Bombay: Establishment of State Employment Bureau for Seamen urged. 80-81
- 14. Migration.  
The Government of Burma (Immigration) Order, 1937. 82
- 15. General.  
Redistribution of Portfolios in the Viceroy's Executive Council: Separate Department of **Comm**unications Created. 83-84

References to the I. L. O.

The June 1937 issue of "Industrial India", Delhi, reproduces the speech of Mr. B.M.Birla at the Washington Textile Conference.

\* \* \*  
The Leader dated 7-6-1937 publishes an editorial note on the speech of Mr. B.M.Birla referred to above. The note criticises Mr. Birla's references to industrial relations in India and points out that industrial centres in India, including even Ahmedabad, are not free from disputes to the extent that Mr. Birla represents.

\* \* \*  
A communique giving text of Mr. R.R.Bakhale's speech at the Washington Textile Conference (issued by this Office on 10-5-1937) is published by the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 8-6-1937.

\* \* \*  
The Hindustan Times dated 21-6-1937 publishes a group photograph of the Indian delegation to the Washington Textile Conference. (source not known).

\* \* \*  
The Railway Herald dated 23-5-1937 publishes a short note giving names of the members of the Indian Workers' Delegation to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*  
The June 1937 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, publishes the proceedings of a meeting held under the auspices of the Calcutta Postal Union at Calcutta on 23-4-1937 to congratulate Mr. Satis Chandra Sen on his nomination as the Indian Workers' delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*  
A Reuter's message dated 29-5-1937 from London to the effect that Sir Firoz Khan Noon will be leaving for Geneva on 30-5-1937 to attend the 23rd I.L.Conference, is published by the Hindu dated 30-5-1937 and the Leader dated 1-6-1937.

\* \* \*  
A communique re. the items on the agenda of the 23rd I.L. Conference (issued by this Office on 3-6-1937) is published by the following: The Bombay Chronicle, the Hindustan Times and the Guardian, Madras, of 3-6-1937, the Leader dated 5-6-1937, the Statesman dated 6-6-1937 and "Commerce and Industry" dated 8-6-1937.

\* \* \*  
A Reuter's message dated 10-6-1937 from Geneva on the speech of Sir H.P.Mody in the course of the debate on the Director's

Report is published by the Hindu dated 11-6-1937, the Bombay Chronicle, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Times of India, the Hindustan Times, the Statesman and the National Call of 12-6-1937, the Leader dated 14-6-1937 and "Commerce", Bombay, dated 19-6-1937. He is reported to have complained against the scant attention paid in the Report to conditions in Asiatic countries.

\* \* \*

A communique giving extracts from the speech of Sir H.P.Mody on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 24-6-1937) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 25-6-1937.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 11-6-1937 publishes an editorial article on the above. The article supports Sir Hormusji's criticism that the I.L.O. is paying scant attention to conditions in the East. While maintaining that India is not opposed to the application of I.L. Conventions to India, the article says: "Wages, hours of work, rest, leisure, amenities, the general conditions of labour—these differ from industry to industry, and place to place. Prolonged investigation is necessary to construct a fair measure which will enable us to determine the comparative position of a worker in India working under Indian conditions and of his confrere in the West. The International Labour Office will do well if it bestows some attention on a careful study of labour conditions in the East before it endeavours to force down the throats of the countries of the East labour standards which are ludicrously out of tune with Eastern conditions."

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 14-6-1937 publishes an editorial article on Sir Hormusji's speech referred to above. The article criticises Sir Hormusji's plea for slowing down the pace of ratification of I.L. Conventions and asserts that the appalling poverty and unemployment in the country, the existence of which was admitted by Sir Hormusji, furnishes convincing arguments for the speeding up of ratifications and not for slowing them down.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 14-6-1937 publishes an editorial note criticising Sir Hormusji's speech referred to above. While appreciating his references to the indebtedness and poverty of the masses, the note criticises his opposition to I.L. Conventions

which, the note points out, have been drawn up with a view to improve the conditions of workers the world over.

\* \* \*

A Reuter's message dated 11-6-1937 from Geneva on the speech of Mr. S.C.Sen, the Indian workers' delegate, in the course of the debate on the Director's Report is published by the Hindu dated 12-6-1937, the National Call, the Hindustan Times and the Statesman dated 13-6-1937, the Times of India dated 14-6-1937 and the Leader dated 15-6-1937.

\* \* \*

A communique giving extracts from the speech of Mr. Satis Chandra Sen on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 23-6-1937) is published by the following: the National Call dated 24-6-1937 and the Hindustan Times dated 25-6-1937.

\* \* \*

A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1937 from Geneva giving a few points from Sir Frank Noyce's speech in the course of the debate on the Director's Report is published by the Hindu dated 15-6-1937, the Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Times of India dated 16-6-1937 and the Leader and the Bombay Chronicle dated 17-6-1937.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 16-6-1937 publishes an editorial note on the above. The note criticises the inaction of the Government of India in the face of the depression and points out that the Government is "more engaged in discovering excuses for doing nothing than in finding out means by which the misery caused by the slump might be reduced."

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 20-6-1937 reproduces a short editorial note on the above from "Advance", Calcutta. The paper criticises the explanations given by Sir Frank for the inaction of the Government of India in the matter of initiating far-reaching social programmes.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 17-6-1937 publishes an editorial note on Sir Frank's speech criticising his assertion that India has been steadily following the ideals actuating the I.L.O. It says: "The actual facts are that "India" that is to say the British Administration in India, has been carrying out the ideals "in its own way" by rejecting almost all the I.L.O. Conventions, by

pigeon-holing the recommendations for over no less than six years and then by perfunctorily carrying out a mere fraction of them."

\* \* \*

A Reuter's message dated 18-6-1937 from Geneva giving a summary of the speech of Mr. G.L.Mehta, Adviser to the Indian employers' delegate, opposing the revision of the Minimum Age Convention is published by the Hindu dated 18-6-1937, the Statesman, the Hindustan Times and the Bombay Chronicle dated 20-6-1937 and the Times of India, the Leader and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 21-6-1937.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 25-6-1937 publishes an editorial note on the opposition of the Indian employers' delegate to the revision of the Minimum Age and Reduction of Hours of Work Conventions. While paying a tribute to the role of the I.L.O. in influencing India to adopt numerous measures of ameliorative labour legislation, the note expresses the opinion that a 40-hour week and a higher minimum age are not at present in the interest of Indian workers.

\* \* \*

A Reuter's message dated 19-6-1937 from Geneva to the effect that the I.L.Conference adopted the first reading of the Revision of the Minimum Age (Non-industrial) Convention is published by the Hindu dated 20-6-1937, the Statesman, the Times of India, the Hindustan Times, the National Call and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 21-6-1937 and the Leader and the Bombay Chronicle dated 22-6-1937. The same message also gives a long summary of Sir H.P. Mody's speech opposing the 40-hour proposal for the textile industry.

\* \* \*

A Reuter's message dated 21-6-1937 from Geneva to the effect that Mr. Naidu, adviser to the Indian Workers' delegate, appealed to employers to be more considerate in improving the conditions of workers and to accept I.L.Conventions is published by the Hindu and the Statesman dated 22-6-1937, the Hindustan Times, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle dated 23-6-1937 and the Leader dated 25-6-1937. The message also states that the Conference adopted the first reading of the three Conventions regarding the 40-hour week and a resolution sponsored by Mr. S.C.Sen regarding the future position of Burma vis-a-vis the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

A Reuter's message dated 23-6-1937 from Geneva to the effect that the I.L.Conference adopted the Convention providing for a 40-hour week for the textile industry is published by the Hindustan Times and <sup>the</sup> Times of India dated 24-6-1937 and the Leader dated 25-6-37. The same message states that similar Conventions, relating to the Chemical and Printing Industries failed to get the requisite majority.

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 24-6-1937 publishes the above. The Statesman report, however, mentions that the Conventions re. the provision of a 40-hour week for the chemical and printing industries also got the necessary two-thirds majority.

\* \* \*

The National Call, the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 24-6-1937 publish the first portion of the above message.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 25-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note welcoming the news of the adoption of the Convention re. a 40-Hour week in textile industry and expressing the fear that India may not be benefited by the Convention *(owing to non-ratification)*

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 24-6-1937 publishes the news item that the Draft Conventions re. the 40-hour week in the chemical and printing industries failed to secure the necessary majority.

\* \* \*

A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1937 to the effect that Messrs. D.S.Erulkar <sup>and</sup> N.M.Joshi were elected to represent employers and workers respectively in the Governing Body of the I.L.O. is published by the Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the Times of India, the Amrita Bazar Patrika and the Bombay Chronicle dated 25.6.1937.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 25-6-1937 publishes a local message to the effect that Mr. N.M.Joshi was elected to the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 17-6-1937 publishes a letter from the Geneva Correspondent of the paper dated 9-6-1937 on the proceedings of the 23rd session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 14-6-1937 publishes a letter dated 5-6-1937 from Geneva from the Swiss correspondent of the paper, in the



course of which references are made to the proceedings of the 25rd session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 21-6-1937 publishes a long letter dated 12-6-1937 from Geneva from the Swiss correspondent of the paper on the proceedings of the 25rd I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 18-6-1937 publishes an editorial article under the caption: "India and Labour Conference." The article condemns the practice of India being represented at international conferences by non-nationals and those who do not represent the popular opinion and draws attention to the fact that the I.L.Conference provides a forum for the ventilation of India's grievances, and for thus influencing international public opinion.

\* \* \*

"Federated India", Madras, dated 2-6-1937 reproduces the article "Is Industrial Recovery Permanent? I.L.O. Director on Lessons of the Depression" contributed by Mr. Herbert Tracey to "Industrial News", (British F.U.C.), dated 4-5-1937. Copies of the article were sent to this and a few other journals by this Office.

\* \* \*

The Leader <sup>and</sup> the Bombay Chronicle dated 16-6-1937 and the Hindu dated 19-6-1937 publish an article under the caption: "40-hour Week: Results achieved in U.S.A. and France" contributed by this Office. The article is based on information given in the renewed report on the work of the Washington Textile Conference.

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 7-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the speech of Mr. Boothman, General Secretary, Manchester Spinners' Amalgamation, at the Conference of the International Federation of Textile Workers' Association held at Blackpool, England, recently. The note comments on Mr. Boothman's view that a 40-hour week is harmful to the Lancashire textile industry, and says: "There are those who advocate the adoption of a 40-hour week in India, and we ~~xx~~ suppose that at the forthcoming session of the International Labour Conference where the question will come up for discussion, expression will be given to this view by the spokesmen of Indian labour. We could wish that their wishes were capable of realization, but do they seriously think that the present is an opportune time

for such a reform, assuming it to be equitable? When even in Britain, the oldest manufacturing country in the world, not only the Government and employers, but also workers feel that a 40-hour week would injure the textile industry, how much more injurious would it be to the Indian textile industry, which is much weaker?"

\* \* \*

An article under the caption: "The 40-Hour Week Ideal: Need Reduced Hours mean Reduced Wages" (contributed by this Office on 28-5-1937) is published by the following: the Hindu dated 7-6-1937, the Leader dated 4-6-1937, the Bombay Chronicle dated 10-6-1937, the Indian Labour Journal dated 13-6-1937 and the June 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal.

\* \* \*

A communiqué on the 20th session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 10-6-1937) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the National Call dated 11-6-1937, "Commerce and Industry" dated 15-6-1937 and the Times of India dated 14-6-1937.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 15-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note under the heading: "I.L.O. Director". The note refers to the announcement of the Director's visit to Eastern countries and states that such a visit would be very welcome as it would give him an insight into the economic and industrial problems peculiar to the East.

\* \* \*

A communiqué on the unveiling at the I.L.O. Headquarters, Geneva, of the Daniel Le Grand memorial plaque (issued by this Office on 9-6-1937) is published by the Hindustan Times dated 9-6-1937.

\* \* \*

The March 1937 issue of the Bombay Cooperative Quarterly publishes an article under the caption: "Trade Unions and the Co-operative Movement in the U.S.A.; A Lesson to India" contributed by this Office. The article is based on notes published in "Co-operative Information." In the course of the article, reference is made to the interest of the I.L.O. in the co-operative movement.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 7-6-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "Organisation of Peasants: State Initiative in Bulgaria" contributed by this Office. The article is based on a note on the subject published in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 29-3-1937.

\*                    \*                    \*

The Hindustan Times dated 17-6-1937, and the Bombay Chronicle dated 23-6-1937 publish an article under the caption "Industrialisation of Afghanistan: Regulation of Conditions in factories," contributed by this Office. The article is based on a note on the subject published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 24-5-1937.

The Bombay Chronicle dated 3-6-1937 and the Hindu dated 7-6-1937 publish an article contributed by this Office under the caption: "Indian Trade Disputes Act Amendment: Recent French Legislation Provides a Pointer." The article is based on certain notes published in the issues of "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 22-2-1937 and 29-3-1937.

\*                    \*                    \*

The Hindustan Times dated 7-6-1937 publishes an article contributed by Mr. Herbert Tracey under the caption: "Paid Holidays and the Shorter Working Week: Why the Movement is growing" and published in "Industrial News" (British Trade Union Congress) dated 4-5-1937. Copies of the article were sent to a few journals by this Office.

\*                    \*                    \*

The Leader dated 24-6-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "Asiatic Labour Conference," contributed anonymously by a member of the Staff of this Office. The article describes the steps that are being taken by the I.L.O. to hold a regional conference of Asiatic countries.

\*                    \*                    \*

"Commerce", Bombay, dated 19-6-1937 publishes an article under the caption: "Economic Nationalism or Co-operation?" contributed by a member of the Staff of this Office. References are made in the article to the Director's Report and to the efforts of the I.L.O. to promote international co-operation.

\*                    \*                    \*

The June 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal publishes a short life sketch of Sir Homi Mehta. Reference is made to his work at the 20th session of the I.L.Conference which he attended as the Indian employers' delegate.

\* \* \*

The June 1937 issue of the Indian Textile Journal publishes an article contributed by Mr. D. Ghose under the caption: "Minimum Living Wage". In the course of the article references are made to the I.L.Convention re. Minimum Wage fixing Machinery.

\* \* \*

"Commerce and Industry", dated 15-6-1937 ~~publishes a reproduction of~~ the item: "The Director's Report" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(a) (June 1937).

\* \* \*

"Commerce and Industry", dated 22-6-1937 reproduces the items: "Reduction of Hours of Work" and "Unemployment among Middle-aged workers" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(b) (June 1937). (Copies of the News Bulletin were sent to this and other papers by this Office).

\* \* \*

The Leader dated 7-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the proposal of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry that the conclusions of the International Sugar Conference should be submitted to the Central Legislature of India before this country is made a party to them. The note supports this proposal and instances the case of the submission of I.L.Conventions to the Central Legislature in support of this procedure.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 4-6-1937 publishes a summary of the speech of Mr. C.C.Biswas at the 17th Session of the League Assembly. Mr. Biswas dealt with the claims of India for better representation on the staffs of the League Institutions and for substantial reduction in India's contribution to the League. Reference is also made in the message to the proposal for shifting the Bombay Branch of the League to Delhi. (A summary of the speech of Mr. Biswas was published in most of the Indian papers.)

\* \* \*

The Statesman dated 7-6-1937 publishes a short editorial note on the above. The note supports the various points raised by Mr. Biswas.

\* \* \*

The Hindu dated 4-6-1937 publishes a short editorial article

supporting the points raised by Mr. Biswas.

\* \* \*

The Servant of India dated 3-6-1937 publishes a review of the book "Problems of Peace": 9th series. References are made in the course of the review to the contributions on the I.L.O. included in the volume.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times dated 15-6-1937 publishes a summary of the annual report of the Servants of India Society for 1936-37. References are made in the course of the report to the activities of Mr. N.M.Joshi at the October 1936 session of the Governing Body and to the book on the I.L.O. written in Kanarese by Mr. Dinkar Desai. (A summary of the annual report appeared in most of the papers).

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 9-6-1937 publishes an article under the caption "Imperial Problems which must be solved" contributed by Prof. A. Berriedale Keith to the May 1937 issue of "Headway". Reference is made to the decisions of the Privy Council regarding certain legislative enactments which Canada recently adopted to implement some of the I.L.Conventions which it has ratified.

\* \* \*

The National Call dated 6-6-1937 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 9-6-1937 publish an article under the heading: "Forced Labour in Orissa States" contributed by Mr. S.R.Das. Reference is made in the article to the I.L.Convention on Forced Labour and to the efforts of the Government of India to implement the Provisions of the Convention.

\* \* \*

The Amrita Bazar Patrika (issues of 7 and 9-6-1937) publishes details of the 1st session of the All India Seamen's Conference held at Calcutta recently. A resolution passed at the Conference urged the Government of India to ratify the various I.L.Conventions adopted at the 21st and 22nd (Maritime) sessions of the I.L. Conference. The Statesman dated 9-6-1937 also publishes a summary of the resolutions passed at the above Conference.

\* \* \*

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 12-6-1937 publishes a letter dated 8-6-1937 from its Calcutta correspondent in the course of which reference is made to resolutions passed by the All India Seamen's Conference.

\* \* \*

The Bombay Chronicle dated 22-6-1937 publishes a letter to the editor under the caption "Indian Seamen". The letter expresses dissatisfaction with the Government of India for the inadequate attention paid by it to I.L.Conventions regarding seamen.

\* \* \*

The Times of India dated 22-6-1937 publishes the report of a meeting of the National Seamen's Union, Bombay, held on 20-6-1937 at which resolutions were passed demanding the establishment of employment bureau as envisaged in the I.L.Convention of 1920 (Convention re. Placing of Seamen).

\* \* \*

Volume I of the Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for 1936 publishes at page 134 the recommendations of the Chamber as regards the nomination of the Indian employers' delegate to the 23rd I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The same issue as above publishes at pages 134-135 the controversy raised by the Associated Chambers of Commerce regarding the competence of Chambers of Commerce to make recommendations regarding the nomination of the employers' delegation to Maritime Sessions of the I.L.Conference. (For details, vide pages 39-41 of our February 1937 report).

\* \* \*

The same issue as above publishes at pages 135-136 the views of the Chamber on the revision of the Minimum Age (Sea) Convention. The Chamber supported the proposed revision.

\* \* \*

A British Official Wireless message dated 24-6-1937 from London to the effect that the British Minister for Labour in the course of a statement in the Commons declared that his Government's policy has been always one of sympathy to the I.L.O. and to I.L. Conventions, is published in the Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 25-6-1937.

\* \* \*

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

1. "Commerce and Industry" dated 15-6-1937 reproduces the item: "The Director's Report" from the I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(a) (June 1937).

2. "Commerce and Industry" dated 22-6-1937 reproduces the

items: "Reduction of Hours of Work" and "Unemployment among Middle-aged Workers" from the I.L.O. News Bulletin No.14(b) (June 1937).

\* \* \*

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian press during June 1937:-

1. A group photograph of the Indian delegates to the Washington Textile Conference (source not known).
2. A Reuter's message dated 10-6-1937 from Geneva re. speech of Sir H.P.Mody on the Director's Report.
3. A Reuter's message dated 11-6-1937 from Geneva re. Mr. S.C. Sen's speech on the Director's Report.
4. A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1937 from Geneva re. Sir Frank Noyce's speech on the Director's Report.
5. A Reuter's message dated 18-6-1937 from Geneva re. Mr. G.L. Mehta's speech on the revision of the Minimum Age Convention.
6. A Reuter's message dated 19-6-1937 from Geneva re. the 1st reading of the Revision of the Minimum Age (Non-Industrial <sup>Employment</sup>) Convention and Sir H.P.Mody's speech opposing the 40-Hour week proposal for the textile industry.
7. A Reuter's message dated 21-6-1937 from Geneva re. Mr. Naidu's appeal to the employers for greater consideration of workers' welfare and the first reading of the 40-Hour Week Convention.
8. A Reuter's message dated 23-6-1937 from Geneva re. the adoption of the 40-Hour Week (Textile Industry) Convention and the non-adoption of the other two 40-Hour Week Conventions.
9. A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1937 from Geneva re. election of Messrs D.S.Erulkar and K.K.Joshi to the Governing Body.
10. A Geneva letter dated 9-6-1937 (published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 17-6-1937) re. the progress of the 23rd I.L. Conference.
11. A Geneva letter dated 5-6-1937 (published in the Hindu dated 14-6-1937) re. the 23rd I.L.Conference.
12. A Geneva letter dated 12-6-1937 (published in the Hindu dated 21-6-1937) re. the 23rd I.L.Conference.
13. A British Official Wireless message dated 24-6-1937 from London re. the British Labour Ministers defence in Parliament of the Government's policy towards the I.L.O.

-----

National Labour Legislation.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923:

Certain Provisions Extended to Delhi Province. .

The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, has, by a notification, extended the provisions of sub-Section (1) of Section 10-B of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, (Reports of Fatal accidents) to all premises in Delhi Province in which the following classes of workmen are employed, and has specified that a report of every accident occurring in any such premises which results in death, and of the circumstances attending the accident, shall be sent by the employer concerned to the Commissioner within seven days of the death:

(1) Persons employed in the construction, repair or demolition of - (a) any building which is designed to be or is or has been more than one storey in height above the ground or twenty feet or more from the ground level to the apex of the roof: or (b) any dam or embankment which is twenty feet or more in height from its lowest to its highest point: or (c) any road, bridge, or tunnel.

(2) Persons employed, otherwise than in a clerical capacity, in the construction, working, repair, or demolition of any aerial ropeway, canal, pipe-line, or sewer.

(3) Persons employed in the service of any fire brigade.

(4) Persons employed in the operation of any ferry boat capable of carrying more than ten persons.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-6-1937).



The Delhi Factories Rules, 1937.

Attention is directed to pages 507 to 529 of Part II-A of the Gazette of India dated 5-6-1937 where are published the Delhi Factories Rules, 1937. These Rules have been promulgated by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, as Notification No. 5423-Industries dated 1-6-1937.

The Delhi Maternity Benefit Rules, 1937.

Reference was made at pages 5-6 of our December 1936 Report to the extension to the Delhi Province of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, with suitable modifications. At pages 529 to 530 of Part II-A of the Gazette of India dated 5-6-1937 are published the <sup>Draft</sup> Rules made under the Act by the Chief Commissioner, Delhi, as Notification No. 5484 dated 2-6-1937.

Revised Leave Rules for Permanent and Temporary Salaried Government Press Employees of the Bombay Presidency.

The Government of Bombay have published at pages 908-910 of Part IV-A of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 3-6-1937 as Notification No. 1993/33-C of the Finance Department dated 28-5-1937, the revised leave rules for permanent and temporary salaried press employees working in Government presses. According to the Revised Rules, permanent employees will get leave at the rate of  $\frac{1}{11}$  of the period spent on duty up to a maximum of 90 days, and the temporary employees at the rate of  $\frac{1}{22}$  of the period spent on duty, subject to a maximum of 30 days.

Mysore Civil Procedure Code (Amendment)

Act, 1937: Arrest and Imprisonment of Honest Debtors

Prohibited. +

On 15-6-1937, the Mysore Representative Assembly adopted without discussion a Bill to amend Section 51 of the Civil Procedure Code of 1911 *(of Mysore)*.

The amending Act seeks to protect all honest debtors from detention in civil jail by amending section 51 of the Civil Procedure Code, 1911, on the lines of the Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment) Act, Act XXI of 1936, of the Indian Legislature (vide page 7 of our October 1936 report). It provided that no order for execution by detention in prison shall be issued unless the debtor had been given an opportunity of showing cause why he should not be committed to prison and the Court was satisfied that the debtor was likely to leave the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Court or had fraudulently disposed of his property or that he was able to pay the amount of the decree otherwise than from protected assets.

(The Hindu, 17-6-1937).

## Conditions of Labour.

### General Wage Census, Bombay:

#### Labour Office Report on Textile Industry\*.

The Bombay Labour Office has recently issued the third of its series of six reports comprised in Part I of the General Wage Census covering perennial factories in the Bombay Presidency. The present report deals with wages, hours of work and conditions of employment in the textile industries (cotton, silk, wool and hosiery) in the Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind). (The First and second reports of the series, dealing with the engineering and printing industries respectively, were reviewed at pages 14-17 of the January 1936 and pages 22-25 of the March 1936 reports of this Office.)

Types of Factories and Number of Workers in Textile Industries:  
The following table sets out the distribution of the 246 perennial factories, classified under the textile industries, according to types of factories and gives the total numbers of work-people employed in each type of factory by age and sex groups.

Type of Factories.	Number of Factories.	Number of workers employed				Percentage to Total Workers.
		Men	Women	Child- ren	Total	
1. Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills.	179	209,842	44,123	1,012	254,977	96.88
2. Dying and Bleaching Factories.	15	2,881	129	2	3,012	1.15
3. Cotton Pressing Factories.	7	196	17	..	213	0.08

(Cont'd.)

\* General Wage Census Part I—Perennial Factories: Third Report ... Report on Wages, Hours of Work and Conditions of Employment in the Textile Industries (Cotton, Silk, Wool and Hosiery) in the Bombay Presidency (Excluding Sind). May 1934. Prepared by the Labour Office Government of Bombay, Government Central Press, Bombay 1937. pp. 265  
Price Annas 12 or 19.8d.

4. Other Cotton factories.	13	571	148	..	719	0.27
5. Silk Mills and factories.	22	1,244	405	4	1,653	0.63
6. Woollen Mills.	2	1,119	280	..	1,399	0.53
7. Hosiery Mills and factories.	8	1,061	166	..	1,227	0.46
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>216,914</b>	<b>45,268</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>263,200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Geographical Distribution: The following table gives the distribution by areas of the 246 textile factories and the workers employed in them:

Areas	Number of factories	Numbers of workers employed				Percentage to total Workers.
		Men	Women	Children	Total	
Bombay City	95	104,694	24,088	2	128,784	48.94
Ahmedabad City	103	73,968	11,032	23	85,023	32.31
Sholapur	5	13,241	4,208	406	17,855	6.78
Other areas	43	24,961	5,940	587	31,538	11.97
<b>Total</b>	<b>246</b>	<b>216,914</b>	<b>45,268</b>	<b>1,018</b>	<b>263,200</b>	<b>100.00</b>

Cotton Industry: Recruitment and Labour Turnover: In spite of the Whitley Commission's recommendations in the matter, the jobber still continues to be the chief recruiting authority in most of the cotton textile mills and factories in the Bombay Presidency; and when the General Wage Census was conducted in 1934, 135 out of the 177 working mills and 12 out of the 37 miscellaneous cotton factories other than mills stated that their labour was recruited either through jobbers or through both mukkadams and jobbers. A "mukkadam" is the headman of a gang of unskilled labourers or coolies, whereas a "jobber" is primarily a charge-man generally promoted from the ranks after full experience of the factory and he is responsible for the supervision of the labour whilst it is at work.

In all textile centres in the Bombay Presidency, except in

Ahmedabad City, all mill labour is directly under the control of the management. In other words, all workpeople are engaged and discharged by the management and their wages are also paid by the mills. In cotton textile mills in Ahmedabad City the contract system is widely prevalent and in most mills work in connexion with coal stacking and cinder removing, mixing, internal transport, tubular banding, combing, beam carrying, drawing-in, dying and bleaching, finishing, folding, bundling and pressing and stamping is given out on contract. Each contractor engages and pays his own labour and the mill keeps no record of the wages of the contractor's men. Whereas complete statistics relating to numbers employed, attendance and earnings in respect of contract labour in the printing and the metal trades were secured for the General Wage Census from the owners of the plants concerned, it was not possible to do the same for the textile mills in Ahmedabad City owing to the fact that the contractors had no proper records from which satisfactory and reliable data could be collected.

"Labour turnover", amounted to 2.36 per cent. for the census month for all cotton textile mills and factories in the Presidency. If this is worked out to a year, the figure comes to as much as 28.32 per cent. per annum. In the silk and woollen industries the extent of labour turnover was more than 50 per cent. per annum.

Payment of Wages: In India except for a small measure of standardisation of time rates which has recently been attempted in cotton textile mills in the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad, there is nothing like standardisation of wages in industry. Most mills still continue to reckon earnings on the basis of "basic" rates plus war or dearness allowances. Bonuses for good attendance and good work although dying out in mills in Bombay city are still largely resorted to in mills in Ahmedabad and in other centres; and further endeavours to secure good attendance are made by doubly penalising unauthorised absence by formulating conditions under which a hypothetical pay for Sunday or a closed day may be earned. Long pay periods, generally of a month's duration, necessitate the grant of advances against earned wages on which interest was in many cases charged and the formation of co-operative credit societies. Numerous deductions were made for all sorts of reasons, including fines.

Shifts: Out of 57 cotton spinning and weaving mills which were working in Bombay City in October 1934, 27 reported that they were working on the basis of one shift per day and 30 mills reported that they were working more than one shift. In 4 of these 30 mills three shifts of seven hours each were worked in some departments including the weaving shed and two shifts of ten hours each in others. One mill worked the automatic loom department alone on the basis of three shifts of seven hours each. The total number of persons employed on night shift working in all cotton mills in Bombay City in October 1934 was 20,000.

As far as cotton textile factories other than spinning and weaving mills in Bombay City are concerned, 23 of the 27 reporting factories stated that they worked single shifts. In 3 of the 4 factories which worked double shifts, the hours were ten per

day for both the day and the night shifts <sup>and nine hours each,</sup> in the fourth case.

In Ahmedabad, 28 out of 87 cotton mills which were working in that centre during the month of May 1934 worked all departments or certain departments only on a double shift basis. The hours of work for the night shift were in all cases the same as those for the day shift. Double shift activity was mostly in the spinning section of the industry and the total number of workers employed on night shifts amounted to 7,200. All the cotton mills in Sholapur City were on single shifts in July 1934. As far as the remaining areas are concerned, 5 factories reported double shift working. One mill in the Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and Kanara area reported multiple shift working in the doubling department. Apart from this one case, there was no instance of multiple shift working in any of the mills and factories in the cotton textile industry in the Bombay Presidency.

Hours of Work: The normal working day in cotton mills and factories in the Bombay Presidency during the census year was one of ten hours with variations affecting certain classes of workers or departments. In mills in Bombay City, the hours of work for women operatives in all or certain departments were less than those of men in the case of 29 mills. The remaining 28 mills in Bombay reported that the daily hours of work for both men and women were nominally the same, viz., ten per day but in practice all women workers in the winding and reeling departments were allowed to attend from half-an-hour to an hour later in the mornings and to leave half-an-hour or so earlier in the evenings.

All mills except 5 in Ahmedabad City required all women operatives in all departments to work a uniform 10-hour day or the same as male operatives. 2 mills in Sholapur City had a 9½-hour day for mechanics, coolies and male reellers. Apart from this one variation all adult workers—male and female—in mills in Sholapur were required to work a uniform 10-hour day. Among the mills in the seven remaining census areas, only two mills had a 9-hour day for all women workers. One mill had a 9-hour day for folders, dyers and fitters. In all other cases there was a uniform 10-hour day for all adult operatives.

As far as children's hours are concerned, 64 children in all had a 4-hour day or a 24-hour week; eleven had a 6-hour day or a 36-hour week, and 655 a 5-hour day or a 30-hour week.

Rest Intervals and Weekly Holiday.— All mills in the cities of Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur, except four which worked on a three-shift basis in Bombay, allowed one rest interval of one hour between the first and second periods of work. No unit reported two rest intervals during the day or the night in cases where double shifts were worked. With a few exceptions all units outside Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur give a rest interval of one hour. The actual hours of work vary slightly between groups of mills in different areas but the time table predominantly in force was 7 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Out of the total number of 214 units in the cotton textile industry in the Bombay Presidency, 202 observed Sunday as the weekly rest day. In 6 cases it was Saturday, in 2 each Monday and Friday and in 1 each Tuesday and Wednesday. These variations were to be found only in concerns in the districts where units close on the local bazar day.

Annual Leave.— In the cotton textile industry in the Bombay Presidency, only jobbers, jamadars and a few categories of monthly ~~men~~ rated men enjoy certain leave with pay privileges in 25 out of 57 mills in Bombay City, in 62 out of 87 mills in Ahmedabad and in one mill each in the Ahmedabad, Kaira and Panch Mahals area and in the Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and Kanara area. Out of the total number of 214 units covered by the census in this industry, 125 or nearly 60 per cent. of these units granted no leave with pay privileges to any of their workpeople. The total number of workpeople who enjoyed leave with pay privileges in the cotton textile industry in Bombay City was between two to three hundred or about 0.25 per cent. of the total number employed. Out of the 62 mills in Ahmedabad City which reported that leave with pay was granted to certain categories, 40 units stated that the duration of the period of leave with pay was discretionary on the merits of each case. In the case of 22 mills which had laid down definite periods of leave with pay, the duration was one month in 8 cases, 20 days in 3 cases, 15 days in 1 case, 12 days in 4 cases, 10 days in 1 case, 8 days in 1 case, two days for each month of service in 1 case and 3 days for each month of service in 3 cases. In view of the discretionary character of the leave in most of the Ahmedabad mills which give leave with pay to certain categories it is not possible to estimate the number of workers affected. One mill in Belgaum, Bijapur, Dharwar and Kanara area granted one month's leave with pay every year to head jobbers alone and one mill in the Ahmedabad, Kaira and Panch Mahala area granted discretionary leave with pay to all jobbers and monthly rated workers.

Welfare Work. — The report contains details of all welfare work undertaken by textile employers in the matter of the provision of housing; tiffin rooms; rest shelters and canteens; medical aid and creches; facilities for recreation and the utilisation of workers' leisure; vocational training; and education. The total number of tenements provided by all cotton mill employers in the Bombay Presidency amounted to 13,198 of which 11,332 were one-room and 1,866 were two or more roomed tenements. Cotton mills in Ahmedabad lead Bombay and the other centres in the provision made for canteens and tiffin rooms, but the pioneer work in the direction of canteens is that undertaken by Messrs. E. D. Sassoon & Co. who have made arrangements to supply hot meals at cost price in almost all their mills. This group of mills also runs a hostel for poor women workers and the charges for boarding and lodging are Rs. 6 per month for each adult and Re. 1 to Rs. 2 per month, according to age, for each child.

All mills in Sholapur and all mills except four in Bombay

had provided dispensaries under the charge of part-time doctors and full-time compounders. In Ahmedabad only 46 out of 87 mills and in the other areas 17 out of 30 mills had made provision for medical aid. Only eleven mills in all made deductions from the workers' wages for medical attendance. Six mills had provided hospitals for the treatment of in and out-patients of both sexes and most of these had maternity wards in addition. 110 units in all had provided creches facilities for the care of the young children of their women workers.

Very few concerns made provision for workers' education and for the education of their children, but most units employ apprentices and these are given adequate training. Only 34 out of a total number of 246 concerns in the textile industries had made some provision for the recreation of their employees. In most cases this took the form of providing playing fields for cricket, hockey and football—equipment being provided at the cost of the mill. Some mills had gymnasia and wrestling pits, libraries and reading rooms, and one or two mills theatres in addition.

Silk Industry.— Silk factories in the Bombay Presidency are only to be found in the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad and in the Broach and Surat area. The total number of factories is 22, which between them employ 1,658 workers, of whom 405 are women and 4, children. Recruitment in the case of thirteen factories in all is through muccadams and jobbers and in seven other cases through the workers themselves. With the exception of one concern in Bombay City which worked two shifts of ten hours each occasionally in the throwing department alone, all units in the silk textile industry in the Bombay Presidency worked only one day shift in the census month.

The majority of all workers employed in the industry had a 10-hour day or a 60-hour week. Quite a number of factories, however, worked either a 9 or a 9½-hour day or a 54 or a 57-hour week or less. The remaining frequencies mostly relate to shorter hours for groups of workers in the mechanics department. Five units in the Broach and Surat area gave a rest interval of an hour-and-a-half to all workers and one unit in Bombay City allowed a similar interval to its women workers alone. In all the remaining cases the duration of the rest interval was one hour. 19 out of 22 units in this industry granted no leave with pay to any of their workers. One unit in Bombay City gives 15 days to a month's leave with pay in deserving cases to time workers only. One unit in Ahmedabad City similarly reported that leave with pay was granted to time-rated workmen but no further details were given. One unit in the same centre granted leave with pay up to ten days per annum to all its workers and beyond that without pay.

Woollen Industry.— There are only two woollen mills in the Bombay Presidency. The total number of workers employed in these two concerns were 813 and 586 respectively. The numbers of workers for whom information regarding wages was given in the census forms were 791 and 609 respectively. Of the total number of 1,399 persons employed in both these concerns 1,119 were men and 280 were women. No children are employed in this industry. In both cases all labour



is recruited through jobbers.

Both mills worked only one day shift during the census month. ~~The~~ One mill had a uniform ten hour day and a sixty hour week for all operatives whereas the other had a ten hour day and a sixty hour week for most categories of "process" operatives and a  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hour day and a 57 hour week for some categories of women workers and for the mechanics department. 1300 operatives in all in this industry had a 60 hour week and 99 a 57 hour week. The normal closing day was Sunday and the rest interval was of an hour's duration in both cases. One mill granted fifteen days leave with pay per year to jobbers, mukkadams and jamadars. The remaining workers in both concerns had no leave with pay privileges.

Hosiery Industry.— The textile hosiery industry in the Bombay Presidency is concentrated mainly in the City of Ahmedabad which during the census year had five factories employing 915 men and 137 women or 1,052 workpeople in all. Bombay City had two hosiery factories with 101 men and 21 women and the Bombay Suburban, Thana, Kolaba and Ratnagiri areas had only one with 45 men and 8 women. Out of the total number of 1,227 persons employed in this industry information regarding wages was received in the census forms for only 922 operatives in all. Of these 922 operatives, 848 were engaged on the "process" side of the industry and 74 were returned in engineering occupations and in occupations common to all factories. No children are employed in this industry. Recruitment is almost entirely through jobbers and mukkadams but three concerns stated that all workers were engaged either by the Manager himself or by one of the Masters.

Two units in Ahmedabad which between them employed 207 workers in all worked two shifts of ten hours each. The remaining concerns in this industry worked day shifts of ten hours in four cases and of  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours in two cases. In one of the four cases mechanics were permitted to work for  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours. 53 workers in all had a fifty-seven hour week and 873 had a 60 hour week. The rest interval in all cases was one of an hour at noon and Sunday was uniformly observed as the weekly holiday. No leave with pay is granted to any category of workers in this industry.

Prevention of Bribery in Bombay Textile Mills:

Action taken by Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

The following information about the efforts made by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, to eradicate bribery and corruption from the textile mills of Bombay and the results obtained is taken from an article on the subject contributed by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, to the issue dated 19-6-1937 of "Commerce", Bombay:

Difficulties in way of Eradication of Bribery.- The article begins by pointing out that while it would probably be an exaggeration to say that bribery to the extent and of the description referred to in the Whitley Commission's Report (vide pages 24-26) existed in each and every Bombay mill at that time, it would be true to say that corruption in varying degrees did exist throughout the industry. Its eradication was, however, extremely difficult owing to the illiteracy and the ingrained habits of the workers; the system of recruitment; and their unwillingness to provide the evidence necessary to make successful detection possible.

Steps taken by Millowners' Association.- The article reviews the efforts made by the Millowners' Association to root out bribery. It points out that the Standing Orders issued by the Association in 1929 made it clear that persons receiving or giving bribes of any kind whatsoever would be summarily dismissed without notice or pay in lieu of notice. But even before that time, the mill Rules and Regulations had usually contained a clause to the same effect. Between 1929 and 1934, the Mill Managers' Sub-Committee of the Association considered the problem from time to time, but despite the efforts made, the complaints received were almost invariably anonymous and cases of proved bribery were few and far between. During the last three years, however, and particularly since the enactment of the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act, very substantial progress has been made, and it now appears to be only a matter of time before bribery and corruption of the type described by the Whitley Commission will have entirely disappeared in Bombay. What has happened during the last three years is that the appointment of Labour Officers by the Government and by the Association has encouraged workers to bring grievances of all descriptions to their notice and they are aware that, if they can substantiate their statements, they will be discussed with the management and remedied.

Powers of Jobbers Curtailed.- Another factor which has assisted towards a better state of things has been that the power of engagement and dismissal of labour has been taken out of the hands of the jobber and has been placed in the hands of the heads of departments and of the manager. This alteration has, in itself, greatly reduced the capacity of jobbers and women supervisors to extort payments to obtain or retain employment in the mills, and the operatives are now aware that it is their individual efficiency in their daily occupation which would govern the continuity of their employment and not the whim or greed of the jobber. When a complaint of bribery is received by a mill manager, the Government Labour Officer or the Millowners' Association Labour Officer, what in effect amounts to a Court of Enquiry is held and the evidence on either side is carefully sifted, the old difficulty of not getting sufficient evidence having been overcome. Their experience during the last three years has enabled the Labour Officers to develop a certain skill and technique in the investigation of bribery cases and the result has been that a fairly large proportion of the complaints received are substantiated. Where there is considerable doubt as to the guilt of the accused, the benefit is, of course, given to him, but if the guilt of the accused is established, dismissal invariably follows.

Service Card System for Jobbers.- The deterrent effect of a dismissal for bribery is, of course, considerable, but the fear of loss of employment with its concurrent discouragement of the desire to extort bribes has been further increased by the introduction of service cards for all head jobbers, jobbers and weaving line jobbers. Under this system of service cards, the leading particulars of every jobber are taken. These include length of service, promotion, etc. and the reasons why he left or was dismissed from a particular mill's service. When a jobber is dismissed ~~for~~ for bribery, the offence is noted on his record card by the Association and if he seeks to obtain a post in another mill, a copy of his previous record is available to the mill concerned.

Results of Association's Efforts. - In 1935, 25 persons, including a number of women supervisors, holding important posts in the mills were dismissed for taking bribes. In 1936, 31 jobbers and women supervisors were dismissed for bribery. In 1937, the number of persons dismissed for taking bribes promises to be very much smaller, and this is certainly due to the fact that, on the one hand, the jobbers and supervisors fully realise the danger of accepting bribes and, on the other hand, the workers realise that there is absolutely no need to give bribes to get or hold appointments in the mills.

(Commerce, 19-6-1937).

## Employment of Women in Underground Work in Mines:

### Complete Exclusion postponed to 1-10-1937.

In view of the scantiness of coal supplies at present in the country and an expected shortage of labour supplies in coal mines, the Government of India has announced its decision to postpone the date of complete exclusion of women from underground work from 1-7-1937, the original date fixed, to 1-10-1937. The following is a summary of the press communiqué on the subject issued by the Government of India on 14-6-1937:

Increased Demand for Coal and Shortage of Supplies.— The communiqué points out that there had been increased demand for coal in many quarters due to great industrial activity and supplies have failed to respond adequately to this demand, with a consequent fairly sharp rise in prices. This failure to respond is due in the opinion of the Government to the difficulty of securing adequate labour. The monsoon in 1936 was, in areas from where much of the labour was drawn, exceptionally good, with the result that throughout the winter there had been some shortage of labour, and the Government understand that the effect of the monsoon was accentuated temporarily at least in some areas by mine disasters.

Position in respect of Exclusion of Women. — In 1929 regulations were promulgated limiting the number of women who could be employed underground in any coal mine to specified percentages of underground labour force. These percentages were fixed so as to diminish each year. The percentage fixed for the first year was 29 and if the regulations had continued in force the percentage from 1-7-1937 would have been 5. The total number of women registered as employed has always been less than the permissible percentage. The percentage for 1936-37 is 8, but the number registered was only 5.6 per cent of the underground labour force and in the course of the present year a certain number of mines had taken the step of excluding all women in anticipation of official action. Under the regulations of 1929 complete exclusion would have been effected by 1939, but the industry was in favour of earlier exclusion, and the Government of India issued on 1-2-1937 regulations designed to exclude all women from 1-7-1937. As explained above, these orders would involve the exclusion of possibly 3 per cent of registered underground labour, in addition to the ordinary annual diminution.

Reasons for Extension of Exclusion Date. — The communiqué points out that the effect of this exclusion is, however, likely to be particularly felt on 1-7-1937 as this corresponds to the time when labour is normally scarcest, many workers leaving at this season for agricultural operations. Having regard to the general position, it appears to the Government of India that it would be preferable that the final exclusion of women should not coincide with the time when other labour is likely to be shortest. They, therefore, have decided to suspend operation of the new regulations by three months, that is until 1-10-1937. This will be done by giving exemption to coal mines from these regulations on condition

that women are not employed in excess of the percentage that would have been applicable under the regulations of 1929—that is 5 per cent.

(The Statesman 15-6-1937.)+

Employment of Women in Railway Quarries.— It may also be mentioned that in connection with the recent legislation prohibiting the employment of women underground as from the 1-7-1937, the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, had addressed the Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India, in February 1937 suggesting that the regulations should be made to apply also to quarries and open workings—in particular, to the quarries and open workings of the railway collieries. The Government of India replied on 17-5-1937 to the effect that it was not prepared to accelerate the exclusion of women from work in Railway quarries. The Government considered that it was undesirable at a time when the field of employment for women was being substantially curtailed, to impose a further restriction in respect of work which is not attended by the same dangers as work underground.

(Proceedings of the Meeting of the  
Committee of the Indian Mining Association  
held on 20-5-1937.)+ +

New Labour Code for French India:

8-Hour Day for Industrial and Agricultural Workers. +

Reference was made at page 12 of our April 1937 report to the promulgation of a Decree by the French Government embodying a new Labour Code for regulating conditions of work of labourers

in French India. The full text of the Code, it is understood, has now been published in the Gazette of the French Indian Government.

Hitherto there was no separate Labour Code for French India. It will be remembered that there was a strong agitation for it by the labour classes of Pondicherry last year and that a complaint was preferred to the I.L.O. on the subject.

In recommending the new Labour Code to the President of the Republic, the Minister for Colonies, stated that the French Indian Labour Code would afford to workers ~~the~~ elementary hygienic aids and ~~the~~ necessary safeguards, and provide for the protection of women and child labour. He further added that necessity for promulgation of a Labour Code for French India was created by the industrial development of the Colony and the "legitimate aspirations" of the working classes. The salient features of the ~~New~~ Labour Code are given below:

Age of Admission of Children.— The provisions of the Labour Code will be enforced in all industrial and agricultural establishments throughout French India where more than 10 workers are employed. Under any circumstances boys and girls under 14 years shall not be employed for labour. (It may be noted that in Pondicherry textile mills, boys and girls even under 8 years have hitherto been employed.) Persons who are willing to work and who are between 14 and 18 years of age shall be admitted only after careful medical examination about their physical fitness to work.

Collective Convention of Labour.— "The Collective Convention of Labour is a contract between the employer or employers, and the employees. The right of forming labour unions will be given to the workers with a view to affording liberty for expressing their opinion. The workers will also be permitted to depute delegates from among themselves in order to express their grievances with regard to working hours, hygiene, security of labour, paid leave, etc., The Collective Convention of Labour will mean that all possible means will be explored so that disputes between employers and workers are settled amicably and also will enable an examination as to how this kind of settlement could be modified in future according to time and

circumstances. The same conditions will be made applicable for all labourers, including handloom weavers.

Labour Disputes.— An Inspector for Labour will be appointed in French India, either by the orders of the Home Government or by the Governor of French India. He will act as an arbitrator between employers and workers. With regard to settlement of disputes between labourers and employers, no lawyer or outsider should, in the first instance, interfere, but the Inspector for Labour should be petitioned about the troubles. The Inspector will select one of the employers and one or not more than five representatives of the labourers for opening settlement talks. In case any settlement is arrived at, it should be signed by both parties, besides the Inspector. But if arbitration were to break, then one arbitrator on each side will have to be selected by either side respectively and their decision will be final. But if this time also arbitration were to fail, both these arbitrators will have to choose a "Super Arbitrator" whose decision will be final and binding on either side.

Hours of Work, Weekly Rest and Overtime.— In all industrial and agricultural establishments the hours of work shall not exceed 9 hours per day. But from 1st January 1938 it will be reduced still further to 8 hours per day. In spite of the reduction in the working hours, there will be no decrease in the present daily wages of the labourers. There will be only six days of work in a week, and the seventh day will be a holiday. Under ordinary circumstances, there should be no work between 9 p.m., and 5 a.m., in the night. Special permission from the Government is necessary if work is to be given to labourers during that period. All women and men under 18 years of age shall not under any circumstances work between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Over-time work shall be paid at the rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  times for day work and at double rates for night work.

Maternity Leave and Benefits.— A total of eight weeks' leave before and after confinement should be given to women-labourers. They shall be paid half their usual wages for four weeks and for the other four weeks there will be no payment. Till one year after the confinement, women-labourers will be given rest for half-an-hour in the morning and another half-an-hour in the evening to feed their children.

Medical Aid.— In each industrial concern a small dispensary will be established and a qualified full-time doctor will be appointed to look after the health of the labourers.

Trade Unions.— Membership of labour unions can be unlimited but all members should necessarily be workers. No outsiders will be allowed to become members of the unions. Labour Unions should exclusively look after the interests of labour. The administrators of the unions should necessarily be French subjects possessing all their civil rights. Persons under 18 years of age should get permission of their parents or guardians to become members of labour unions. The powers of unions are of a civil character; they will be allowed to maintain provident funds, establish information bureau etc., The library, provident fund

assets and the union buildings will not be attached in legal executions.

Compensation for Accidents.— In case of accidents disabling a labourer from working for more than four days, the management shall pay a gratuity to him during his treatment, and if he dies, the gratuity will be given to the family of the victim.

Duties of Inspector.— It is the duty of the Inspector of Labour to lodge complaints against those who contravene the above rules. The punishment for each offence per day will be 5 to 15 francs, leviable proportionate to the number of labourers working under each particular management. Repetition of the same offence will occasion fines ranging from 16 to 50 francs; but the maximum amount of fine shall not exceed 200 francs.

Publication to Workers.— A copy of the Code shall be prominently displayed in all industrial establishments for information of workers.

(The Hindu, 5-6-1937 and the  
Bombay Chronicle 9-6-1937.)

Conditions of Work of Indian Shop Assistants in  
Calcutta: Calcutta Dress and Cloth Assistants' Association  
Formed. +

Indian shop assistants in Calcutta, particularly those employed by cloth dealers, have been complaining for some time past about their conditions of service. At a meeting held on 6-6-1937 they formed themselves into a Union called the Calcutta Dress and Cloth Assistants' Association with Mr. Jagadish Chandra Mukherji, an employee in an Indian store in Calcutta, as its president. The number of Indian assistants employed in retail shops in Calcutta has been estimated to be in the neighbourhood of 75,000, the majority of them being trained salesmen. Most of them are recruited from the middle and lower middle classes.



Grievances of Shop Assistants; Wages.— In general terms, it is alleged that the shop assistants receive but little consideration from their employers. The pay of the shop assistants is meagre and ranges from Rs. 10 to Rs. 30 a month. With regard to the payment of wages, it is stated that in many cases there is no specified pay-day and that employees are obliged to wait many weeks before receiving payment. The uncertainty about the pay-day causes hardship, especially to those with dependants in distant villages.

Deductions from Wages.— Absence due to illness, or any other cause, means deductions from wages which are sometimes so low that the recipient, after making provision for his family, is unable to afford to pay for accommodation for himself; therefore he has to sleep as well as work in the crowded, ill-ventilated shop he serves. No allowance is made for sickness. It was also pointed out that the standard of wages does not permit of any balance being left for purchase of suitable and nourishing food.

Hours of Work, Holidays, etc.,— The daily hours of work average 12 hours, and are generally from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. for all the seven days in the week. Only half-an-hour to one hour a day is allowed for meals. There is no weekly holiday. There is no system of paid holidays; no leisure is allowed for recreation. No leave is granted even during the most important festivals. The position was explained at the meeting thus: "We have no opportunity of meeting our relatives or friends. We are practically cut off from the rest of the world which we can meet only by sacrificing part of our pay, which our employers ~~are~~ know very well we cannot afford to do."

Minimum Demands Formulated.— The object of forming themselves into an Association has been declared to be to obtain fair treatment and fair working conditions for shop assistants, and to gain by constitutional means the following minimum demands: (1) A working day of 12 hours, with four hours off for meals and rest; (2) A six-day working week; (3) One month's medical leave a year, with pay, and (4) A minimum wage of Rs. 20 a month.

The Association has addressed the members of the Bengal Legislative Assembly urging them to interest themselves in the alleviation of the shop assistants' grievances.

(The Statesman 7-6-1937.)

Eliminated Underground Women Workers

Bihar Government's Efforts to find Alternative Occupations.

Reference was made at pages 14-17 of our February 1937 report to certain Regulations for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines which the Government of India proposed to bring into force<sup>as</sup> from 1-7-1937. The Government of Bihar, in which province the majority of the coal mines of India are situated, has been considering for some time past what help should be given by way of employment to the very large number of women who from 1-7-1937 will be debarred from working underground in Jharia and other coal mines. The Government attempted to obtain a portion of the Central Government's grant for the handloom weaving industry and to establish three institutions at which women who were used to hand weaving and basket making could be given employment. But the suggestion did not find favour at the Ministers' conference held in Lucknow in December 1936 (vide page 64 of our December 1936 and page 54 of our March 1937 reports). At the same time another suggestion gaining ground is to utilize the surplus women for the construction of a network of roads at loading points in the coal-mining areas. Such a force may be used to the exclusion of men if necessary so as to avoid an acute economic problem among labour as a whole. But the difficulty appears to be that the women prefer to work with their husbands.

(The Statesman 9-6-1937.)

Two Alternative forms of Employment.— Two recent developments have, however, helped to reduce the difficulties in this respect.

First is the Coal Inquiry Committee's recommendation of compulsory sand-stowing (vide pages 35-38 of our May 1937 Report); if the Government of India accepts this recommendation most of the women workers at present engaged in underground work in the mines will be absorbed in these operations. Secondly, the revival in the coal industry which is now perceptible is expected to create a need for extra labour on the surface.

("Amrita Bazar Patrika", 18-6-1937.)

Quarterly Strike Statistics  
for Quarter ending 31-3-1937.

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 1st quarter of 1937 ending 31-3-1937, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 89 disputes during the period, one of which, ~~was~~ in progress at the end of December 1936, was common to five provinces. The 89 disputes involved 148,110 workers and entailed a loss of 2,767,380 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal, where 41 disputes involving 106,091 workers entailed a loss of 2,039,998 working days. Next come Madras with 15 disputes, involving 10,259 workers and entailing a loss of 117,524 working days, Bombay with 13 disputes involving 11,180 workers and entailing a loss of 206,294 working days, Bihar with 6 disputes involving 9,294 workers and entailing a loss of 160,515 working days, Assam & Burma with 4 disputes

each involving 1,157 and 612 workers and entailing a loss of 30,741 and 1,409 working days respectively, the Central Provinces with 3 disputes involving 7,254 workers and entailing a loss of 181,479 working days, Orissa, the Punjab and the United Provinces with 1 dispute each involving 1,151/<sup>230</sup> and 882 workers and entailing a loss of 26,154, 460 and 2,806 working days respectively.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 23 disputes which involved 26,607 workers and entailed a loss of 499,013 working days; jute mills were responsible for 24 disputes involving 79,300 workers and entailing a loss of 1,439,600 working days; engineering workshops were responsible for 2 disputes involving 279 workers and entailing a loss of 1,602 working days; railway and railway workshops were responsible for 1 dispute involving 26,542 workers and entailing a loss of 679,920 working days; <sup>Mines</sup> ~~others~~ were responsible for 4 disputes involving 3,550 workers and entailing a loss of 5,050 working days; other industries were responsible for 31 disputes involving 11,832 workers and entailing a loss of 142,195 working days.

Of the 85 disputes during the quarter under review, 63 were due to wage questions, 11 to personnel, 2 to leave and hours and 9 to other causes. In 11 disputes the workers were successful, in 18 partially successful and in 29 unsuccessful. 27 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike Statistics for the quarter ending 31-12-1936 are given at pages 15-16 of our May 1937 report.) x

British Administered areas in Hyderabad State:

Extension of Factory Act.

The British Resident, Hyderabad State, has issued a notification to the effect that as from 1-5-1937 the Factories and Payment of Wages Acts of British India shall come into force in the British Administered areas of Hyderabad State. Officers appointed under the Acts are now engaged in inspecting factories and strictly enforcing Factory Act stipulations for the purpose of securing better living conditions for workers.

The Hyderabad Factories Act has been in operation in the State since the last four years. The application of the British Indian Factories Act to the British Administered areas of the State removes the anomaly of certain areas of the State not being subjected to factory legislation, while others remained under the operation of the Hyderabad Factories Act.

(The Statesman 3-5-1937.)

(This item is not reported in the Hindu, Madras, and the Times of India, Bombay.)

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various Centres in India during March 1937.

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India, except Rangoon, and Bombay, registered declines during March 1937 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.— The index number (Base: July 1914) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in March 1937 remained unchanged at 104. The average in the year 1936 was 102.

Ahmedabad.— The index number (Base: year ending July 1927)

of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in March 1937 declined by 1 point to 73; in 1936 the average was 71.

Sholapur. — The index number (Base:year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur declined by 1 point to 72. The average for 1936 was 71.

Nagpur. — The index number (Base:January 1927) of the cost of living in March 1937 dropped by 1 point to 60.

Jubbulpore. — The index number (Base:January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in March 1937 declined by 2 points to 59.

Rangoon. — The index number (Base:1931) of the cost of living in Rangoon for all communities of labourers remained unchanged at 90 (provisional figure).

(Extracted from the March 1937 issue of the Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India).

#### Payment of Wages Act, 1936:

##### Results of Application in Bombay Textile Mills.

The issue dated 4-6-1937 of the Times of India, Bombay, publishes a paragraph reviewing the working of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, in the textile mills of Bombay. It is pointed out that the difficulties which were anticipated by the Government of India at the time of the passing of the Act have been overcome in respect of most of the mills in Bombay.

Application of the Act in Mills. — Dealing with the efforts made by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, to ensure that so far as its member mills are concerned the provisions of the measure should be carried out both in the letter and in the spirit, the review points out that the standing orders framed by the Asso-

ciation for applying the provisions of the Act have evoked general satisfaction. The Association has anticipated the Act by fixing wage payment dates. It has been made also compulsory to fix the rates of wages for all occupations in the departments concerned, as also piecework rates. Any operative, when fined, is given a chit showing not only the amount but also the nature of the offence. The practice of making deductions from wages for cloth bought on credit has been stopped. At the same time, permission has been obtained from Government to make deductions from wages for purchases from cheap grain shops provided by mills meant for the benefit of the operatives.

Payment of Substitutes. — The engagement of substitute labour has been taken out of the hands of the jobber and put into the hands of the heads of departments. Since the adoption of this system, practically every substitute has been paid through the musters.

(The Times of India, 4-6-1937.)

Industrial Organisation:

37

Workers' Organisations.

16th Annual Conference of the E. B. Railway

Employees' Association, Lalmonirhat, 1937.

The 16th annual Conference of the E.B. Railway Employees' Association was held on 12-6-1937 at Lalmonirhat under the presidentship of Mr. V. V. Giri, M.L.A.

Presidential Address: In his presidential speech Mr. Giri pointed out that in India from 1921 to 1935, there occurred more than 2,600 trade disputes involving 4.23 odd million workers and entailing a loss of 98 million working days, but Government has not taken up till now adequate action to redress the grievances of the workers. He expressed the view that labour troubles will not be solved merely by the appointment of Conciliation Officers, and, therefore, advocated the setting up of a Standing Industrial Court for the maintenance of industrial peace.

Resolutions: The Conference adopted a number of resolutions on the grievances of workers relating to their conditions of work. On the subject of procedure for obtaining redress of grievances, it adopted the following resolution: "Resolved that the railway Administration be urged to redress all grievances put forward from time to time at the earliest possible date; failing satisfaction within a reasonable time, it is further resolved that the Association should make an application under the Trade Disputes Act to the Government of India for the appointment of a Conciliation Board."

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 15 and 21-6-37)

Bombay Textile Workers' Conference:

Formulation of General Demands.

A Conference of the textile workers of Bombay was held under the auspices of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union at Bombay on 13-6-1937, Sardar Sohan Singh Josh, M.L.A., of Amritsar, presiding.

The Conference expressed itself strongly against "the continued attack of millowners on the workers' standard of living." It also criticised the wage policy of the millowners. The process



of rationalisation had ejected thousands of men and women from mills by making them superfluous. The rate of efficiency demanded contributed to the physical breakdown of the worker, who was often harassed by subordinate heads, but could not turn to the G.K. Union as that body was not recognised by the millowners. This non-recognition also deprived the worker of other benefits. The conference put forward over 26 demands to alleviate these several grievances of the working class. A resolution was passed requesting the withdrawal of the Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act as in the Conference's opinion it hampered the growth of class consciousness and organisation among workers.

Workers' Demands.— The demands formulated by the Conference may be classed under the following heads:

Conditions of Work: Standardisation of working conditions; creation of joint machinery to fix wage-rates; stoppage of corruption and bribery, recruitment to be done through Unions; abolition of system of fines by managements; establishment of joint committee to assess damage done through bad work; security of service, victimisation to be made a penal offence; provision of workers with good and sufficient materials, and investigation of the system by which millowners secure their supply of raw materials; minimum living wage; unemployment benefit; 8 hours' day; 7 hour night shift; change of shift every month; and grant of one month's holiday with pay.

Recognition of Unions: Recognition of the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union (Red Flag) for the purposes of the Bombay Legislative Assembly.

Legislation: Overhauling of Workmen's Compensation and Maternity Benefit laws with a view to increase the benefit and ensure that the workers are not cheated of benefits; repeal of the strike clauses in the Payment of Wages Act; withdrawal of Bombay Trade Disputes Conciliation Act.

Miscellaneous.— Stoppage of the more extreme forms of rationalisation; compulsory publication by employers, along with their balance sheets, of their wages bills, giving total and average wages disbursed, department by department, to workers drawing less than Rs. 100 per month, as also the total amount;

realised by way of fines; opening of technical schools in all mills; bearing of the cost of the "so-called" amenities by the millowners; setting up of better restaurants in mills; permission to be accorded to workers to take refreshments brought from their homes in the restaurants and tiffin sheds of mills.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 15-6-1937 and  
The Times of India, 15-6-1937.)

Minimum Demands of C. P. Textile Workers:

Formulated by Nagpur Textile Union.

The Executive Committee of the Nagpur Textile Union met at Nagpur on 11-6-1937. The Committee drew the attention of the two local mills to the desirability of according recognition to the Union. The Committee decided to urge the Central Provinces Interim Ministry to take the necessary steps to prevail upon the local employers to grant immediate recognition to the Union, if the former did not agree to the Committee's request. The Committee by passing an unanimous resolution placed on record its dissatisfaction with the labour programme of the C.P. Ministry (vide pages 74-76 of our May 1937 report).

The following demands were formulated by the Committee on behalf of the textile workers of the Province:

(a) Withdrawal of all wage-cuts effected in industries since 1933. (b) Fixing of Rs. 30/- as monthly minimum living wage for all industrial workers. (c) Ensurance of security of service, i.e., no wrongful dismissal. (d) Recognition of all Trade Unions and no victimisation of any Trade Union worker. (e) Fixing of an eight-hour day without any decrease in the remuneration of workers.

(f) Grant of leave with pay for one month in the year. (g) Provision of old-age pensions and sickness insurance. (h) Ensurance of decent housing conditions for Labour. (i) Grant of unemployment relief of Rs. 15 per month to every unemployed. (j) Grant of maternity benefit for three months to women working in all factories.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika 17-6-1937.)

14th Half Yearly Meeting

Between the A.I.R.F. and the Railway Board:

Agenda of the Meeting on 5 and 6-7-1937.

The 14th half-yearly meeting between the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and the Railway Board is scheduled to take place at Simla on 5 and 6-7-1937. The principal items on the agenda are: (1) The effect of the Railway Board's orders re. allowances of running parcel clerks and crew staff on the E. B. Railway; (2) Recognition of Unions; (3) Extension of Provident Fund membership; (4) Avenues for promotion of lower-paid employees; (5) Substitution of contract work for departmental work; and (6) Certain grievances of the Accounts staff. The A.I.R. Federation has submitted to the Railway Board a memorandum on the various items on the agenda. The following is a summary of the more important points raised in the memorandum:

Recognition of Unions.— The findings of the Mudie Report in regard to the recognition of the B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union and the continued non-recognition of the majority of the railway unions of employees in the State-owned railways reveal an unsatisfactory state of affairs, and show no progress in the

implementing of the Whitley Commission's recommendations on the subject. The Federation desires to discuss with the Board the whole policy governing the reciprocal relations between the Railway Administration and the Unions.

Extension of Provident Fund Membership.— The Federation has been frequently pleading for the extension of the benefits of the Railway Provident Fund to the vast majority of those who have been hitherto denied membership of the Fund. The Railway Board has been pleading financial stringency as being in the way of such extension. 97 per cent. of those drawing less than Rs. 20/- per month and, of those who are drawing more than Rs. 20/- per month, nearly 86,000 employees on the State-managed railways alone, are not eligible now to be members of the Fund. Even certain categories drawing more than Rs. 20/- per month are now denied membership by being designated as "menials".

It is suggested that the financial implications of extending benefits under the Fund have been unduly exaggerated. The provident fund assets of a railway do not come under the regulations governing funded debts and there is therefore no question of the Government having to allot immediately a sum equivalent to the provident fund bonus for each employee who has been newly admitted. The claims due to mortality will range between 1 to 5 per cent. per annum and claims due to retirement, etc., will not exceed 5 per cent. of the staff membership. For the next five years, the contribution of bonus will be negligible. If the benefits are made at least optional the number of employees belonging to classes now prohibited<sup>who</sup> would join the Fund will be small and the effect of such admission would be reduction in the wage bill due to deductions for provident fund contributions. Out of the apparent saving effected, the claims that would come in future years could be easily met.

Nearly 62 per cent. of those entering service in the Railway at their 20th year die before they reach the 55th year and therefore admission to the Provident Fund is an urgent necessity. The Federation therefore desires that membership of the Provident Fund should be extended without delay.

Avenues for Promotion of Lower-Paid Employees.— The recruitment rules for subordinate services on the railway prescribe restrictions regarding the age and educational qualifications of entrants. Unlike the Postal Department, which is also a commercial undertaking, no provision is made for the promotion and encouragement of suitable members of the lower staff by relaxing the rigidity of minimum educational and age qualifications. The present arrangement is, to make direct recruitments to the upper divisions and to ignore the claims of deserving departmental employees of lower ranks. On a representation by the new G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, the G.I.P. Railway Administration has recently decided that "inferior staff may be considered for promotion to the clerical grade, and suitable qualified hands may be given such promotion without enforcing the full educational qualifications as laid down for new recruits." If necessary, a certain percentage of posts

may be set apart for filling vacancies in the upper ranks by promotions of men in the lower cadres. In the circumstances, the Federation desires that the recruitment rules be so amended that suitable departmental hands already in service in the lower posts may be given preference to sub-ordinate vacancies, provided they are found fit and without enforcing the full educational and age qualifications applicable to new entrants.

Substitution of Contract Labour for Departmental Work.— The Federation submitted a detailed representation on the subject of the substitution of contract labour for departmental work, on 6-5-1937. As the continuance of the policy complained of has resulted in the discharge of several hundreds of employees on different railways, detailed discussion regarding the merits of the policy is desired.

(The Railway Herald, dated 20-6-1937.)

11th Annual Conference of  
M.S.M. Railway Employees' Union - Arkonam, 1937:  
Comprehensive Labour Code Advocated.

The 11th annual conference of M. and S.M. Railway Employees' Union was held at Arkonam on 24-5-1937, Mr. S. Guruswami, Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, presiding.

Presidential Address: Mr. Guruswami, in his presidential address, pointed out that railwaymen all over the country will be faced with a new situation after the publication of the report of the Wedgewood Committee, appointed to find ways and means to save Rs. 60 million per annum for subventing the new Constitution, since it will be low paid workers who will be required to foot the bill.

Proceeding, the President deplored that organised Labour was not making much headway and this was not a little due to impediments placed in the way by employers. He stressed ~~on~~ the necessity of pressing upon the Government and the legislators to introduce a comprehensive Labour Code that would ensure a proper standard of service conditions, having regard to utmost possibilities in the social economy. He also outlined a scheme of training workers on the methods followed by British Railway Trade Unions under National Council of Labour Colleges.

Resolutions: The following are among the more important resolutions adopted:-

Whereas the interests of organised labour are seriously menaced and prejudiced by the impediments placed in the way of Trade Union

organisation and settlement of trade disputes due to eccentricities of individual employers and disabilities imposed by law;

Whereas no society can rightfully claim to be civilised in the absence of any schemes for social insurance, providing for invalidity, unemployment, accident, old age and orphan benefits;

Whereas there are several burning grievances of workers that could be redressed by legislation;

Be it resolved that this Union do move the Government and the members of the Legislature to introduce without delay, a comprehensive Labour Code providing, inter alia, for the following, -

- (i) Protection against wrongful punishments and victimisation for Trade Union activities;
- (ii) Compulsory recognition of Trade Unions and investigation into trade disputes through Joint Standing Conciliation Machinery;
- (iii) Introduction of social insurance schemes;
- (iv) Fixation of wages and service conditions in each class of occupation with due regard to the principle of living wage and utmost possibilities in social economy;
- (v) Participation of Trade Unions, by affording adequate facilities for supervision in the working of Labour protective measures.

Whereas the Wedgewood Committee's Report is likely to result in a worsening of service conditions of railway workers throughout India, this Body resolves that the Central Council of the Union do meet immediately after the publication of the Report to concert necessary measures.

(The Hindu, 25-5-1937 and the  
Indian Labour Journal, 30-5-1937.)

Development of Fisheries:

Sind Government's Plans.

The Department of Industries, Sind, is at present preparing a number of schemes for the development of the village industries of the Province. The Department expects that these schemes will provide employment for large numbers of educated young men who are at present unemployed and that they will also help to supplement the earnings of the agriculturists by enabling them to utilise spare time in profitable subsidiary occupations.

Fisheries Development Scheme.— One of the schemes relates to the development of fisheries. It is pointed out that fisheries have great potentialities of providing an occupation of considerable profit to fishermen in Karachi on the coast and on the banks of the Indus. Karachi exports large supplies of fish to Bombay, Simla and other places in the north-west of India; Karachi oysters are also in great demand. With the provision of better facilities for breeding greater varieties of fish in Karachi, it is hoped that the earnings of those who depend on fishing for their maintenance will increase. Accordingly several lakes and canals in Karachi district have been selected for breeding better fish. The Department now proposes to provide a number of trawlers, each costing Rs.30,000, for the use of fishermen. In addition to this, methods of curing, salting and preserving fish will be taught to fishermen. Special staff will be engaged to direct the work of the Department in the field of fisheries.

Cottage Industries.— The Government of Sind, it is understood, has also developed plans to encourage small industries like

embroidery, basket-making and lacquer work. It will give loans on easy terms to those who need capital for buying the necessary mechanical appliances to turn out better products. It will also explore the possibilities of pisciculture, sericulture and apiculture in villages. It also proposes to start an emporium, stocking samples of articles manufactured in different districts of Sind, at Karachi to secure better prices for the manufactures of the province.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-6-1937.)

3rd Session of Industrial Research Council:

Session to be held at Bombay on 5-7-1937.

The third session of the Industrial Research Council commences in Bombay on 5-7-1937, and is expected to last for two days. The Council will be asked ~~among other~~ to consider the facilities which are or can be made available for conducting an industrial survey, the outline of the survey scheme to be followed in each industry, and the industries which should be given priority in the event of a survey being undertaken. The industries now suggested for survey are oilseed crushing, tanning, and pottery.

The meeting also will consider generally the number of trade specifications required for manufactured articles in common use for which such specifications are not available at present. One other important subject, <sup>relates to the</sup> ~~will be that what~~ <sup>that</sup> action should be taken by the Industrial Bureau to promote the manufacture of casein plastics.



These plastics, it is explained, are manufactured from milk and there is said to be considerable opposition to the scheme as the large-scale production of casein plastics is likely to interfere with the consumption of milk for nutritive purposes.

(The Statesman, 24-6-1937)

Protection of Minor Industries:

Government of India Institutes Inquiry.

The Government of India, as the outcome of applications made by the representatives of twenty-five of the more important minor industries, has decided to institute an inquiry into the minor industries of India to find out the relation between the selling price of Japanese articles imported into India and the cost of production of Indian articles in order to bring about equalization between the two. The inquiry will also be directed to ascertaining the relation between the volume of production in India and the volume of Japanese imports in competing articles.

The more important of the industries concerned are agricultural implements, glass, pottery, paint, silk, umbrellas, cotton blankets, cotton yarn, cotton hosiery, chemicals, cycles, pneumatic tyres, building material, matting, clocks and watches.

Reasons for Inquiry.- Explaining the reasons that have led to the institution of the inquiry; a communique issued by the Government of India on 1-6-1937 says:

Unofficial advisers to the Government in connection with the Indo-Japanese negotiations emphasised inter alia the necessity of protecting the interests of minor industries in India which were adversely affected by Japanese competition. This subject was, ~~XXXX~~

however, excluded from the scope of negotiations which resulted in the continuance of the Indo-Japanese commercial convention till 1934, and of the new protocol dealing with export of raw cotton to Japan and import into India from that country of cotton piece-goods (vide pages 56-57 of our April 1937 report). The Government now proposes to place an officer on special duty to examine the cases of the minor industries. Minor industries in India which may be suffering from Japanese competition are invited to approach the Commerce Department, Government of India, without delay, with full statement of their case.

Questionnaire Issued.- The first step towards the institution of the inquiry has been taken in the middle of June 1937 with the issue of a comprehensive questionnaire to the industries concerned, and also to the Chambers of Commerce throughout India. The questionnaire requires the following information:

Main centres of industry; principal markets in India; total Indian production both in quantity and value, for the years 1934, 1935 and 1936; maximum capacity of plant installed; total exports from India, if any, both in quantity and value; total amount of capital invested; skilled and unskilled labour employed, including higher technical and supervisory staff; cost of production for the latest available year, including the cost of material, labour, power, supervision and packing and also cost including freight prices in Indian currency of articles imported from Japan and other countries which compete with Indian articles.

Mr. B.K.Nehru, Deputy Secretary, Commerce Department, is leaving in the first week of July for Bombay, where he is likely to meet representatives of the Small Industries Association. It may be pointed out that the minor industries of India are, most of them, unorganised. (The Hindustan Times, 1-6-37 and The Statesman, 18-6-1937)

Federation of Indian Chambers' Representation to Government of India.- The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, New Delhi, has sent a memorandum on 22-6-1937 to the Government of India strongly urging the claims of India's minor industries for being accorded protection. (A cutting of the Federation's memorandum is included in the month's press clippings).

(The Statesman, 23-6-1937)

Educated Unemployed in U.P.:  
Scheme for an Industrial Co-operative Society.

Reference was made at pages 46-47 of our October 1936 report to the formation of an Association of Educated Unemployed in the United Provinces. The Association, with a view to finding avenues of employment for the unemployed, proposes to start an Industrial Co-operative Society with the object of running small industries and establishing marketing companies.

A meeting of the industrialists of Allahabad was held on 6-6-1937 to examine the proposal. The meeting recorded the view that the formation of a small industrial co-operative society will be helpful in solving the problem of the educated unemployed and, accordingly, resolved that such a company be formed with a capital of Rs. 500,000, provided that the Government subscribed at least half the capital and gave a recurring grant for the preliminary expenses of management. The meeting further suggested that the Government should<sup>also</sup>/be asked to give facilities to suitable members of the society for industrial training or for studying the conditions in various industries in India and abroad. The meeting decided to invite suggestions from the public and appointed a sub-committee to consider the reply of the Government and suggestions received from the public, and thereafter to draw up a definite scheme for the formation of the company.

(The Leader 10-6-1937.) +

Unemployment in Ceylon:

Collective Farms for Unemployed.

The Ceylon Government will shortly open two collective farms for the unemployed — one in the low-country area for the labourer class and one in the up-country area for the educated unemployed.

The Controller of Labour, Ceylon, who is responsible for this scheme, has already started preliminary investigations, and it is hoped that the detailed scheme will be ready by the middle of July 1937.

(The Times of India, 31-5-1937.)

Unemployment in C.P.:

Personnel of Unemployment Advisory Committee

Announced.

Reference was made at page 58 of our March 1937 report to the setting up of an Unemployment Advisory Committee by the Government of the Central Provinces, under the Chairmanship of the Vice-Chancellor of the Nagpur University, to advise the Government on all matters relating to the unemployment of the educated in the province and to serve as an Information Bureau. The Government of the Province <sup>has</sup> now announced the personnel of the Committee, which consists of 6 members; three members of the committee are members of the provincial Legislative Assembly, while three others represent the cotton, manganese and coal mining industries. The Committee is expected to meet in

July 1937. It will examine the recommendations made by each Government department, after considering the suggestions embodied in the Sapru Unemployment Committee report in the light of the conditions prevailing in the Province, and will then advise the Government on the action to be taken on those proposals.

(The Times of India, 4-6-1937.)

Unemployment in the Punjab:

Statistics to be Collected.

The Committee of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Lahore, has formed an Unemployment Inquiry Committee, under the chairmanship of the Agent, the Central Bank of India, Lahore. The functions of the Committee will be to collect complete information concerning educated unemployed persons in the Punjab, with their respective educational qualifications. The Committee have decided to keep a register of the unemployed so that their names may be brought to the notice of different employers in the province.

(The Hindustan Times, 5-6-1937.)

Educated Unemployment in Aligarh:

Employment Bureau Set up by Aligarh Muslim University.

Under the guidance of the Vice-Chancellor and the direct supervision of a senior member of the University staff, an Employment Bureau has recently been set up in the Muslim University at Aligarh with the object of securing employment for qualified students of the University. Letters have been addressed to various departments of the Central and Provincial

Governments, Indian States, industrial houses and other employment agencies requesting them to recruit for their services from amongst the students of the University. The Bureau has received encouraging response from all quarters.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-6-1937.)

Settling Landless Unemployed in Forest Lands:

Details of Successful Bombay Scheme.

About four years ago, Sir Fredrick Sykes, the then Governor of Bombay, started a scheme for settling unemployed labour on forest lands in the East Nasik District, Bombay, as part of the general rural uplift movement. The scheme serves a dual purpose—the provision of land for the landless unemployed and the gradual re-forestation of denuded forests:

Details of Scheme.— From the agricultural point of view, the scheme has been evolved to meet the situation created by the clamour for land from forests and the denudation of forests caused by excessive grazing until only inferior scrub can grow and the soil has become so hardened by the constant trampling of cattle that very little water enters it. Under the scheme, land in "closed" forests is granted for cultivation to the needy on the condition that it is sown in certain specified parts with forest crops, while in the rest of the area the settler is free to grow any crop he chooses. The land is given free of all charges for three years. In some cases, where land is insufficient to allow each worker a separate piece, the whole area is worked on a collective basis. All this is automatic and requires no help from outside.

Obligations of Settlers.— The following obligations of the settler include: (1) Collection of sufficient quantities of seed of specified species of forest trees, generally anjan (*Hardwickia Binata*); (2) sowing, with specified intervening spaces, of forest seed in the plots assigned to each and tending seedlings; (3) residence on or near the plot; (4) protection of the area from illicit grazing even by his own cattle; and (5) protection of forests within a mile radius of his plot from damage of all kinds.

Benefits Derived.— The success of the scheme can be judged from the increase of the area cultivated under the scheme from 100 acres

to 7,000 acres, and of the number of workers who have taken advantage of the scheme from about a dozen to 800. These figures relate to the monsoon season of 1936, and it is anticipated that this year the number of workers will be twice as many with a corresponding increase in the acreage.

Benefits to Government.— "Agri-forestry", as the scheme has come to be called, has proved beneficial alike to the Government, the people in the area and the settlers. From the Government point of view, land is being restocked and denudation of Government and private lands is being checked at no cost to Government. Besides this a band of skilled workers is growing up and the protective establishment is being strengthened, also at no cost to Government.

Benefits to People in the Area.— To the people in the area the benefits are many. They are relieved of the anxiety regarding denudation. The forests in a short time will permit them to resume enjoyment of privileges, including the use of "dead fuel" which will allow cowdung to be returned to the fields as it ought to be. A well-stocked forest in the vicinity of a village, it is pointed out, must influence the climate and also the water-retention possibilities of the soil.

Benefits to Settlers.— As for the settlers themselves, whereas formerly they formed part of an overabundant labour supply and ipso facto acted as a drag on the average earning capacity, they become cultivators with virgin land at their disposal capable of being worked to the greatest possible good. Thus almost every worker who has taken advantage of the scheme has fully realized, and has accordingly tried to obtain the utmost out of the land during the short time for which it is under "closure." He is allowed to till it only for three out of the five years of closure, and at the end of the third year has to return it fully stocked with forest growth. No restrictions are placed on the crops he grows and the land of one man may be found under cotton, linseed, bajra and pulses, in separate plots.

Examples of Personal Experiences of Settlers.— Two examples of the manner in which the scheme is proving itself beneficial are available.

Arjun Warlie came to Nandgaon in search of employment but soon found that conditions there were no better than in his own village of Peint. He incurred debt to the amount of Rs. 60 and had no other means of repaying it than of pledging himself and his family for repayment by labour. With great difficulty he was induced to become a forest settler. He borrowed Rs. 100 for the purpose and settled down to his new life. Within three years he had not only fully repaid all his debts, but now possesses four bullocks and

one cow, and during the monsoon of 1936 was able to advance six large sacks of grain to others in the settlement at rates of interest much lower than are charged in the bazaars and at a time when the sahaukars (money lenders) were reluctant to grant any advance at all to cultivators.

The second example is that of Tanya Bhil of Palasdare who in 1934 took a small piece of land under the scheme. In a year's time he had increased his holdings, a portion of which he put under edible crops and the rest under cotton. The latter was in such a flourishing condition that while it was in flower he was offered a lump sum of Rs. 1,000 by a Marwari for the crop; but he refused, hoping to get more in the market. Unfortunately, heavy unseasonable rains in November spoilt much of the crop which was ready for the harvest. Notwithstanding this he realized a sum of Rs. 1,100.

(The Statesman 20,6-1937.)

(No reference to this is available in the Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle.) +

#### Unemployment in Bihar;

#### Government Creates New Portfolio of Employment. +

Reference was made at page 46 of our May 1937 report, to the demand of the Bihar and Orissa Unemployment Association for the creation of a separate portfolio for unemployment. Keeping in view the demand of the Association, the Council of Ministers, Bihar, has created a new portfolio of employment. This portfolio will be in the charge of the Revenue and Development Minister, who will henceforth be designated as Minister for Revenue, Development and Employment.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 12-6-1937.)



Unemployment in Sind:  
Scheme to Start Industries.

A scheme to tackle the problem of unemployment in Sind has been chalked out by a group of workers in Karachi. The group proposed to collect a sum of at least Rs. 500,000. About 10 people have subscribed considerable sums and have promised to contribute when future occasions arise. The board of trustees, which will be registered, will have 10 members. It is understood that the collection of funds will be made by means of one anna coupons, which will be sold to the public. Out of the funds thus collected, a number of industries, arts and crafts will be started in different parts of the province and efforts will be made to give employment to unemployed people. It is stated that Mukhi Gobindram, the Finance Minister, Sind, has approved of the scheme.

(The Bombay Chronicle,  
6-6-1937.)

Unemployment in Assam:  
View of Assam Chamber of Commerce .

The problem of unemployment in the province of Assam was the main subject of discussion at a meeting of the Governing Body of the Assam Chamber of Commerce held at Shillong on 26-5-1937. The Chamber stressed the need for starting various new industries and developing infant industries. The following resolutions were adopted by the Chamber:

- (1) It was resolved that the scheme prepared by the Vice-

President of the Chamber, in consultation with the leading businessmen of the province, showing the possibilities of a few potential industries connected with potato starch, sugar, power alcohol, caffeine, medical tinctures, spirituous preparations including perfumery, and other industrial products, be submitted to the Assam Government for consideration.

(2) It was resolved that the Government of Assam should be urged to back up the scheme, so that private industrialists may be induced to come forward and launch such industries. The Chamber was of opinion that if the local Government adopted an encouraging attitude capital will not be shy.

(3) It was resolved that the Government of Assam be urged to formulate a scheme similar to that sponsored by the Government of Bengal and passed by the last Legislative Council of Bengal that led to the flotation of the 'Industrial Credit Corporation' Ltd., a private enterprise, subsidized by the Bengal Government with a view to help enterprising unemployed young men and industrialists with necessary capital to start and to carry on various industries in Bengal.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika,  
31-5-1937.)

Social Conditions.

Beggar Nuisance in Delhi:

Scheme for Starting Poor House. +

Plans are at present under consideration for tackling the beggar problem in Delhi City, one of the principal suggestions put forward being the establishment of a poor house by segregation in which beggars could be kept away from public places and maintained through organised charity.

Scheme for Poor House.— The Senior Superintendent of Police, Delhi, in the course of a letter addressed to the President, Municipal Committee, Delhi, while directing attention to the seriousness of the beggar problem and the need for taking immediate remedial action, points out that the efforts of the police to stop public begging have hitherto proved unavailing. He therefore advocates the confinement of beggars in a specified separate area. With regard to housing and feeding arrangements of the segregated beggars, he suggests the building of a house of the army type, with cement flooring, walls of creosoted wood and asbestos tiling for the roof, and the supply of plain good food twice daily from a communal kitchen. As regards the staff needed, he points out that a supervisor, a warden or two, and a few cooks would be all that is required, and these could work under the orders of the Medical Officer of Health of the Municipality.

The suggestion has found enthusiastic support from several quarters and the opinion is generally expressed that such action should be taken to effectively check the beggar nuisance, which is definitely on the increase.

Municipal Secretary's Views.— The Secretary of the Delhi Municipality, in the course of an interview given to the press, points out some of the principal difficulties presented by the beggar problem.

Practical Difficulties.— The Secretary said that a proposal to start a poor house was submitted by him a few years ago to the Municipality, but action was not taken on the proposal for a variety of reasons. One of the major difficulties was of a religious and social character; India is a country where mendicancy is sanctioned and even encouraged by religion, and professional beggars

57  
taking advantage of this roamed the country in the guise of religious mendicants. Despite the wide prevalence of the evil, any action tending to restrict the liberty and free movements of beggars would evoke strong opposition from orthodox religious groups.

Secondly, even if legislation was adopted, there were several difficulties in ensuring its strict application. The experiences of the Punjab endorsed this conclusion. Section 151 of "Municipal Law and Practice in the Punjab" dealt with the problem. The Section, which was amended a few years ago, reads as follows:

- (i) "Whoever in any street or public place within the Municipality begs importunately for alms, or exposes, or exhibits, with the object of exciting charity, any deformity or disease or any offensive sore or wound, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description, which may extend to three months, or with fine not exceeding Rs. 50 or with both provided that
- (ii) "(a) in the case of the first offence, the court may, if it thinks fit, instead of sentencing the convict to any punishment release him after due admonition.
- (iii) "(b) in any case, the court may, if it is satisfied of the inability of the convict to earn a livelihood owing to physical deformity or debility, and if the person in charge of any poor house in the Municipality certifies that he is willing to receive him, direct that the convict be received into such poor house, but after being released on entering into a bond with or without sureties, to appear and receive sentence when called upon during such period not exceeding three years as the court may direct."

He pointed out that the adoption of the above legislation in ~~the~~ Punjab did not result in the achievement of any striking practical results.

A third difficulty was that though sufficient money for the capital outlay needed for the establishment of a poor house might be forthcoming without difficulty, it would be difficult to raise the money needed for maintenance and other items of recurring expenditure.

(The Hindustan Times, 16-6-1937.)

Health Conditions in Jharia Coal Mines, 1935-36.\*

The annual report on the working of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the year 1935-36, published by the Government of Bihar and Orissa, gives the following details regarding health conditions in the coal mines area in Jharia.

Jharia Mines Settlement.— The estimated population of the Jharia Mines Settlement for 1935 was 526,322. There were 14,253 births during 1935, as compared with 14,172 births in 1934. The rate of birth per 1,000 was 27.08 against 27.19 in 1934. The death rate showed an increase by 2.16, there being 10,753 deaths as against 9,521 in 1934. The rate of increase of population, i.e., the excess of the birth rate over the death rate, was 6.65 in 1935 as compared with 8.92 in 1934.

Colliery Population.— According to the report the average daily labour force employed in 1935 was 60,645 as against 57,265 in 1934. Of these, 36,482 men and 4,124 women were underground workers, and 14,744 men and 5,295 women were above-ground workers.

Accidents.— 754 accidents were reported during the year under review, as against 634 during 1934. Of these 754 accidents, 111 were fatal, 490 were reported as recovered and 153 were minor, as against 75 fatal, 456 reported as recovered and 103 minor in 1934.

Water Supply.— In the course of the year, three collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board mains, bringing the total number of connected collieries to 178. The previous policy of not asking small unconnected collieries to link up with the Jharia.

---

\*Annual Report of the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the year 1935-36, Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar, Patna, 1937. pp.27.

Water Board supplies has been reversed on public health grounds. The report points out that these collieries constitute a source of danger to the neighbouring ones and action is being taken to get the remaining ones linked up. During the year, notices were served by the Board on nine collieries, requiring them to link up.

Housing in Colliery Areas. — The moratorium first granted in 1926 was withdrawn with effect from 1-4-1935. It was felt that the continued granting of moratoria for the last eight years had definitely lowered the standard of labourers' dwellings as no programme for betterment of houses was imposed on collieries. The decision of the Board was communicated to all bodies connected with the coal trade like the Indian Mining Association, the Indian Mining Federation, the Indian Colliery Owners' Association, the Association of Colliery Managers in India and the Indian Mines Managers' Association, which raised no objection to its withdrawal.

Food Adulteration.— During the year, 135 prosecutions were made under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, of which 115 ended in conviction, 4 were dropped, 7 were withdrawn, and 9 were pending at the end of the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme.— During the year under report, all Maternity and Child Welfare centres continued to function except those at Anil's Kusunda and K.M. selected collieries. These collieries had to be closed down on 14-9-1935, owing to an outbreak of fire underground and the centres there had also/be closed down. All the Health Visitors and workers were supplied with urine testing equipment. The centres were

also supplied with new books in Roman Urdu for helping the dai's training. Slides on anatomy, physiology and child welfare were also obtained for the same purpose. Posters and charts on the following subjects were also supplied to all the centres: (i) Maternity and Child Welfare, (ii) Cholera, (iii) Small-pox, (iv) Hygiene, (v) Tuberculosis. Stock mixtures like quinine mixture, castor oil mixture, cough mixture, etc., were prepared in the Central Laboratory at Dhanbad and supplied to all centres for use therein. For the first time, a reward of annas 4 was sanctioned for each case conducted by indigenous dais. During the year, all the dais operating in the area under the Maternity Scheme were supplied with fully equipped boxes which were started last year. Soap, oil and milk to mothers and children were distributed free of charge throughout the year.

Leprosy Relief Scheme.— The Dhanbad and District Leprosy Relief Fund continued to maintain three clinics, i.e., one each at Jharia, Katras and Dhanbad. Clinics are held twice a week at each of the centres except the newly opened one at Pandra where clinics are held once a week. Efforts were continued throughout the year to examine the children of infected parents with a view to detect early cases and to start their treatment as soon as possible. The total number of treatments given during the year was 17,190 as against 17,088 during 1934. During the year, an effort was made to extend the anti-leprosy work in the area and a scheme was submitted to the Silver Jubilee Committee in connection with Their Majesties' Silver Jubilee. Effort is being made to materialise the scheme by establishing three new

centres as the existing centres are not sufficient to deal adequately with the large number of lepers infesting the area.

Coloured slides on Leprosy Training were obtained during the year. Advantage was taken of the Local Railway Exhibition and part of the general stall was reserved for leprosy propaganda; the latest methods of treatment and prevention were explained to the public with the help of magic lantern lectures, distribution of handbills and leaflets, and exhibition of posters. The Exhibition was attended by about 75,000 people.

(The Health Conditions in Jharia Mines during 1934-35 are reviewed at pages 50-53 of our January 1936 report.)

Inaugural Meeting of Central Advisory Board of  
Health, Simla, 23-6-1937: Co-ordination of Public  
Health Services.

Reference was made at pages 60-61 of our February 1937 report to the setting up of the Central Advisory Board of Health in February 1937 by the Government of India. The inaugural meeting of the Board was held at Simla on 23-6-1937 and the proceedings were formally opened by His Excellency the Viceroy.

Scope of Preventive Medicine.- His Excellency stressed the importance of preventive medicine in respect of conservation of public health and said that disease is due, in a very great part, either to dirty surroundings, including dirty food and dirty water or to insufficient food (in which he included a diet which lacked substances essential to health) or to unhealthy or over-strenuous conditions of life (of which bad housing and over-long working hours in ill-ventilated factories are typical), all of which, he said, tended to weaken to danger point the natural defences of the body and to render the individual prone to serious disease. Defining the scope of the science of public



health, he said that it embraces the question of adequate laws and by-laws and their wise and zealous administration, and covers a very wide range of subjects, including the whole field of public medical services and relief, the control of epidemic and communicable disease, the medical inspection of schools, the securing of healthy conditions in mines and factories and maternity and child welfare work. It involves in urban areas, in particular, such questions as the provision of adequate housing and the prevention of overcrowding, the public supply of water, the purity of food-stuffs offered for sale, adequate street cleaning and the disposal of refuse and drainage.

Industrial Housing.- He observed that he has, of late, been interested in conditions of urban housing and sanitation. The standard reference on this question is, he reminded the Board, the report of the Whitley Commission on Labour. "The chapters in that report which deal with the question of housing in relation to industrial labour make extremely gloomy reading. Being desirous of discovering what action may have followed the recommendations of the Whitley report, I turned to the annual reports of the Public Health Commissioner and was a little surprised to find, since the report of 1950 no single mention of this most important matter. A very heavy responsibility lies upon Governments in this matter and particularly upon local bodies. I greatly hope that the silence of the Public Health Commissioner in his reports may not mean that throughout these six years there has in fact, been no progress. I hope too that in future the reports of the Public Health Commissioner and of provincial Directors of Public Health will provide the public with adequate information on this question."

Nutrition.- Regarding the progress of nutrition research, the Viceroy said: "We have at Coonoor an active research organisation in human nutrition. During the past year we have seen established a nutrition advisory committee with the Public Health Commissioner as Chairman and Dr. Aykroyd of Coonoor as its Secretary, and we have planned to create a link between agricultural research and research in human nutrition by the provision of a trained nutritionist at the new Agricultural School at Delhi. In the same period and through the agency of the nutrition advisory committee there has been initiated at Coonoor the first three months' course in human nutrition designed to equip officers selected by the Central and Local Governments. With a view to ensuring that each government might have at its disposal in its Public Health Department at least one Officer with that special knowledge, officers from seven provinces and one Indian State attended the course."

Resolutions.- The Board passed a number of resolutions relating to Indian public health problems, a summary of the more important of which is given below:

1. Co-ordination of Public Health Services.- In order to promote co-ordinated effort in preventive medicine between public health departments, the Board recommends the establishment of a central health board or a committee at the headquarters of each province and a health bureau in each district.

2. Expansion of Public Health Services.- All Governments should (a) form provincial public health services, (b) require municipalities and local boards to appoint medical officers of health and (c) lay down suitable conditions for the recruitment, qualifications and terms of service of health officers. The Board further recommends that where local Governments do not possess these powers, necessary legislation should be passed with the least possible delay. The Board was of opinion that for the development of public health organisations and the formulation of public health schemes in municipalities and district boards, adequate funds should be allotted for provincial Governments.

3. Nutrition Research.- The Central Government should set aside adequate funds for nutrition research and Provincial Governments should send medical and health officers to Coonoor for training in nutrition.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-6-1937)

64

Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operation in Ajmer-Merwara, 1935-36.\*

Statistics of Societies and Members.— The Registrar, Co-operative Societies, Ajmer-Merwara, in his annual report for 1935-36, on the progress of co-operation in Ajmer-Merwara points out that the societies in the area have been hit to a great extent by the unfavourable agricultural conditions prevailing during the year. During the report period, while the number of Central Societies was the same as in the previous year, viz., 12, their membership rose from 1290 to 1319 Societies and the number of individual members decreased by 2, i.e., from 761 to 759. The number of agricultural societies and their membership increased from 605 and 13,675 to 617 and 14,168 respectively; 14 new societies having been registered and the registration of 2 having been cancelled during the year. The number of non-agricultural societies and their members rose from 118 and 6,794 to 123 and 7,008 respectively. During the year 7 new Societies of this class were registered and the registration of 2 cancelled. The net increase in the number of societies and in their membership was 17 and 734 respectively.

Working Capital.— The working capital of the central, agricultural and non-agricultural societies amounted to Rs. 2,063,141, Rs. 1,700,536 and Rs. 1,640,489 respectively, against Rs. 2,090,931, Rs. 1,700,939 and Rs. 1,487,128 in the preceding year. The total working capital of all the societies amounted to approximately Rs. 5,404,200, showing an increase of about Rs. 125,200 on the figures on the previous year.

Central Banks and Banking Unions. — There is no increase in the number of central institutions, and there are 3 central banks and 4 banking unions as last year. The share capital, reserve and other funds and deposits from central banks and societies have increased by Rs. 800, Rs. 16,729 and Rs. 59,045 respectively. On the other hand deposits from individuals have gone down from Rs. 1,224,818 to Rs. 1,119,350, or there is a net decrease of Rs. 105,468 under this head. Deposits from central banks and societies have increased by Rs. 59,045. Recoveries from societies, central banks and individuals total Rs. 394,878, Rs. 221,571 and Rs. 94,733 as against Rs. 447,218, Rs. 395,222 and Rs. 100,109 last year. The fluid resources of the central institutions work out at Rs. 414,057 against the required standard of Rs. 239,143. The percentage of owned capital to the total working capital of these institutions is 26.4 against 25.2 in the previous year.

Agricultural and Non-Agricultural Societies.— As regards agricultural societies, the number of credit societies (unlimited) has increased from 559 to 570; the number of members increased from 12,046 on 1-7-1935 to 12,389 on 1-7-1936. Recoveries in principal and interest show a fall of Rs. 13,531 and Rs. 26,686 respectively. Non-agricultural societies showed an increase of

\* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Ajmer-Merwara for the year ending 30th June 1936. Printed by the Manager Government of India Press, New Delhi - 1937 - Gratis. pp. 22+xi

65

5 societies during the year; share capital, reserve and deposits have shown a marked increase, and on the other hand the amount due to central banks and societies has gone down by Rs. 16,548. Their owned capital totals Rs. 478,649 as against Rs. 441,304 last year.

Societies of Mill Hands. — The number of such societies has gone down from 30 to 29. As reported last year, opposition on the part of the modis (general provision merchants) engaged by the mills still continues, and they are a great stumbling block in their successful working. In the circumstances, recoveries have become a very difficult task, as the members of the staff are not even allowed to enter the premises of the mills. Out of 278 members, 77 only are at work, and the rest have left employment, some for their homes and others in search of employment. The share capital and reserve have further decreased from Rs. 5,301 and Rs. 6,976 to Rs. 4,209 and Rs. 4,107 respectively. The report points out that it will be necessary to wind up the affairs of all such societies as have ceased to have any life in them. +

#### Growth of Co-operative Societies in Bombay Mills. ✓

A communique issued in the second week of June 1937 by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, gives particulars of the spread of the co-operative movement among the workers of the textile mills of the city.

The communique points out that in the last few years there has been a considerable increase in the number of co-operative credit societies in the Bombay textile mills. There are at present, 41 societies spread over 24 mills in the city. Each of these societies is registered under the Bombay Co-operative Societies Act. To become a member of a society, a worker is required to contribute to the share capital, which is divided into shares of the face value of Rs. 10 each, payable by instalments. Special

66

attention is paid by the societies to questions relating to the removal of indebtedness. The facilities for restricted borrowing on easy terms afforded by these societies, it is observed, are of great help to the workers, and prevent them from falling into the clutches of money-lenders charging exorbitant rates of interest.

(The Times of India, 11-6-1937).

Progress of Co-operation in Cochin State, 1935-36. ✓

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Cochin, in his annual report for 1935-36 points out that the policy of rectification and consolidation of existing societies, rather than mere expansion, was strictly followed during the year under report.

Statistics of Societies and Membership. - During the year under review, 255 societies were working as against 258 in 1934-35. 16 societies were cancelled and 13 new societies were registered in 1935-36 as compared with 9 cancellations and 10 new registrations in 1934-35. Out of the 255 societies working, agricultural credit societies numbered 124. Membership of the societies fell from 25,142 in 1934-35 to 23,993 in 1935-36.

Finances. - While the working capital and the reserve fund of all the societies rose from Rs. 2,504,570 and 418,340 to 2,548,135 and 437,050 respectively, the total transactions amounted to Rs. 6,756,857 as against Rs. 6,850,219 in the previous year. It is pointed out that the prevailing world-wide economic depression and its repercussions on the village folk accounted for the fall in the total transactions.

(The Hindu, 18-6-1937).

67

Women and Children.

Women Workers in C. P.:

Prohibition to Work in Certain Services of Public Works  
Department.

Attention is directed to Notification No. 244-A-Estt. dated Nagpur 5-6-1937 at page 738 (Part I) of the C. P. and Berar Gazette dated 11-6-1937 debarring women from certain services or posts in the Public Works Department, C.P. and Berar. These posts belong mostly to the Provincial, General and Subordinate engineering services of the Province. They also include certain posts in the ministerial service, like, draftsmen, tracers, foremen and mistries; and all posts in the menial establishment.

(The Central Provinces and Berar  
Gazette, 11-6-1937. Part I. Page  
738.)

50

Education.

Industrial and Vocational Education in Baroda.

The Baroda Government is contemplating re-organisation of the system of industrial and vocational education obtaining at present in the State. The State is likely to depute some of its officials to study industrial conditions in Japan for the purpose of re-organising its educational and industrial policy. A proposal to appoint a Labour Welfare Officer is also under consideration.

(The Times of India, 4-6-37.)

Bureau of Education:

Government of India's decision to revive  
Institution.

It is understood that the Government of India have decided to revive the Bureau of Education in India, which, on the recommendation of the Indian Retrenchment Committee of 1921, was abolished in the interest of economy. The work of the Bureau has since been continued on a very limited scale by the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India.

The Central Advisory Board of Education considered the question of revival of the Bureau at its first meeting held in New Delhi in December, 1935, and resolved that the Bureau of Education should be revived under the control of the Educational Commissioner to deal specifically with the collection and dissemination of literature relating to educational problems in various provinces.

Functions of the Bureau. — The Bureau will now be revived to perform the following functions: (1) To maintain a reference library of educational books and periodicals; (2) to collect and disseminate literature relating to educational problems in various provinces; (3) to issue from time to time educational pamphlets and occasional reports likely to be of interest and value to provincial departments of education; (4) to issue an annual report on the progress of education in India and a quinquennial review of education in India; and (5) to supply information on educational subjects at the request of provincial educational officers or authorities.

Administrative Control. — The Bureau will be under the control of the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India, and the Secretary of the Central Advisory Board of Education, who is appointed by the Government of India, will be the Curator of the Bureau. A library of educational books, which will gradually be extended, has recently been attached to the office of the Central Advisory Board of Education.

(The Hindustan Times dated 11-6-1937)



Agricultural Marketing in India;

Work of Central Marketing Staff.

One of the most serious handicaps under which the Indian agricultural producer is labouring is the absence of proper marketing facilities for the commodities that he raises. The illiteracy of the majority of the tillers of the soil is another handicap which tends to deprive the agricultural worker of the legitimate reward for his labour. The Government of India has recently organised an agricultural marketing service to improve marketing facilities and accord some measure of relief to the agricultural producer from the exactions of middle-men. The service consists of an Agricultural Marketing Adviser, helped by over 300 assistants, comprising senior and junior marketing officers and other staff, and it is its duty to deal with all marketing questions in British India and in Indian States which indent on its help. The work at present is related mostly to marketing surveys, analysis, grading and packing of agricultural produce, stimulating agricultural production, and cold storage and refrigerated transport of agricultural commodities. The following principal-aspects-of-the information dealing with the principal aspects of the work accomplished hitherto by the agricultural marketing service is taken from a report issued from Simla by the Associated Press of India on 4-6-37:-

Grading and Marking.— The main work has been in connexion with grading and marking, and certain experimental grading and packing stations have been established: for hides (at Agra and Delhi), fruits (oranges at Nagpur and grapes at Nasik), eggs (at Pabbi in the Frontier Province and Kottarakara in Travancore), and for ata from washed and conditioned wheat ground at Delhi.

Grading Legislation.— The system of grades adopted at these experimental stations is based on commodity analyses and

K. 71

discussions with representatives of trade. Soon after this work started, the necessity was felt for taking suitable steps to protect these grade designations and marks from being copied or otherwise misused. The Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937, was accordingly passed by the Central Legislature in March. Rules were passed under the Act prescribing the grade, designation and standards of quality of eggs, oranges, grapes, hides and skins, and published in the Gazette of India. The general rules made at the same time empower the Agricultural Marketing Adviser to issue a certificate of authorization to suitable persons desirous of being authorised to grade and mark their produce with the prescribed designation marks.

Trade Associations to Control Grading.— As a general policy it is hoped that as far as many of the heavy commodities are concerned, the grades and standards will be controlled by suitable trade associations like the East India Cotton Association in Bombay. In pursuit of this policy and in order to encourage and develop a sense of corporate responsibility for improving marketing methods, the central marketing staffs have held many conferences both formal and informal with various trade and manufacturing interests concerned with the marketing of different commodities.

Grading of Wheat, Linseed, Leather and Tobacco. — In the course of 1936-37 grain trade associations and millers co-operated with the central marketing staff in formulating the basis of an All-India standard contract for wheat and linseed. As the result of mutual discussion, a Federation of Indian Tanners was established at Cawnpore and an Indian Tobacco Association at Guntur. Part of the object of both these bodies is to maintain grade standards and promote their use in trade. Discussions were also held with sugar interests with a view to establishing at an early date a comprehensive association for controlling future trading on the basis of defined standards.

Quality of Products. — The investigation work connected with the surveys ranges over the whole field of marketing, but special attention is devoted to the study of prices and the quality of products concerned. In the latter connexion, a considerable amount of analytical work has been done at various research institutions in the country. Generally speaking, market investigations have been carried out by means of personal interviews, assisted by a standard list of questions in the form of a questionnaire, and marketing officers in the course of their work, apart from visiting villages and mandis, (markets), interview representative members of different groups of persons concerned in the production and distribution of commodities.

Work in Indian States. — The central marketing staff are responsible for survey work in a large number of States which do not have a staff of their own. Surveys were in the first instance initiated in regard to rice, wheat, linseed, groundnuts, tobacco, fruits, milk, eggs, livestock and hides and skins and also in respect of markets and fairs and co-operative marketing. At a conference between the central marketing staff and senior market-

ing officers in the provinces and States held last year, it was agreed that as soon as the completion of inquiries regarding any of the foregoing commodities permitted, survey work should be started on the following:- Barley, gram and maize; coconuts, mustard seed, rapeseed and toria, mangoes, potatoes, coffee; sheep and goats; wool and furs; and ghee and butter.

Cold Storage Depots.— Arrangements have been made for the analysis of samples of new commodities at various centres. By courtesy of certain large exporters at Karachi and Calcutta an analysis was made from their books of the quality of exported hides and skins on the basis of trade selections. The question of cold storage and refrigerated transport, which has been engaging the active consideration of the Army authorities, has also been taken up by the Agricultural Marketing Adviser who is to act as liaison officer and to attend to inquiries from trade and the general public concerning cold storage. At the instance of the army authorities, a company has been formed for the erection of cold storage depots at several places in Northern India. These depots when erected will cater for the requirements of both military and commercial interests.

(The Statesman, 5-6-37.)

5-Year Plan of Rural Development  
in Hyderabad State. +

The Hyderabad State (Deccan) is at present planning a five-year plan of rural development. Explaining the views of the Government with regard to the administrative policy to be pursued in this context, Mr. Fazlulla, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Hyderabad State, in the course of a Note points out that the proposed scheme of rural development cannot make headway unless (a) it is pursued through an agency as far as possible non-official and (b) it is guided by bodies able to control and co-ordinate the activities of constructive Departments of the Government.

He adds that with these principles in view the Government proposes to carry out experiments through Co-operative Societies and

to guide the rural reconstruction movement through Boards. The scheme includes the formation of a Central Board consisting of twenty members, including four Executive Councillors, the Secretaries for the Revenue, Commerce and Industries Departments, the Directors of Education, Agriculture and Industries and of the Veterinary Department, the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, the Marketing Officer and a representative of the Central Co-operative Union. This Board will map out the line of action and work through branches. Rural Reconstruction Councils will be constituted for each District including three non-official co-operators. Each Taluk (district) will also have its own Council. While the Central Board will direct and co-ordinate activities throughout the State the success of the scheme will, it is pointed out, depend largely on the enthusiasm of the District and Taluqa Councils.

The duration of the experiment is laid down as five years.

(The Bombay Chronicle,  
9-6-1937.)

Debt Conciliation Boards in Cochin. ✓

The Government of Cochin has recently adopted a Debt Conciliation Act, which provides for the establishment and constitution of Conciliation Boards for the amicable and fair settlement of debts. In pursuance of the provisions of the Act, the Government has constituted for the present one Board as an experimental measure for one year to operate in certain specified divisions of the State. It is understood that instructions will be given to the Board to see that in the disposal of applications by it, against which no appeal lies, the parties are not hit hard and further that while the debtor is enabled to start afresh, his credit in respect of future borrowings for agricultural purposes is not impaired.

(The Hindu, 10-6-1937). ✓

Maritime Affairs.

1st Session of the All-India Seamen's  
Conference, Calcutta, 5 and 6-6-1937 :

75

Various problems affecting the welfare of Indian seamen were discussed at the first session of the All-India Seamen's Conference held at Calcutta on 5 and 6-6-1937 under the presidentship of Mr. Mirza Akhtar Hassan, M.L.A., of Bombay. The Conference was formally opened by the Hon'ble Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, Minister for Labour, Bengal.

Labour Minister's Speech. — In the course of his opening speech, Mr. Suhrawardy defined the functions of a trade union and pointed out that registration under the Trade Unions Act, did not automatically carry with it recognition by employers; for recognition, the union should establish its claim by the sincerity and genuineness of its work in the cause of the members and by efficient management. On the question of trade union leadership by non-workers, Mr. Suhrawardy said that, while recognising the necessity for non-working leaders for so long as the movement was in its infancy and the majority of workers were illiterate, such 'outside' leaders should exercise a great deal of caution in committing unions to certain courses of action, and more particularly resort to strikes. "The responsibility on these outsiders" he declared, "is therefore very great and the motives of their conduct and the method of conducting their trade disputes will determine to a large extent the genuineness of a trade union and of a trade dispute."

Presidential Address.— In the course of his presidential address, Mr. Mirza Akhtar Hassan appealed to Calcutta seamen to

compose their differences and form one united Association.

"We have much to achieve", he said, "and the future holds nothing but the prospect of an intensive, and perhaps a long drawn out battle between ourselves and those who deny us in this country up till now, the elementary rights and privileges that are enjoyed by seamen all over the globe." After dealing with the "abuses" in their conditions of employment and the various grievances of the seamen, the speaker said that they should urge the Government of India to pass legislation immediately to give effect to the conventions adopted by the two International Labour Conferences held at Geneva in October, 1936, at which Indian seamen were represented by Mr. Aftab Ali of Calcutta and Mr. Mohamed Ebrahim Serang of Bombay.

He emphasised that in order to bring pressure on the Government to pass the necessary legislation, Indian seamen should be strongly organised and for that purpose a central body, a National Union of all Indian seamen should be established. The existing Indian seamen's unions at Bombay and Calcutta should be affiliated to this central organisation. It was essential that a National Shipping Board, more or less on the lines of the National Maritime Board of Great Britain, might be established in India so that the representatives of the Seamen's Union and Shipowners' Organisations might find a forum where the conditions of service, rates of pay, etc., of Indian seamen might be settled and necessary collective agreements arrived at. Finally, he called upon the conference to urge upon the Government of India to take all necessary steps without further delay for giving all facilities to enable Indian shipping to expand rapidly and substantially both in the coastal and the overseas trade

3.K.

of India.

Resolutions.— The Conference passed a number of resolutions dealing with the grievances of Indian seamen and suggesting remedies for them; a summary of the more important of the resolutions is given below:

1. Grievances of Inland Shipping and Waterways Workers.— The conference adopted a resolution recording its dissatisfaction at the unsympathetic attitude of the Governments of India and Bengal towards the 40,000 odd workers employed in inland shipping and waterways and in port trade revealed by "their not taking any steps for the removal of the various grievances of these workers."

2. Implementing Whitley Report. — The conference requested the Governments of India and Bengal to give immediate effect to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour on the recruitment of crews for inland vessels in Bengal, Bihar and Assam and the conditions of their services.

3. Ratification of I.L. Conventions. — The conference also asked the Government of India to ratify the Maritime Conventions adopted by the International Conference at Geneva in 1936 and to give effect to the Recommendations regarding welfare work to be carried on among seamen while in port, without any further loss of time.

4. Wages of Indian Seamen.— The conference deplored the fact that for the last 18 years, in spite of repeated demands and requests, ship-owners had not thought it fit to grant any increase in the wages of seamen signing on from Indian ports. The conference also regretted the fact that the Government of India, in spite of the fact that nearly 50,000 Indian seamen were employed at a time by foreign shipowners, "had not done anything that could have helped Indian seamen." The conference, therefore, considered it necessary to bring the question of wage increase to the notice of the shipowners and the Government and asked its executive to demand an immediate increase of about 50 per cent in the present wages, calculated on the basis of rates now in force in the Port of Calcutta.

5. Formation of an All-India Seamen's Federation.— Realizing that it is time that the seamen of India should establish a national trade union organisation competent to represent, guide and control them as a whole and generally to act as the supreme national authority in matters affecting the interests of seamen of this country, both nationally and internationally, the Conference advocated the formation of an "All-India Seamen's Federation." Another resolution requested the Government of India, the Provincial



Governments and shipowners, both foreign and Indian, to recognise this Federation as the supreme authority representing Indian seamen.

Climatic Restrictions on Indian Seamen.— The Conference considered that the climatic restrictions in regard to employment of Indian seamen in certain latitudes imposed by the Government of India were not in their interests as they tended to restrict their field of employment, and requested the Government to remove those restrictions.

Office bearers of the All-India Seamen's Federation.— The following were elected to the executive committee of the newly created All India Seamen's Federation: President — Mr. Aftab Ali; Vice-President — Mr. Mohammed Ebrahim Serang; Secretary — Mr. Faiz Ahmad; Treasurer — Dr. A.M.Malik; Members — Mr. Mirza Akhtar Hassan (Bombay), Mr. Abdul Karim Hasan Serang (Bombay), Mr. Bikhu Jairaj (Bombay), Mr. Abdul Huq (Indian Seamen's Union), Mr. M. Abdur Rahim (Indian Seamen's League), Mr. Fazlur Rahaman (Quarter-master), Mr. F. Rahman (Bengali Mariners), Mr. Vincent Almeida (Bombay, Co-opted), Mr. Md. Ayub (Calcutta), Mr. Kaloo Gulam Ali (Bombay).

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 7 and 9-6-1937 and the Statesman dated 9-6-1937.)

Maritime Affairs.

Recruitment of Indian Seamen: Conditions in Bombay.

The following information about the working conditions of Indian seamen in Bombay is taken from a note on the subject contributed by the Shipping Correspondent of the Times of India to the issue dated 18-6-1937 of that paper:

Unemployment.- The problem of unemployment among seamen has been slightly relieved ~~to some extent~~ by the recent improvement in the shipping trade. In the hope of securing jobs, unemployed seamen remain ashore calling every day at the docks or at the office of the Shipping Master in Bombay. The period of waiting of such seamen is now, however, not as long as it used to be. No fewer than 30,000 seamen are recruited in the port of Bombay every year on foreign going and coastal vessels. The seamen are not necessarily new recruits. Most of them are men who have been discharged at the end of their term of employment. The P. and O. and the British Indian Line steamers are the largest employers of Indian seamen. The next largest employers are the City and Hall Line, but lately they have adopted the policy of recruiting saloon crews for their passenger steamers from Calcutta.

Method of Recruitment.- The deck crew is drawn from Woplas, Ratnagiri Hindus and Muslims, and the engine crew from Punjabi Muslims, Pathans and Ratnagiri Muslims. A muster is called on arrival of a ship in port at which the Marine Superintendent of the Company and the Shipping Master are present. The serang is first selected and he then chooses men from his community and village to ensure discipline and efficiency. They are placed before the

Marine Superintendent for his approval. The Shipping Master attends to the selection and uses his influence to obtain employment for those waiting ashore for longer periods. The final choice rests, however, with the shipping company. A certificate granted by the master of the vessel and endorsed by the Shipping Master to the crew at the time of their discharge on the expiry of their term of employment, plays an important part in recruitment. These certificates contain remarks about the men's conduct while in service.

Wages of Seamen.- The wages of the deck and engine crew range from Rs. 22 to Rs. 80 per month. The saloon crews are drawn from the Goan and Muslim communities. A pantry boy gets the lowest pay <sup>of</sup> Rs. 15 per month, and the butler the highest, Rs. 80 per month. The general servants (waiters and stewards) draw from Rs. 25 to Rs. 50 per month. This sum is considerably augmented by tips.

(The Times of India, 18-6-1937)

National Seamen's Union, Bombay,

Urges Establishment of State Employment

Bureau for Seamen.

Reference was made at pages 75-78 of this report ~~under the section: "Workers' Organisations"~~, to the proceedings of the 1st session of the All-India Seamen's Conference held at Calcutta. An extraordinary general meeting of the National Seamen's Union, Bombay, was held at Bombay on 20-6-1937 at which resolutions requesting the National Executive of the All-India Seamen's Federation to move the Government of India to establish a state

employment bureau as envisaged in I. L. Conventions without further loss of time, and to move the authorities to abolish the brokerage system and have brokers' offices removed from shipping offices, as recommended by the Whitley and Clow Commissions, were passed.

Mirza Akhtar Hassan, President of the All-India Seamen's Conference, Mr. Mahomed Ebrahim Serang and other delegates to that conference at which it was decided to form an All-India Seamen's Federation, explained the work done at the conference and the implications of embracing all seamen's associations within the bonds of a federation.

Attention was drawn by the speakers to some of the grievances of seamen in this country and an appeal was made for unity in labour ranks and for enlisting more members to strengthen the hands of the union, and through it, the Federation.

(The Times of India, 22-6-1937.)

Migration.

The Government of Burma (Immigration) Order, 1937.

On 18-3-1937 His Majesty in Council passed an Order, designated the Government of Burma (Immigration) Order, 1937, with the object of regulating immigration of Indians into Burma after the separation of Burma from India. The operative clauses of the Order are reproduced below:

Clause 3: During the period mentioned in the next succeeding paragraph, immigration into Burma from India shall be subject to the restrictions in force immediately before the commencement of the Government of Burma Act, 1935, and no other restrictions.

Clause 4: The period mentioned in the last preceding paragraph shall commence on the separation of Burma from India and continue for three years or until twelve months have elapsed from the giving by the Governor of Burma to the Governor-General of India of notice to terminate the operation of this Order, whichever is the longer period:

Provided that if any restrictions are imposed in British India on immigration into India from Burma (other than restrictions in force immediately before the separation of Burma from India) the said period shall cease and any dispute as to whether any such restrictions have been imposed shall be referred to the Secretary of State, whose decision shall be final.

Clause 5: For the purpose of this Order—

- (a) the exclusion of undesirable individuals;
- (b) the imposition of regulations of general application in the interests of public health or public safety;
- (c) the taking by the Governor-General of India or the Governor of Burma of any action which he may consider necessary for the discharge of his special responsibility for the prevention of any grave menace to the peace or tranquility of India or any part thereof, or as the case may be, Burma or any part thereof,

shall not be deemed to be the imposition of a restriction on immigration.

(Pages 357-358 of the Gazette of  
India Extra-ordinary 1-4-1937.)