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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch.

Report for March 1930.

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General.

Once again the chronicle of the day to day political events in India has to record that ^{the} past few weeks have only intensified the seriousness of the political situation. Though the retirement from the Legislative Assembly of Pandit Motilal Nehru and his band of Swarajists had considerably diminished the fighting strength of the Opposition, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya had rallied the members, who in spite of the mandate of the Lahore Congress did not submit their resignations, into a cohesive unit, and made a remarkable speech in opposing the Cotton Tariff Bill, on the ground, first, that the protection offered to the Industry was inadequate, and secondly, that the Bill sought to foist upon the Indian fiscal system the principle of Imperial preference. The Finance Bill which was discussed earlier was also vehemently opposed, but it was on the Cotton Tariff Bill that the Opposition showed itself at its best. In the course of the debate, the Government made it very clear that they were not prepared to accept any amendments which would alter the character of the Bill; this statement led to an examination by the Assembly of the real meaning of what is usually called the Indian Fiscal Autonomy Convention, and it was demonstrated that this convention, while it professed to confer upon the Assembly the right to settle India's fiscal policy, in reality left the control of the fiscal policy still in the hands of the India Office. When, in the teeth of the opposition of the Independent and Swaraj parties, the Bill was passed with the help of the official votes, there was a further series of resignations from the Assembly, led by Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya himself, who declared that, though he was not in agreement with the views expressed by the Lahore Congress,

the Government's attitude of putting the interests of Whitehall before the genuine interests of this country drove him to the conclusion that it was not by co-operating with the Government as a member of the Assembly that he could serve his country best. The Assembly was adjourned sine die on the 31st March 1930, but it was felt ~~that~~ on every side that the struggle had only been transferred from the Assembly to be carried on in a more intensive fashion outside.

On the 4th of March 1930, Mr. Gandhi sent the Viceroy a personal letter in the course of which he informed His Excellency that he intended to start Civil Disobedience throughout the country in order to combat the evils of British rule in India and that the first attempt at civil disobedience would be made in respect of the salt laws. The evils enumerated by Mr. Gandhi are: the salt tax, the drink and drug revenue, the destruction of the hand-spinning industry and the liabilities incurred in India's name. Mr. Gandhi describes the Indian administration as "the most expensive in the world" and by way of illustration compares the salary of the Viceroy with that of the Prime Minister of Britain, in relation to the average income per day in the two countries. He, therefore, suggests a radical reduction in the expenses of administration. In conclusion, Mr. Gandhi states that it is open to the Viceroy to frustrate his design by arresting him but he hopes that there will be thousands of Indians to take up the work after him. Lord Irwin's reply to this letter sent through his Private Secretary regretted that Mr. Gandhi contemplated a course of action "which is clearly bound to involve a violation of the law and danger to the public peace". The same day that the text of the Viceroy's letter was issued to the public saw the arrest of Mr. Vallabhai Patel, the hero of the Bardoli struggle and possibly the most

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monthly report.

A subsidiary consequence of the
people towards their Government has

Conference, sponsored by Sir A.P.P.

now been relegated to a position

this Conference was to arrange

contemplated in the proposed amendment of the Trades Union Act. ~~That~~ For bringing about this greater measure of control the Note proposes (a) to vest the Registrar of Trade Unions "with greater powers of supervision and intervention"; (b) to extend his powers of cancellation of registration of "a Union which wilfully infringes its own by-laws and which seeks objects other than those for which it was registered"; and (c) to vest him "with power to ascertain the correct membership of a Union".

Mr. Bakhale points out that in spite of the Bombay Government's desire not "to stifle the growth of genuine trade union movement", its proposals if accepted by the Government of India, will constitute an unwarranted attack on the Indian Trade Union movement. Mr. Bakhale says: "The main value of the Indian Trade Unions Act lies, apart from its securing to Trade Unions a corporate capacity, in the immunity from civil and criminal liability given to the officers and members of the registered Trade Unions. This immunity carries with it certain obligations and restrictions on the Trade Unions; it is not an absolute immunity. It must also be stated in view of the comparison sought to be drawn in the White Book between our Act and the British trade union law, that the immunity given by our Act is much less, in its scope and extent, than the immunity given under the British law. This restricted immunity again will be further curtailed if the interpretation of the Fawcett Committee on Section 18(a) of our Act is accepted. According to that interpretation, Section 18(a) protects a member of a registered Trade Union from being sued or prosecuted "on the ground only" that the act complained of "induces some other person to break a contract of employment" "but it does not protect suc

presented to the Round Table Conference, but it is now coming to be felt that the people who~~ff~~ would care to accept the invitation to be present at the Round Table Conference would be those who have no following of any kind in the country. ^{As} ^ Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya observed in the Assembly: "Who will go to the Round Table Conference with Mahatma Gandhi or Mr. Vallabhai Patel in jail?"

References to the I.L.O.

The Hindu of 19-3-1930 publishes the following list of the personnel of the Indian delegation to the 14th I.L.Conference:-
Employers' Delegate:- Mr. Ojah, (Bihar M.L.C.); Adviser, P.Mukerji;
Workers' Delâgate - Mr. S.C. Joshi; Advisers - Mr. B. Shiva Rao and S.C. Bose.

... ..

The Director of this Office, who had been invited by the Patna University to deliver the Banaili Lectures of the University for 1930 delivered six lectures at Patna between 17-3-1930 and 22-3-1930 before audiences consisting of the students of the Patna University and distinguished members of the Patna public. The subjects of the six lectures were (1)"Labour Problem - A World Problem"; (2) "The History of International Labour Legislation"; (3) "The Peace Conference and the I.L.O"; (4) "The Constitution of the I.L.O"; (5)"The I.L.O's Achievements with special reference to India"; and (6) "Indirect Results of the Work of the I.L.O". The lectures were presided over by Principal Lambert of the Patna Government College and by Mr. Pandit Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Patna. The Patna University has decided to publish the lectures in book-form.

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The Director of this Office delivered a lecture on 22-3-1930 before the Chanakya Society, Patna, on "Social Reconstruction and the part played by the I.L.O". The meeting was presided over by Principa Lambert of the Patna Government College.

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Brief summaries of the lecture delivered ~~was~~ by the Director of this Office at the Rotary Club, Calcutta, on 25-3-1930 on "the activities of the League of Nations" are published in the Times of India of 28-3-1930, as also in all the other important English newspapers. In reviewing the activities of the League, the speaker referred at length to the work done by the I.L.O. and pointed out that the work of the League had a direct bearing on the shaping of the Indian democracy of the near future. The lecture was followed by a discussion of the subject among the members themselves. Mr. D.P. Khaitan, initiating the discussion, said that though complaints were rightly made that the Conventions and Recommendations adopted at Geneva were not ratified by many countries, it could not be denied that even in those countries notable advances in labour welfare legislation had been brought about through the instrumentality of the I.L.O.

... ..

The eighth annual general meeting of the Indian League of Nations Union was held at Delhi on 24-3-1930 under the presidency of Sir William Birdwood, the Commander-in-Chief. The large and distinguished gathering present at the meeting included Sir Henry Moncrieff Smith, Sir Mahomed Habibullah, and ~~Sir~~ Sir John Thompson. As the Indian branch of the League of Nations Union is the principal propagandist body working in India for the Geneva organisations, ^{and as} ~~at~~ the occasion was utilised by Sir Mahomed Habibullah for meeting the criticisms directed against India's "disproportionately heavy" financial contributions to the League, a detailed account of the meeting is given below:-

Referring to the various activities of the League, Sir William Birdwood said with confidence that the progress of the League had been

maintained, although the time for a general disarmament was not yet in sight. But the fact that they had been moving slowly ensured that they had been building upon a sure foundation.

Discussing the usefulness of the League and its importance to India, Sir Mahomed Habibullah said the evidence of the growth of a new spirit of international ^{amity} ~~anxiety~~ and faith in international co-operation was the main feature of the former. Political and economic peace were ^{the chief} two objectives of the League, and disarmament, tariff agreement and nationalisation of industry were the methods of achieving the objectives. In short, in preparing world opinion to realise the ^{benefits} ~~truth~~ of renunciation of war, the League was playing a part never before paralleled in human history. In this process of international partnership, Sir Mahomed said, India could not afford to ^{merely} ~~stand~~ and watch. He proved without difficulty that by comparing India's financial contributions to the League with the practical benefits so far derived by her the return was incommensurate with the outlay, but his answer to the argument was that the value of great movements of human spirit and human thought was beyond ^{the} range of ^{the} balance sheet. The ideal alone mattered and ~~as~~ an ideal that ~~was~~ sought to substitute for the old relationship of ^{distrust and strife, a relationship of} ~~association~~ in the good work of trust and of concentrated effort among the nations of the earth, ~~and it~~ was ~~as~~ one from which India could not stand aside for fear of cost.

Sir Henry Monerieff Smith, Chairman of the Indian League of Nations Union, said the Union stood for popularising the League's ideals and ^{for} educating public opinion in favour of these ideals. The organisation of which he was chairman, linked Indian Unions with the Union at Geneva as also ^{with} the British Union in London. Through publicity they could teach people what the League was doing and for that object they were collecting a library which was now situated in

the Council Hall, New Delhi. Sir Henry referred to the advantages ^{derived from} ~~of~~ such a library ^{by} possessed ~~for~~ the public, and specially ^{by} for students who could utilise it in writing essays.

Syed Raza Ali, a member of the last Indian Delegation to the League, referred specially to the work of the League in improving labour conditions in India, and held that those who were for Dominion Status should support the League and the Union.

Rev. J.C. Chatterjee, reviewing the work during the year, said the spirit of nationalism in India was one of ^{the} great hindrances to the idea of the League. He felt the more India could look internationally the better it was for her and for humanity.

(Times of India, 26-3-1930,
(Hindu, 25-3-1930)

... ..

The Hindu in its issue of 19-3-1930 publishes a message ~~far~~ from its New Delhi Correspondent to the effect that the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations this year is likely to be led by an Indian prince. It will be remembered that Sir Mahomed Habibullah led last year's ~~a~~ Indian Delegation to the League of Nations.

... ..

Wide publicity has been given in India to the Interim Report of the Delegates of India to the Tenth Assembly of the League of Nations, which is published in the Gazette of India dated 22-3-1930 (No. 12, Part I, Pages 222-260). Detailed summaries of the Report are published in all the important newspapers (Times of India, 25-3-1930, the Hindu, 24-3-1930, Pioneer, 25 and 26-3-1930). The Report emphasises the following points:-

(1) Some means should be found for increasing the interest of the Indian Legislature in the work of the League and for associating it with the work of the representatives of India *League Assembly*

(2) A Standing & Advisory Committee of the Legislature, analogous to similar bodies which already exist, should be created for the purpose of considering and advising upon all important matters arising out of India's membership of the League. It would examine the reports of the Delegates of India in collaboration as far as possible with the Delegates themselves, who might be invited to Delhi or Simla for the purpose.

(3) The administration itself should be provided with a suitable machinery for a more intensive and adequate treatment of League questions. This should be done by attaching a whole time officer to the appropriate Department. This officer's function would be generally to study and digest the League's voluminous literature, to facilitate co-ordination of work among various Departments of the Government of India which may be specially concerned with particular aspects of the activities of the League, to prepare documentary material necessary for members of Delegations and, finally, but not the least, to perform those secretarial and administrative services which the creation of the Standing Committee would involve.

(4) ~~Some machinery should also be created~~ Some machinery should also be created which would enable the Government of India to be better informed as to affairs at Geneva. There are a number of countries, some remote from Geneva and others comparatively near, which have found it desirable to supplement, by the appointment of permanent representatives at the headquarters of the League or by other means, the information on League matters which could be derived from official

from official documents studied in their ministries at home, and we believe that India is in need of similar facilities.

(5) The number of Indians employed in the Secretariat of the League and the positions which they have so far occupied are conspicuously inferior, in our opinion, to the relative importance of India as a country and to the place which India should rightly occupy among the States members of the League. The marked under-representation of an important country will have an unfavourable influence on the spirit in which that country contributes to the work of the League and will affect the qualifications of the Secretariat itself for discharging its duties with a full realisation of the interests and influences involved.

(6) There must be preserved a strong element of continuity in the personnel of the Indian Delegations to Geneva. No delegate should in future be appointed unless he is prepared, if called upon, to serve on at least two or three consecutive occasions. The full delegates should ordinarily be Indians and that one or more of the full or substitute Delegates should be chosen from the Indian Legislature.

(7) An active policy should be pursued with regard to the possibility of India being elected to the membership of the Council which is the aspiration of all States members who are not entitled to permanent seats and who take their League membership seriously. So far as the relative importance of States members may be gauged by the proportion of their contribution to the expenses of the League, India stands above all those States which are not entitled to permanent representation on the Council.

The report concludes with the observation that the signatories are aware of the fact that India is not at present obtaining full value for its financial contributions to the League, and that if full value is to be obtained some further expenditure of effort and money on the lines indicated is unavoidable.

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All the important papers have published leading articles strongly supporting the views expressed by the signatories of the Report. The Hindu, commenting editorially in its issue of 26-3-1930 maintains that it is high time India has been elected to a seat in the Council and ~~and~~ makes a strong plea for the recruitment of more Indians to the staff of the League secretariat. The paper, in addition, suggests that Indian Delegations to the League Assembly should hereafter be headed by a non-official Indian. The Times of India of 26-3-1930 and the Pioneer of 28-3-1930, and all Indian papers accord cordial support to the suggestions made in the Report.

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National Labour Legislation.Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, 1930.

The Indian Railways (Amendment) Act, Act No. XIV of 1930, the text of which is given at pages 9 to 12 of the Report of this Office for January 1930, received the assent of the Governor General on 26th March 1930. The Act has been published for general information in the Gazette of India dated 29th March 1930 (No. 13, Part IV, pages 49-50).

Proposed Amendment of Indian Trade Unions Act.

At pages 24-27 of the report of this office for February 1930, a summary is given of a Note published by the Government of Bombay on labour position in the City of Bombay with special reference to the textile industry. The Note advocates the amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act with a view to arm the government with greater powers of control over trade unions. Mr. R.R. Bakhale, Secretary of the newly started Federation of Indian Trade Unions, has in an article contributed to the "Hindu" of 6-3-1930 entitled "Labour and the Bombay Government" published a trenchant criticism of the proposals made by the Government of Bombay in this connection.

The article points out that the proposal to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act is attributable to the recent disastrous textile strikes in Bombay City. Bombay City is already saddled with the Criminal Intimidation and Goonda Acts (see pages 14-15 of the Report of this Office for October 1929, and pages 17-22 of the Report for December 1929). It is, therefore, undesirable, to arm the Government with greater powers of control over registered trade unions as is

member "from being sued for the act of himself breaking a contract of employment". What little then remains of the original restricted immunity will be more than counterbalanced by the obligations, limitations and restrictions under the Act, which have now sought to be increased by confer^ring upon the Registrar of Trade Unions powers which are not legitimately his. The Trade Unions Act will thus cease to be a source of encouragement and inducement to the Unions to register themselves which will naturally develop an unmistakable tendency to conduct their activities without registration".

Mr. Bakhale further points out that when as a result of the new law it is found that an increasing number of trade unions are refusing to register themselves, the next logical step for the government and capitalists will be to enact a law for compulsory registration. Such a demand was actually made by some of the employers' organisations when the Trade Unions Bill was on the legislative anvil, but it was then rejected by the Government of India. Compulsory registration means the suppression of unregistered trade unions and registration under the proposed conditions will put all trade unions under the absolute control of the government -- a state of affairs which will lead to the end of independent trade union movement in India.

Dealing with the suggestion of investing the Registrar of Trade Unions with powers of supervision and intervention, Mr. Bakhale says that the suggestion is based upon the analogy between the Trade Union and co-operative movements and points out that the two movements are not comparable. The Co-operative movement is a humanitarian and uncontroversial movement; the Trade Union movement is a fighting one, with a perpetual conflict between the interests of capital and labour.

Moreover, Government itself is a great employer of labour and as such it is not advisable to invest the Registrar of Trade Unions, who is himself a creature of the Government, with such great powers of supervision and intervention. Further, with regard to the proposal to extend the Registrar's powers of cancellation of registration in the case of unions which infringe their own bye-laws, Mr. Bakhale points out that this is clearly the function of the members and not of the Registrar.

The last proposal is to invest the Registrar with power to ascertain the correct membership of Trade Unions. He can certainly get an idea of a union's correct membership from the annual statement of accounts which it has to send under the Act, if only he cares to compare it with the rates of Union contributions which he finds in the Union's rules he gets at the time of registration. The statement of accounts is prepared by an auditor authorised by the rules made under the Act and should suffice for the purpose of ascertaining the Union membership. Any extra powers are both unnecessary and superfluous; and, if they are granted they will be unwarranted and one-sided.

(The Hindu, 6-3-1930).

Conditions of Labour.G.I.P. Railway Strike.

The G.I.P. Railway strike, an account of which is given at pages 28 to 31 of the report of this Office for February 1930, continued nominally at least, throughout March also. It has already been mentioned in the February report that a settlement of the strike was obtained by a deputation of the All India Railwaymen's Federation which waited on Sir George Rainy on 28-2-1930, and that Mr. Ruikar, the leader of the strikers, though he had originally given his consent to the terms of settlement, had gone back on his pledge and induced a section of the employees to continue the strike. The demands of the minority which persisted in continuing the strike were embodied in the following resolutions passed by the Central Strike Committee which met in Bombay on 5-3-1930:-

(1) This meeting, having carefully considered the reply given by Sir George Rainy to the demands of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, hails it as a unique victory for the strikers, though not coming up to the minimum demands of the Union, after a glorious fight for one month, but expresses its deep anxiety that reports have reached the Union that many of the temporary staff employed on the line are being deliberately shown as permanent staff with a view to victimising thousands of innocent strikers and that the present loophole in the conditions of reinstatement of strikers is likely to give a handle to local railway officials to victimise strike leaders and many strikers by treating their posts as having been permanently filled, thereby ~~throwing~~ throwing thousands of railway workers out of employment for a considerably long period. This meeting is, therefore, of opinion that

the strike cannot be called off, unless a definite assurance is given either by the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway or the Railway Board that all the strikers will be immediately reinstated in their original jobs either before March 15, or any other date fixed for resumption of duty.

(2) This Committee further hopes that this above proposal will be immediately accepted by the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway and the Railway Board, in order to enable the Union to ensure good will and peace between the railway employees and the railway administration.

(3) The Committee authorises Mr. Ruikar to communicate these resolutions to the Agent and the Railway Board. (Times of India, 7-3-30)

The strikers reinforced their demands by attempts at satyagraha (passive resistance), and as a result the first collision between the strikers and the police occurred on 13-3-1930 when a batch of 200 strikers led by Mr. S.V. Deshpande attempted satyagraha at Bombay by lying prostrate at the gate of the Byculla Running shed to prevent non-strikers from going to their work. The satyagraha ultimately led to a fight with the police and about 50 strikers had to be arrested (Hindu, 14-3-1930). Meanwhile, as 15th March which was the last date extended to the strikers for resumption of work was approaching, the rank and file of the strikers were getting restive, with the result that at a meeting of the representatives of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union held at Bhusaval on 13-3-1930 under the presidentship of Mr. Ruikar, it was decided to accept the settlement arrived at between Chaman Lall, S.C. Joshi and Giri on the one hand and the Railway Board on the other, and to suspend the strike for the time being. The Union leaders undertook to see that there was no victimisation and ~~were~~ to act on the understanding that the strike was to be resumed after waiting for a suitable period if the response from the authorities was not satisfactory. (Times of India, 16-3-1930).

The Bhusaval decision was followed by applications in large numbers ^{from} ~~by~~ strikers for reinstatement and there was fresh trouble as complaints began to be made that the majority of the workers who reported for duty were refused reinstatement on the ground that the vacancies had been permanently filled. Mr. S.C. Joshi, Secretary of the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, wired on 18-3-1930 to the Railway Board to the effect that the situation was grave and that the Board should see that the strikers were taken back. The strikers in meetings at Bombay, Bhusaval, Jhansi, Jalgaon and other places complained that 95 per cent of those who applied for reinstatement were refused and that local authorities insisted on the strikers vacating their quarters before even applications for reinstatement could be entertained. On 19-3-1930 the Railway Board sent Mr. T.G. Russel, Chief Commissioner of Railways, on mission to Bombay to expedite the reinstatement of workers, but no appreciable improvement in the situation could be effected. On 25-3-1930 two short-notice questions were put in the Assembly by Dewan Chaman Lall and Mr. M.S. Aney regarding the Railway Board's breach of good faith in the matter of reinstatement. Chaman Lall asserted that a day before the negotiated settlement of the strike, a member of the Railway Board said that the vacancies permanently filled up would not be more than 3,000, and it was dishonest on the Board's part to say later that 14,000 vacancies were permanently filled up. Sir George Rainy replying said that the Government had no intention of extending the time for the resumption of duty by strikers beyond March 17. By that date, 10,900 men had ~~and~~ applied for reinstatement. Of these 4,850 had been reinstated. About 4,500 had been placed on the waiting list and about 1,500 had not been placed on the waiting list because they had not vacated their

quarters. The number of strikers who had not applied for reinstatement was approximately 8,000. Government had decided to instruct the Agent to fill permanently all posts held by men who went on strike and who did not offer to return to duty on or before March 17. In doing so those on the waiting list would have the first claim. Turning to the Railway workshops, he declared that on March 22 there were 75 men at work at Matunga and 783 at Parel while at Jhansi there were 4,313 men, the latter number dropping to 1,000 on March 24. Government, said Sir George Rainy, were considering the question of shutting down the workshops for a time. They also intended to abolish all posts in excess of requirements. (Times of India, 27-3-1930).

On 27-3-1930 the Railway Board announced that as only 50 per cent. of the strikers, excluding workshop hands, have offered to return to duty, they have authorized the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway to proceed to fill permanently all the posts vacated by the strikers (other than workshop employees at Parel, Matunga and Jhansi) who have not offered to return to duty on or before March 17. Men on the waiting list will have the first claim to re-engagement, after which the vacancies will be filled by selection, to be carried out by Selection Committees, appointed at such centres as may be fixed by the Agent, from all applicants. The Selection Committees will be instructed not to refuse to take back into service any former employee who is an applicant merely because he went on strike. One week's notice will be given to each employee, other than workshop employees, whose post has been, or is now to be filled permanently, to vacate any railway quarters occupied by him. The Agent is empowered to seek the assistance of

a magistrate to secure eviction, should quarters not be vacated within one week. The question of the action to be taken in regard to work-shop employees is under separate consideration.

(Statesman, 29-3-1930.

In the face of these orders, the men's leaders have decided to continue the strike and to renew the threat of satyagraha, but as the strikers are in a decided minority the normal services are being run and the G.I.P. administration is not seriously embarrassed.

The Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway Strike.

About 4,000 workmen of the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway's¹ workshop at Lallaguda were locked^{out} on the 28th February as the result of a dispute about the distribution of a special bonus. The genesis of the strike is as follows:- An extraordinary general meeting of the N.G.S.Railway Company was held on January ~~2-30~~^{20th} ¹⁹³⁰ in London for the purpose of passing a resolution authorising the Board to continue negotiations with the Government of H.E.H. the Nizam for the sale of the railways for the sum of £8,300,000 in full settlement of all claims. It was also then decided to make a grant of £ 100,000 for distribution among the Company's employees by way of "compensation". Out of this amount £ 75,000 was set apart by the Home Board of the N.G.S.Railway Company for distribution to the staff in India. The Agent, Mr. C.W. Lloyd Jones, in making this announcement stated that the distribution of the special bonus would be confined to those who had subscribed to the Provident Fund, and would amount to 6 per cent. of the holding of such Provident Fund at the time of distribution. There are about 17,000 workmen and of them only 5,000 are entitled to the benefits of the Provident Fund. Under these circumstances the workmen felt that the distribution was inequitable and that there was no reason for discrimination against them. As a mark of protest the workers downed tools on 27th February, and on this the management declared a lock-out on 28th February. (The Hindu, 3-3-1930).

As the non-Provident Fund members are larger in numbers than those who have subscribed to the Provident Fund, the strike soon spread to every department of railway administration. The workmen of the Engineering workshop on 28th February declared a strike in sympathy

with the Lallaguda workers.

The Agent of the Railway in a notice issued to the railway employees on 2nd March 1930 condemned the strike and maintained that the Home Board's decision to distribute a special bonus was a generous offer as the Board were under no obligation under any agreement with their employees to make such an offer and that therefore the workers have no ground for taking exception either to the amount of bonus offered, ^{or to} to whom they have decided to offer it, or the basis on which it is distributed. (Hindu, 4-3-1930).

The N.G.S. Railway Employees' Union on the other hand ~~was~~ asserted that as the bonus was being given for good service, both Provident Fund members and non-Provident Fund members were equally eligible for the bonus, and at a meeting of the Central Council of the Union held under the presidentship of Mr. Fathulla Khan on 3-3-1930 formulated the following demands:- (1) The bonus granted by the Home Board be distributed equitably among all employees of the railway on the basis of two months' pay to every employee from the Agent downwards; (2) Lockout pay to be given to all workmen; (3) The Agent to withdraw his notice to the effect that no bonus will be paid to any employee now on strike or to any employee who may hereafter participate in the present strike whether a Provident Fund Member or not, and (4) No victimisation. (Times of India, 6-3-1930).

As the difference of opinion between the railway management and the workers could not be reconciled, the strike continued and according to the Pioneer of 8-3-1930, spread to Dornakal, Kazipet, Manmad, Sailu, ~~Jain~~ Jalnu and Purna.

On 12-3-1930, the Agent issued a circular to the workers reiterating the contention that the bonus was a spontaneous gift to

which the workers had no right and that the Board's original decision with regard to the distribution of the bonus would not be altered. The circular further pointed out that the strike was declared without notice and the workers' absence from duty constituted a break of service which will make them ineligible for gratuity on retirement unless the break of service was condoned, which he was prepared to do in the case of those who would immediately return to work. (The Hindu, 14-3-1930).

This was answered by a Bulletin issued by the Strike Committee of the N.G.S. Railway Employees on 14-3-1930, which stated that the men would not return to work unless the bonus question was settled to their satisfaction. (Hindustan Times, 17-3-1930). By this time the strike had assumed serious dimensions and local traffic was almost paralysed. But on 16-3-1930, the strikers began to lose ground and the traffic menial staff and a number of the Lallaguda workshopmen resumed duty. By 18-3-1930, the strike had ceased and the Secretary of the N.G.S. Railway Employees' Union, Hyderabad, issued the following notice:-

The N.G.S. Railwaymen's strike has been stopped at the instance of the N.G.S. Railway Employees' Union and ^{on} the advice of Mr. W.V.R. Naidu, the representative of All-India Railwaymen's Federation. Mr. S.V. Naik, Bar-at-Law presided at the general meeting and following resolutions were adopted. 1) Resolved that under the instructions of the Central Council of the Union, this meeting directs the men who are on strike shall resume the normal working forthwith, and ~~further~~ 2) resolved that on the eve of transference of the railway from the company to the ownership of His Exalted Highness, the Nizam's Government that the men employed on the N.G.S. Railway do hereby express their

willingness to continue their services under the new regime and assure their steadfast loyalty and devotion.

Mr. Naidu announced that the Agent assured no victimization and sympathetic treatment of the employees after their resumption. After the termination of the strike a general meeting of the N.G.S. Railway Employees' Union was held on 20-3-1930, at which new office-bearers of the Union were elected. Mr. Fathulla Khan, the President of the Union, under whose leadership the strike was declared resigned, and Mr. V.V. Giri was elected President in his stead. (The Hindu, 28-3-1930).

Bengal Jute Workers' Strike.

At pages 12 to 15 of the report of this office for August 1929, reference has been made to a strike declared by the workers in the jute mills of Calcutta in August 1929. These strikes had collapsed by September 1929 (see page 19, September 1929 report). Labour troubles have now again started among the Calcutta Jute mill workers. In a statement issued to the press on 28-2-1930, Miss Prabhā^{ba} Das Gupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers' Union, announced that in the face of the Jute Mills Associations' indifference to all attempts at settlement of the workers' grievances by negotiation, the Jute Workers' Union had no other course left open than to strike work from 5-3-1930. (The Hindu, 1-3-1930).

The efforts of the Union leaders to declare a general strike, however, failed and only about 2,000 operatives, mostly Madrasis, belonging to the Kinnison, Standard and Titaghur (No.1) Jute Mills could be induced to strike work on 6-3-1930. By 10-3-1930, however, the strike began to assume serious dimensions and according to the Times of India of 12-3-1930, about 30,000 jute workers were idle as a

result of strikes in six jute mills. As the strikers belonged mainly to the batching and preparing departments, the other departments of the affected mills could not be operated, though most of the Mohamedan employees had reported themselves for work. The strike was not devoid of ugly incidents and the police had to be called to maintain peace in the affected areas.

Mr. R.B. Laird, President of the Jute Mills Association, interviewed regarding the causes of the strike, asserted that the workers had submitted no grievances to the Jute Mills Association (Times of India, 12-3-1930). On the other hand Miss Probhabati Das Gupta, President of the Bengal Jute Workers' Union, said in an interview that the Union on January 24, submitted a long list of demands to the Indian Jute Mills Association and to Mr. R.N. Gilchrist, Labour Intelligence Officer with the Government of Bengal. To this communication the Union received no reply. The demands, she said, related to the workers' conditions and included suggestions for the standardization and increase of wages, longer leave, more lenient rules for fines and dismissals, the eradication of bribery, adequate housing conditions, pensions, maternity benefit, and the elimination of racial discrimination. She also claimed that mill managements had not carried out the terms of the settlement reached after the strike last year. She alleged that Khoraki had not been paid to men working in the single shift mills, that union officials and strikers had been victimized and that in some mills, though the piece rates had been increased, so had the length of the piece. Miss Das Gupta also declared that the mills had ignored workers' grievances put forward through the Union, although one of the terms of the settlement was that the men's grievances would be favourably considered. (Times of India, 12-3-1930).

By 11-3-1930 the number of strikers swelled up to 35,000 (Hindu, 11-3-1930) and a day later to 40,000 (Hindustan Times, 14-3-30) The strikers had grown quite restive by this time and the police had to make several arrests in their efforts to maintain peace. By 14-3-1930 the tide began to turn and nearly 2,000 of the strikers belonging to the Meghna Mills resumed work. The strike in the Titaghur area is, however, continuing.

(Hindustan Times, 17-3-1930).

Five-days' Week in Ahmedabad Mills.

The increase of stock in the textile mills of Ahmedabad coupled with the absence of demand have been causing considerable anxiety to the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association. The Association, therefore, at a recent meeting decided to keep their mills closed for two days in the week and to work only for five days to reduce the output. But according to a message of the Ahmedabad correspondent of the Times of India, dated 16-3-1930, as there appears to be some demand, and as there are talks of additional protective duties on foreign cloth the millowners have resolved to suspend the operation of their previous resolution for a month, i.e., the resolution will come into force on April 15 and onwards instead of on March 15. (Times of India, 18-3-1930).

Child Slavery in Ceylon.

The question of child slavery in Ceylon in the form of well-to-do Singalese families adopting poor children for the purpose of putting them to work as domestic servants has recently been engaging the attention of the Government of Ceylon and the Secretary of State for the Colonies (a reference to this has been made at pages 54-55 of the report of this office for April 1929). Interpellated on 5-3-1930 in

the House of Lords as to what steps the Government were taking to stop such forms of child slavery in Ceylon, Lord Passfield, while denying the existence of the practice on any extensive scale in Ceylon, announced that the Ceylon Government was, of its own accord, introducing a Bill in the Ceylon Legislative Council with a view to stopping such abuses, and added that a Child Protection Society has recently been started in Colombo.

(Statesman, 7-3-1930).

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Upper India Chamber of Commerce - 42nd General Meeting.

The 42nd annual general meeting of the Upper India Chamber of Commerce was held on 28-2-1930 at Cawnpore under the presidency of Mr. A.L. Carnegie. Referring to labour conditions in India, the President in the course of his speech said:-

"During the year under review the Royal Commission on Labour arrived in India and the preparation and submission of the evidence required by this Commission entailed a great deal of work both by the Chamber and by employers of labour. From the accounts in the Press, it is apparent that the Commission intends to conduct a searching investigation into all aspects of the relations between employers and employed and it is incumbent upon us to express our views as clearly and forcibly as we can, otherwise our case may go by default.

With our experience, of labour conditions in India we fully realise the danger of the too sudden or too wholesale adoption of those measures and channels which have proved effective in negotiation between employers and highly organised labour in European countries but which are likely to prove ineffective and even dangerous as long as labour remains unorganised and the plaything of the political agitator. Employers of labour in Cawnpore have welcomed the visit of the Commission as an opportunity of showing how much they have done for the welfare and material and educational advancement of the labourer. In this respect Cawnpore yields pride of place to no other manufacturing centre in India.

(Pioneer, 5-3-1930).

Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisations.All-India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union Council
meeting, Delhi.

A meeting of the Council of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union was held at Delhi on 25 and 26-3-1930 under the presidentship of Diwan Chaman Lall, M.L.A., President of the Union. The meeting was attended by elected representatives of all the provincial branches of the Union. The following were among the more important of the subjects on the agenda:- Finance; Re-organisation; Federation of Unions; Propaganda; Proposed rules for conduct of business at the All India Conference; Deputation on Hon'ble Member; Scheme for introduction of Central, Provincial and Divisional Whitley Councils to be submitted to the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs; Scheme for introduction of Provident Fund system in lieu of the Pension system as proposed by the Government of India; All India Mutual Benefit Fund; Centralisation of All India Special Reserve Fund; Miscellaneous - (a) Registration of the Union; and (b) Improvement and Registration of the General Letter.

The President in the course of his speech on the subject of re-organisation drew the attention of the Councillors to the fact that on a rough calculation the total annual collections from members appeared to be something like Rs. 100,000 out of which very considerable amounts are spent for holding Provincial Conferences and publication of Provincial General Letters. Provincial conferences and ^{General} Letters were, in his opinion, of doubtful utility and the money spent over them would be better utilised by publishing one powerful central

organ from the All India Union. There should be a powerful weekly journal like "The Post", the powerful organ of the Union of Postal Workers. Then again the All India special Reserve Fund was lying scattered although it has been decided long ago to centralise the fund. He was strongly of opinion that as in all advanced trade unions the Special Reserve Fund as well as the collections should be centralised and there should be only one central organ. The President then invited opinion regarding centralisation of the Special Reserve Fund. Mr. Parthasarathi Ayyengar suggested that the President should request all Provincial Branches to send the fund at once to the All India Union as decided within a month.

The following resolution was then unanimously adopted:- "That the 10 per cent. Reserve Fund be at once centralised and the President will kindly write to all Provincial Branches to send the Special Reserve Fund to the All India Union within a month and take such other steps for centralising the fund as he may deem necessary".

Re-organisation:- The President read out the following resolution for consideration of the Councillors and invited suggestions:-

"This Council expresses the considered opinion that the present situation demands that vigorous and effective measures be adopted without delay to place the All India Union on a more stable and efficient footing in order to enable it to successfully safeguard the interests of the various classes of Postal and R.M.S. employees and to effectively press demands for improvement of their condition and with this object in view commends the following suggestions for re-organisation of the union for careful consideration of all the Provincial, District and Divisional Unions:- (1) Abolition of Provincial Conferences. (2) Abolition of Provincial monthly organs. (3) Adoption of measures for the progressive realisation and the centralisation of all funds and important activities in the All India Union and for the ultimate abolition of the Provincial Branches and direct affiliation of District and Divisional Branches to the All India Union with a view to securing this goal. (4) Utilisation of the savings effected by (1) and (2) for issuing a really useful and effective weekly organ of the All India Union with a wide circulation among members. (5) Curtailment of expenditure of District and Divisional Branches in order to meet the expenses of the Joint Whitley Councils if granted by the Government. (6) Appointment of Provincial and All India organisers. (7) Exercise of financial control over all branch unions by the All India Union.

It was resolved that all the Provincial Unions be requested to carefully consider the entire question of re-organisation and to formulate a detailed scheme, if necessary in an emergent council meeting and forward the same to the General Secretary, All India Union by the 20th April 1930, at the latest.

Whitley Council Scheme:- The Whitley Council Scheme was then taken up and it was decided that the draft scheme drawn up regarding this question be circulated to all provincial branches with request to return the scheme with any modifications they might consider necessary so that it may reach the General Secretary, All India Union, by the 20th April 1930.

Federation of Unions:- The General Secretary was requested to carry on further negotiations and if necessary to proceed to Bombay with the president when he would visit Bombay to settle the terms of federation with the General Secretary, All India Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff Union.

Deputation:- The General Secretary having read out the report of the Deputation of Office-bearers ^{which waited on} the Hon'ble Sir B.N. Mitra, the Council adopted the following resolution:-

- "(a) This Council expresses its deep disappointment at the unsatisfactory replies given by the Hon'ble Member to the questions put forward by the deputation that waited on him on the 26th February 1930".
- (b) This Council calls upon the members to suggest ways and means for early redressal of the grievances".

Scheme for introduction of Provident fund system. There was a detailed discussion on this subject in course of which all the proposed schemes were strongly criticised and the consensus of opinion was that none of the schemes were acceptable and the Government should be asked

to substitute a Provident Fund scheme on identical lines with that now in force in the Railway Department. It was also resolved that all Provincial and district branches should be advised not to forward their views separately.

(General Letter of the All India Postal
and R.M.S. Union, Vol.VII, No.12, March 1930)

The Ahmedabad Labour Union.

The Ahmedabad Labour Union has increased the scale of fortnightly subscription of its members by 50 per cent. and asked the Millowners' Association to call upon the Mills to collect from 1st March the increased scale of subscription, in accordance with the previous award of the Board of Arbitration consisting of Mr. Gandhi and Seth Mangaldas, by which each Mill cuts off from the operatives' wages the Union's subscriptions and pays it to the Union every fortnight. Recently, disputes have arisen between the Mills and the Labour Union owing to this system of collection of subscription, and in some mills violence is said to have been threatened. According to the award a mill is to continue collecting subscription even if an operative submitted to the mill a resignation from the Union till the Union has approved the resignation. This led to frequent disputes and the Millowners' Association has therefore submitted the question of revising the previous award to the Arbitration Board along with two other disputes in the Sarangpur Cotton Mill about alleged victimisation of workmen and unauthorised strikes. The Labour Union has also demanded the appointment of a sub-Board of Arbitration for settlement of minor disputes. The Mill-owners' Association has accepted this demand and asked the Labour Union to submit a workable scheme detailing the nature of disputes to be submitted and the procedure to be followed.

(The Hindu, 3-3-1930).

Intellectual Workers.Teachers' Salaries in India.

~~At~~ pages 49 to 52 of the report of this Office for December 1929 is published an account of the proceedings of the 5th Conference of the All India Federation of Teachers' Associations. One of the main demands made by the Conference was that for the laying down of a minimum salary for each grade of teachers. It has to be pointed out that India has no general standard of payment for teachers corresponding to the Burnham Scale in England.

A contribution appearing in the Hindu of 5-3-30 points out that the average monthly salaries in some provinces, in the words of the Auxiliary Committee of the Simon Commission, are almost incredibly low, especially when it is borne in mind that they cover all kinds of schools: schools run by local bodies and girls' schools in which salaries are comparatively high, as well as aided schools in which salaries are low. Not only is there considerable variation between several provinces, but also between the several districts of a single province. In Bengal the average monthly pay is stated to be as low as Rs.8/6/- (12s. 7d.), but presumably this is one of the provinces referred to by the Committee where the salary is supplemented by the fees of the pupils, which are paid in cash or in kind; or by allowances for the performances of other duties, such as supervision of the Post office, teaching in the girls' school or in a school for adults, or looking after the village library. The effective remuneration of the teacher is not infrequently reduced by delays in payment of salaries and by the undesirable practice of transferring him from place to place at considerable personal expense and inconvenience to himself. In the secondary schools, the Committee reported, the pay of the teacher is not sufficient to give him the status which his work demands, and in

some provinces - namely, Bengal and Behar, the pay of the teacher is often 'woefully low'.

Economic Conditions.Budget of the Government of India for 1930-31.

The Budget of the Government of India for 1930-31 was presented in the Legislative Assembly by Sir George Schuster, the Finance Member on 28-2-1930. It contains several important new tax proposals including the raising of the revenue duty on cotton goods from 11 to 15 per cent. and a 5 per cent. duty on non-British cotton goods, the re-introduction of the duty on silver at 4 annas an ounce, increase of import duty on sugar π by Rs. $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cwt., a slight increase in the duty on kerosine and an increase of a pie per rupee in the tax on incomes over Rs. 15,000 per annum. The expenditure for the coming year is estimated at Rs. 56.7 millions more than during the current year due to a great extent to debt provision and administrative work, while the revenue side shows an improvement of only Rs. 500,000. This would have resulted in a deficit of Rs. 55.2 millions which it is now proposed to meet by economy in civil estimates ^{of} ~~and~~ Rs. 6.2 millions, reduction in military expenditure of Rs. 8 millions and the income expected from the new taxes which is estimated at Rs. 51 millions. Taking into account the loss by the lower export duty on rice of Rs. 3 millions, the ~~nk~~ budget shows a surplus of Rs. 7 millions.

Discussing the new cotton duties, the Finance Member said, that the Government proposals aimed to make provision of revenue as well as to give assistance to the Indian cotton mill industry. The question of fiscal autonomy was raised in connection with the imposition of the cotton duties. The convention was real, declared the Finance Member, and explained how the Government of India had replied to His Majesty's Government that they deplored the possibility of serious effects in

England of any duties imposed by India but that they were clearly bound to put India's interest first. He forecast the loan operations in India at Rs. 235 millions of which Rs. 74 millions would be new money and the rest would be devoted to the payment of outstanding debts.

The new tax proposals are given below:-

		<u>Yield in millions of rupees.</u>
<u>Kerosene:</u>	Excise duty raised from 1 anna to 1 anna 6 pies while import duty reduced from 2 annas 6 pies to 2 annas 3 pies. ...	3.5
<u>Sugar:</u>	Import duty raised by Rs.1/8/- per cwt. ...	18.0
<u>Income Tax and Super Tax:</u>	Increase of one pie per rupee on incomes of Rs. 15,000 and over ...	7.0
<u>Silver:</u>	Duty at 4 annas per ounce re-introduced ...	10.0
<u>Cotton:</u>	Duty raised from 11 to 15 per cent. In addition 5 per cent. to be levied on non-British cotton goods for which a separate Tariff Bill would be introduced ...	12.5
Total yield		<u>51.0</u>

The year 1928-29, instead of closing with a surplus of Rs. 3 millions, closed with a deficit of Rs. 10.6 millions due to a substantial deterioration in customs receipts, and after absorbing the whole of the Revenue Reserve Fund left a net deficit of Rs. 3.2 millions. The current year would be closed with ^{out} a deficit by taking into account the windfall of Rs. 15.6 millions, being the sum held in suspense in the German liquidation account, and which, on the Hague Conference decision, would now accrue to India. Sir George Schuster declared that from a review of the past three years it was clear that the gap made by the final remission of provincial contributions, has not been fully filled by the normal growth of revenue, and it is necessary to seek new sources.

As regards estimates for the next year, the commercial conditions were unfavourable owing to the collapse of the American boom. Apart from this, recovery in India would be hampered by the lack of confidence caused by political uncertainty. These considerations made cautious estimates of revenue necessary, and even allowing a substantial increase in income-tax and salt, over the Budget estimates of the current year, the general improvement in tax revenue could not be put higher than Rs. 500,000, while prospects in the main commercial services, Railways and Posts and Telegraphs, necessitated allowing for a deterioration of Rs. 9.9 millions. (Times of India, 3-3-1930).

Scheme for Merger of Bombay Mills.

During the recent controversy on the Cotton Tariff Bill for the protection of Indian textile industry it was pointed out that the millowners in Bombay had already done much to "set their house in order", but that much still remained to be done in the way of control of production, marketing of goods, and establishment of an efficient buying and selling agency. In the course of his speech at the annual dinner of the Bombay Millowners' Association held at the Willingdon Sports Club in February 1930, H.E. Sir Frederick Sykes said that his Government would welcome and act upon any constructive suggestions to strengthen the position of the industry. It is understood that the proposals for the increased tariff on foreign cloth are made on the distinct arrangement that during the breathing time that is given to the industry by protection for three years the millowners have to take steps to put the industry on a permanent basis of prosperity, and in his Budget speech the Finance Member hinted that the Government would give what further help they could give towards reconstruction.

The millowners, it is understood, have lost no time in thinking out a scheme of reconstruction which will place the industry on a firm footing. That scheme is in the form of a merger of various mills in Bombay on the basis of general mergers as are brought into existence in Europe. In Bombay, the cement companies have already made a combine for the control and marketing of the production with great advantage to the industry. It is understood that Sir Ness Wadia, a prominent Parsi millowner of Bombay, has prepared a carefully thought out scheme for a merger of Bombay mills. The details of the scheme are not published; but it is proposed to abolish the agency commission system, to make one directorate with a managing Director or Governor, and to establish one selling agency. This scheme if carried out is likely to result in great benefit to the industry. At present, the managing agents provide the capital for running the mills and give collateral securities. In the case of a Managing Director, it is not possible to provide these collateral securities. It is therefore proposed that the Government should arrange with the Imperial Bank to advance loans of ten to twelve crores ^(100 to 120 millions) ~~(ten millions)~~ of rupees. Negotiations have proceeded with the Government on these lines and, according to a prominent mill agent whom a representative of the Times of India interviewed, "the question for consideration and decision is the provision of the working capital for stocks and working the mills, and negotiations are being carried on between the Finance Department of the Government of India, the Imperial Bank and the millowners!" It is reported that the negotiations have so far proceeded quite smoothly and are likely to result in satisfactory conclusions being reached before long.

Ahmedabad Mill Industry.*

The Report of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association for the year 1928-29 furnishes valuable information about the conditions obtaining in the Ahmedabad mill industry. According to the financial statement appended to the report, during 1928 there were 59 mills in Ahmedabad with a paid up capital of Rs. 40,292,194. The total number of spindles in 1928 was 1,433,269 as against 1,419,612 in 1927; the approximate quantity of cotton consumed in candies was 163,462 in 1928, as against 149,307 in 1927; and the average number of hands daily employed was 57,107 in 1928 as against 55,626 in 1927. During 1927-28 the total cotton piece-goods output of India was divided between the various production areas in India as follows:-

Production area.	Percentage of total yardage produced.
Bombay Island ...	49
Ahmedabad ...	22
Bombay Presidency (other centres)	7
Delhi and Ajmer-Merwara ...	2
Central Provinces and Berar ...	3
Indian States ...	0
United Provinces ...	4
Bengal ...	1
Madras ...	3
Others
Total	100

*Report of the Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad for the year 1928-29. Published by Mr. G.I. Patel, B.A., Secretary, The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, Dinbag, Mirzapur Road, Ahmedabad and Printed by Somallal Mangaldas Shah, at The Gujrat Printing Press, Panch Kuva, Ahmedabad. pp. 162.

The report includes the speech delivered by Mr. Chamanlal G. Parekh, the President of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, at the annual general meeting of the Association held on 19-7-1929. Reviewing the comparative position of the Ahmedabad mill industry for the years 1925, 1926 and 1927, Mr. Parekh says that "the net profits of 48 mills were Rs. 5 millions in 1925, of 56 mills ^{Rs.} 5.2 millions in 1926, and of 51 mills ^{Rs.} 4 millions in 1927. On the Block Investment the percentage of net profits does not exceed for the said years $4\frac{9}{10}$ per cent., $4\frac{7}{4}$ per cent and $4\frac{7}{15}$ per cent respectively. Even on the basis of the erroneous method of calculating the ratio of profits against the paid-up capital, which is particularly kept low in Ahmedabad and which is likely to mislead others, the figures are $14\frac{11}{32}$ per cent., $12\frac{14}{15}$ per cent., and $11\frac{32}{35}$ per cent. Again by taking the percentage of capital plus reserves (which is an item of permanent capital) the figures come to $4\frac{4}{5}$ per cent. $4\frac{7}{4}$ per cent, and $4\frac{4}{11}$ per cent. for the said years. These figures obviously prove that the abolition of the excise duty from 1926 coupled with other rigorous economies and improvements effected in the working of the mills since 1923 were instrumental in allowing the industry to hold its own with great difficulty in its continually depressed condition. The position of Ahmedabad mills was full of anxiety during the first half of the year 1928, but in the latter part of the said year the long strike in the Bombay mills checked the downward tendency of the market and thus accidentally saved Ahmedabad mills from the position of making losses as compared with the previous year. Such a phase of temporary disorganisation of the industry in one centre reflecting on the position of the other centre is an unforeseen circumstance, which cannot be considered in taking stock of the industry as a whole.

Paid-up capital being low in Ahmedabad dividends paid show a higher percentage thereon. To judge of the position of the industry from such figures is misleading.

The growing weight of foreign imports which receive, as it were, a bounty of 12½% owing to the fixing of the exchange at ls. 6d. keeps on cutting the Indian industry under the feet. Foreign countries are keenly devising ways and means to continue their hold on Indian markets, some instances of which I will have to quote with regret. The total imports of piecegoods in India were 1941 million yards in 1928 as against 2011 million yards in 1927 and 1820 million yards in 1926; imports from United Kingdom have been less by about 74 million yards, and from Japan by about 25 million yards. Bombay has imported 89 million yards more piecegoods in 1928 than in 1927. During the last two years imports of piecegoods into Bombay have increased by 187 million yards. The aggregate value of imports of cotton piecegoods for the years 1926-27, 1927-28 and 1928-29 were ^{Rs} 5.501, ^{Rs} 5.513, and ^{Rs} 5.381 millions respectively. Imports of twist and yarn from the United Kingdom increased from 20.5 m to 23 million pounds in 1928-29, while from Japan these dropped from 26.6 million pounds in 1926-27 to 16.9 million pounds in 1927-28 and to 17.6 million pounds in 1928-29.

Conditions of dangerous depression which are accentuated by the Exchange ratio which favours foreign imports are likely to receive further support from those countries which have felt the temporary effect of indigenous ~~competition~~ competition against their goods. Hitherto Japanese mills used to work two shifts from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. with a recess of one hour. From 1st July 1929,

women and boys under 16 years are not to be employed on night work which is defined as from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m. This change is not supposed to carry out the provisions of the Washington Convention. The new change allows Japanese factories to work for 18 hours a day with all classes of workmen and this would enable them to work two shifts of eight hours each, between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. with the employment of women and children. When in India the Factory Act prohibits the employment of women and children at night in Japan the above arrangement gives unfair advantage to Japanese employers. Moreover, some of the Japanese mills have increased their spindles by this time. Many mills have also installed Toyoda automatic looms which are reported to run 25 per cent. more picks per minute than an American automatic loom. Thus the abolition of night work in Japan in the above manner is not likely to decrease production but to increase it. In Japan the textile industry holds the first place among its main industries in the order of the amount of products. Out of the total production of all kinds of industries in Japan the textile output comes to Yens 2,677,000,000 which constitutes 26 per cent. of all the total products.

Dealing with labour conditions the report says:- there were a number of labour disputes during the period under review, but under the constitution and convention established between the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Labour Union, (for details see page 19 of the report of this office for July 1929) the settlement of these disputes were not only quick and regular, but fairly satisfactory to the parties concerned. A few cases had to be referred to the arbitrators, and it is satisfactory to note that the existing system has worked for peace and harmony between the employers and employees in the city's textile industry.

Tanning Industry in the Bombay Presidency.

A report on the village tanning industry in the Bombay Presidency prepared by Mr. Y.R.Gaitonde, B.A.,B.Sc, for the Government of Bombay has recently been published. Mr. Gaitonde estimates that 1.5 millions of hides, .3 millions of sheep skins and 4 millions of goat skins of the aggregate value of Rs.20 millions , are produced annually in the Presidency. In 1927-28 raw hides and skins to the value of Rs. ^{8.1} 21 millions were exported from Bombay and Rs. 14.7 millions from Karachi. So far as Karachi is concerned there is no doubt that the bulk of the skins came as usual from other provinces such as the Punjab and the United Provinces. In the ^{same} year half tanned hides and skins to the value of Rs. 10.8 millions were exported from Bombay and Rs. 1.075 millions from Karachi. The value of imported leather manufactured articles, after allowing for ^{re-} exports, was Rs. 5.92 millions for Bombay and Rs. 400,000 for Karachi.

The census of 1921 shows that 12,268 males were engaged as tanners, the total number with dependents being 37,707. A much larger number of people, however, while not ~~actually~~ actually engaged in tanning, depended on the industry for leather work. These included many castes and numbered 13,95,375, including dependents. It is worth noting what Mr.Gaitonde considers the four most important factors in determining the value of the hides and skins. Proper flaying without any knife cuts or holes is first on the list. Then skins should be free from marks such as brands, thorn or goad marks, or scratches and defects on the grain side due to disease or putrifaction. They must be properly preserved until taken to the tanner. Last comes substance, weight, size, quality and other points. These things depend mostly upon the class of animal and the natural conditions under which they are reared. More careful attention would result in the first three points being ruled out. In the last item some improvements, where the hides are of very loose texture near the shoulders and the bellies or are of poor substance, could be brought about by crossing the animals with a better breed.

Co-operation.Progress of co-operation in the Bombay Presidency.*

The annual report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) for the twelve months ending 31st March 1929 issued by the Government of Bombay shows that the co-operative movement continued to make satisfactory progress during the year under report. The following are the main lines of co-operative activity in the Presidency:-

(1) Agricultural - (a) Agricultural Credit Societies, (b) Agricultural Non-Credit Societies, and (c) Unions; (2) The Provincial Co-operative Bank; (3) District Central Banks; and (4) Non-Agricultural Credit Societies.

The total number of societies increased from 5,350 to 5,472, while the total membership rose from 539,470 to 548,634. Working capital increased from Rs. 111,915,955 to Rs. 119,179,910. A particularly satisfactory feature of the year's report is the increase in the Reserve Fund of Rs. 1,002,147 as against Rs. 966,848 in the previous year. The number of agricultural credit societies increased from 4,177 to 4,317, but the total membership fell from 263,493 to 262,569. Working capital also decreased from Rs. 35,293,523 to Rs. 34,984,553. The Reserve Fund, however, increased from Rs. 4,065,745 to Rs. 4,636,785. The decrease in the total membership was due to the cancellation of bad societies, and the reduction in working capital was the result of the tightening of control by the Provincial Co-operative and District Central Banks in the matter of finance.

*Annual Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) for the twelve months ending 31st March 1929 (Price - Annas 6 or 8d), Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press 1930. pp. 166.

Sind maintained its usual rate of progress. The number of agricultural societies rose from 844 to 913, the membership from 47,000 to 50,645 and the working capital from Rs. 17,006,000 to Rs. 19,183,000.

The problem of organizing agricultural non-credit societies on a sure foundation presented special difficulties. Since such undertakings are in the nature of commercial enterprises, business knowledge is absolutely necessary for their success. But the members of a village society organized on such basis have generally no training and experience in business methods. The report shows that small societies such as Manure Societies, Implement Societies and the Agricultural Requisites Supply Societies which carry on business on a very small scale have little chance of success in an age of large-scale business.

The Provincial Co-operative Bank made satisfactory progress during the year. The number of shareholders increased from 1,926 to 2,113. Of these latter, co-operative societies numbered 1,375. The amount of share capital held by society shareholders increased from Rs. 437,200 to Rs. 448,750. The Bank is now mainly under the control of the co-operative societies.

Progress of co-operation in Bihar and Orissa.*

According to the Report on the working of co-operative societies in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1928 published by the Government

* Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1928. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna, 1929. (Price - Rs. 2 as. 8). pp. 39 + xxxvi + 5.

of Bihar and Orissa, the number of societies of all descriptions increased by 601 as against 323 in the previous year. Societies at the end of 1928 number 9,188; members 267,000; and working capital Rs. ~~5,450,000~~ 56,500,000. Expansion continued to be restricted except in new areas. In the older banks the increase in the number of societies was very small because attention was concentrated on the work of consolidation. The check on numerical expansion has proved effective and enabled the honorary workers of the banks as well as the departmental officers to improve the general condition of the societies and put their finances on a sounder and more stable basis.

The Provincial Bank:- This apex bank continued to record satisfactory progress. Its working capital increased from Rs. 5.7 millions to 6.6 millions and paid-up share capital from 4.5 millions to 0.5 millions. The total amount of deposits of all kinds held by the bank was over Rs. 5.35 millions as against Rs. ~~5.025~~ 5.025 millions in the previous year. To the increase of .325 millions in deposits, nearly .075 million was contributed by the central banks and the balance amounting to about .025 millions by individuals.

In the matter of profit, which amounted to Rs. 1,02,000 the bank made a record progress. The increase was about 30 per cent. over the profits of the previous two years and more than double of the year 1924. The Reserve Fund of the bank increased by Rs. 26,000 and stood at Rs. 234,000 at the end of the year.

Central Banks:- The total working capital of the central banks increased from Rs. 20,705,778 to Rs. 22,735,055, that is by Rs. 2,029,277. There was a further improvement in the proportion of owned capital to borrowed capital during the year under report. The proportion rose to 1 : 5.5 from 1 : 5.9.

Deposits:- The total borrowed capital at the end of the year was ~~19.25~~^{19.25} millions out of which about 15.25 millions came from deposits. There was on the whole an increase of only about a twenty-five thousands in deposits as compared with the preceding year which shows that the policy laid down by the department to guard against the unnecessary acceptance of deposits by central banks has had its effect.

Profits:- The total amount of profit earned by the central banks was Rs. 456,438 on a working capital of Rs. 22,735,055 as against Rs. 435,521 on a working capital of Rs. 20,705,778 in 1927. The increase in profit was Rs. 21,000 on an increase in working capital of about 2.025 millions.

Reserve and other funds:- The reserve fund of the banks increased by .1 million, bringing the total to Rs. 664,389, out of which Rs. 384,911 is separately invested. The total of the other funds of the banks, such as sinking, education, building and bad debt amounted to Rs. 546,000 as against Rs. 383,000 of the previous year, which gives a satisfactory increase of Rs. 163,000. The total of reserve and other funds combined comes to Rs. 1,210,000, giving an increase of Rs. 263,000 over the figure of the previous year. The bad debt fund increased by only Rs. 20,000 and stood at Rs. 133,000.

Classification:- 7,765 societies came under audit classification as against 6,974 in 1927. The societies have been graded as follows:-

<u>Class</u>	<u>1927</u>	<u>1928</u>
A (Model) ...	5.0 per cent.	5.2 per cent
B (Good) ...	14.6 ,,	15.7 ,,
C (Average) ...	69.0 ,,	68.4 ,,
D (Bad) ...	9.5 ,,	8.4 ,,
E (Hopeless) ...	1.9 ,,	2.3 ,,

The above figures show that there was an increase in the percentage of "model" and "good" societies and that the percentage of "bad" societies have gone down. The percentage of "average" societies suffered a slight decrease while that of "hopeless" societies increased a bit.

Agricultural Societies:- During the year the number of agricultural credit societies increased by 598 bringing their total to 8,532. The membership also increased from 220,889 to 232,413. There was a considerable rise in the working capital of the societies which increased by Rs. 3.2 millions and stood at Rs. 23,754,167 at the end of the year. The total paid up share capital of the societies increased from Rs. 1,170,545 to Rs. 1,327,884 i.e., by Rs.157,339 and the reserves increased from Rs. 2,273,848 to Rs. 2,696,458, i.e, by Rs. 422,610. Share capital and reserves formed 16.9 per cent of the working capital as against 17 per cent in 1927. The total amount of profit earned by the societies was Rs, 439,191 (as against Rs. 392,360 in 1927) while Rs. 6.45 millions were given out in loans to the members of the societies (as against Rs. 5.8 millions in 1927). 44.2 per cent of the loans was for productive purposes. Of the productive loans 12.7 per cent. was for cultivation expenses, 12.6 for trade and 8.8 for cattle. Of the non-productive loans the largest percentage was for repayment of debts being 25.5.

Non-Agricultural Societies:- The number of non-agricultural credit societies with limited liability increased by 4, the total number being 77 at the end of the year and their membership increased from 14,185 to 14,348. The profit earned during the year was Rs. 105,675 on a working capital of Rs. 2,209,987 as against a profit of Rs. 94,421 on a working capital of Rs. 2,074,404 in 1927. The profit of the year works out at 4.8 per cent. of the working capital as against 4.6. per cent of the previous year. The Reserve Fund increased from Rs. 148,863 to Rs. 162,988 and the share capital from Rs. 724,011 to Rs. 731,529. Deposits by members increased from Rs. 775,000 to Rs. ₹ 900,000, while the deposits by non-members decreased by about Rs. ~~25,000~~ 25,000. The proportion of overdues to loans was 1 to 7 as against 1 to 8 in the previous year.

Women and Children.Women of India - Proposed Survey Questionnaire.

The National Union of Equal Citizenship for Women, London, through Miss Martelli, Joint Editress of "Women of India Survey" is preparing a handbook containing all the principal facts concerning conditions of women in India. It has issued a Questionnaire, containing fourteen questions on such subjects as education, condition of Indian village life as affecting women, training of mid-wives, age of marriage, training and employment of widows and education of adult women in purdah. Below are reproduced extracts from the replies to the Questionnaire given by the Parliamentary Sub-Committee of the Bombay Presidency Women's Council:-

Education;- Question: Should school attendance be made compulsory either in British India generally, or in selected ~~xxx~~ towns and provinces; either immediately or at the end of a given term of years? If so, during what ages or for what periods would you make school attendance compulsory?

Answer: We believe school attendance should be made compulsory immediately in towns, and as soon as possible in villages. School attendance should be made compulsory between the ages of six and eleven. The law of Compulsory Education has been made permissive for the whole of Bombay Presidency; in the City of Bombay, compulsion has already been introduced in two wards.

Question: To meet the difficulty that in a large proportion of the villages there are no schools, and that many of those existing are at present open to boys only, what measures do you consider desirable:- (a) to increase the ~~xxxx~~ number of schools? and (b) to increase the training facilities for teachers for such Schools?

Answer: (a) In the Bombay Presidency, this difficulty could be met with by co-education up to the age of eleven; and by open air schools, which would do away with heavy building expenses. The arrangements and particulars should be left in the hands of local authorities. (b) Send round trained educationists to train rural teachers in their own villages for certain periods.

General Conditions of Village Life as Affecting Women: Question:

Various suggestions have been brought under our notice, such as the Gurgaon scheme of village uplift; women's institutions, social institutions in towns to train workers for sending into the villages, etc., All agree as to the necessity of trained social workers in the villages, but there appear broadly two alternative proposals, which of these do you consider the most practicable, or what modification could you suggest?

(a) A resident women worker for every village or group of villages with sufficient all-round knowledge to act as nurse, midwife, health visitor, teacher of domestic subjects, possibly even teacher of the Three R's and general uplift. Or

(b) More highly specialized workers in each of the above departments, working from a common centre over a wide radius?

Answer: A combination of both the proposals is necessary, but there should be a resident worker in each village only a little better than the village women themselves, but trained in the above subjects and that there should be a more highly specialised worker who would travel over a large area visiting these workers and keeping their knowledge up to the proper standard.

Question: For the financing of village up-lift scheme ~~Must~~ we look to taxation or voluntary expenditure, and how can either or both

be stimulated?

Answer: Both taxation and voluntary subscriptions are needed to finance the Village Up-lift Schemes.

Training of Midwives: **Question:** Should the training and registration of midwives be made compulsory, either generally or in certain towns and provinces, either now or after a term of years?

Answer: It should be made compulsory as soon as possible.

Question: How can the supply of trained midwives be best stimulated, for towns, for villages? How can the cost be met?

Answer: There would be no difficulty in getting trained midwives for towns if they were protected by Legislation (registration). The Municipalities would have to provide some salaried midwives for the poor. The better classes could pay the midwives fees. It is difficult to get trained midwives to settle in villages. It is better to make rules for the village dais, requiring cleanliness and non-interference, and to punish any disobedience. Travelling midwives might visit each village at specified intervals, and with the spread of education, their standard would rise. The cost could be met with partly by local boards and partly by fees.

Age of Marriage:- **Question:** What would you like to see established as the legal minimum age (a) of marriage, (b) of Consent? Whatever age is legalised, what steps would you like to see taken for the enforcement of the law?

Answer: The legal minimum age (a) of marriage should not be under 16; (b) of consent should not be under 18. Registration of births, and marriages, and punishment for breach of law.

(Summarised from the Eleventh Annual Report of (the Bombay Presidency Women's Council, for the (period December 1928 to December 1929).

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Maritime Affairs

Indian Seamen's Union's (Bombay) Deputation to
Sir George Rainy.

A deputation of the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay, waited upon Sir George Rainy, Commerce Member of the Government of India, on 1-3-1930. The deputation brought forward various matters, the most important of which were:- Establishment of a State bureau for regulation of recruitment of seamen by rotation, according to the date of discharge, limitation of recruitment to the local limits of the port of engagement, fixation of an eight hour day for seamen and increase in and standardisation of wages, revision of the scale of rations and improvements in the accommodation provided for Indian seamen on board ship.

Sir George Rainy, after hearing the deputation, stated that their views ~~xxx~~ would receive careful consideration, and that a reply would be sent to their representation as soon as possible. At the same time he pointed ~~in their representation~~ ~~xx~~ out that it was not possible for him to give a definite reply to the more important matters raised, as these were under examination by the Royal Commission on Labour or were under consideration by the International Labour Conference.

He explained that it would not be possible for the Government to anticipate the recommendations of the Royal Commission or the proposals of the International Labour Conference. Further, one of the questions raised by the deputation formed the subject matter of a draft International Convention, and was now under consideration in connection with that Convention.

He promised to look into certain other matters, including the suitability of the present scale of rations and the accommodation provided for Indian seamen on board ship.

The first All-India Dock-Workers' Conference, Bombay.

The first All-India Dock-Workers' Conference was held at Bombay on the ^{8th}~~26th~~ and the ^{9th}~~29th~~ March 1930 under the presidentship of Rai Sahab Chandrika Prasad of Ajmere. The Conference was attended by a number of workmen employed in the Bombay docks, including the Royal Indian Marine.

Mr. F.J. Ginwala of Bombay, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in the course of his speech said:- "This Conference has been invited for bringing into existence the All-India Dock Workers' Federation, to ventilate and remedy the grievances of all dock-workers and seamen of India. If the seamen of India cannot join the All-India Dock Workers' Federation, I would suggest that they should have a Joint Council for joint deliberations and joint action and for co-ordinating their activities. For about ten years past, the dock-workers and the seamen of India have been smarting under various grievances. The main question for which they are fighting are wages, promotion, leave and hours of work. As regards the question of wages, the time has arrived when the minimum wage in India ought to be Rs. 30 and when the further exploitation of labour by Indian or foreign capitalists should cease. As to the question of time-scale, at present there is no system of giving promotion regularly every year. Promotion ~~may~~ many times depends upon bribery, corruption or the goodwill of the superior officers rather than on intelligence or efficiency. The Government of India have introduced the time-scale in the Post Office since 1917. Even in the Port Trust, for clerks there is a time-scale. There is no reason why the system of time-scale should not be introduced for all kinds of

workers, higher or lower and superior or subordinate.

Next in importance to wages, is the question of hours of work. In the B.B. and C.I. Railway and G.I.P. Railway and other railway workshops, workers work for 48 hours a week or 8 hours a day. In England the British miners refused to work for more than 7 hours and insisted that 48 hours should be reduced to 42 hours a week. Ultimately, the present Labor Government intervened and the miners' hours of work were reduced from 8 to $7\frac{1}{2}$ hours a day. In America and Russia, the workers have to work for only five days in a week. The Washington Convention regarding the hours of work for all European and American workers is 48 hours a week, but the Government of India say that the Washington Convention for India should be 60 hours. There is no reason whatsoever why an Indian worker should be compelled to work for more than 48 hours.

Next in importance to wages and hours of work, is the question of housing workers. At present even in Bombay 80 per cent. of the workers stay in one-room tenements. I cannot understand how a working class family consisting of a husband, wife and three grown up daughters can stay with any sense of decency or morality, in a one-room tenement, which generally includes a bath room and cooking room. In no civilised country there can be found single-room tenements. Not only one room tenements have been ^{done away with} destroyed in England, but every British worker uses not less than two rooms in addition to a bath room and a cooking room. It is therefore my earnest desire that the Indian worker should have at least two-room tenements in addition to a bath room and a cooking room, and a one-room tenement should be a thing of the past".

Mr. Ginwala then emphasised the importance of permanency of service, leave - including casual leave, sick leave and privilege leave and the organisation of provident fund and gratuity.

Rai saheb Chandrika Prasad then delivered his presidential address in the course of which he said:-

"It is this city of Bombay that has taken the lead in the Trade Union Movement of India. The first All-India Trade Union Congress was convened and held here in October 1920, under the presidency of the late Lala Lajpat Rai. The first ~~2~~ conference of All-India Railwaymen was held here in February 1921. It is therefore quite fit that the first conference of All-India dock workers should be inaugurated in this leading city of India. The relations of dockworkers with their employers have not been cordial, especially those of the Royal Indian Marine. Complaints are specially made about ^{the} palli system, under which the workmen are given compulsory leave without pay for days and days together, whenever there is slackness of work; ^{about the} daily wage system which should be substituted by monthly pay after a certain period of probation; ^{about} non-recognition of the unions, on the ground that some of their office-bearers are not employees of the docks, and ^{about} ill-treatment of workmen by supervisors.

The All-India dock workers' conference met again on 9-3-1930 and passed several resolutions. The conference condemned the attitude of the authorities in refusing to recognise the R.I.M. Dock Workers' Union of Bombay by imposing certain conditions on the ² Union and protested against the contemplated amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act. Various other resolutions passed at the conference urged the revision of the scale of wages, allowances and leave rules obtaining at present and the desirability of consulting the ² Union before adopting any measures concerning the staff. It was also resolved that a federation of all the dock workers' unions throughout India be formed on the lines of the railway federation and that the Government of India should be approached to enact legislation on the question of total prohibition in all labour circles in India.

(Times of India, 11-3-1930).

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MigrationIndians in South Africa. (Mr. Sastri's Report.)

It will be remembered that the Right Hon'ble Srinivasa Sastri was sent by the Government of India to South Africa to help the Indian communities to state their views to Sir Samuel Wilson on matters arising out of the Hilton-Young Commission's report and to be at Sir Samuel Wilson's disposal to help him in dealing with the claims put forward by the Indian deputation. The Government of India published on the 1st of March 1930 the report of Mr. Sastri in which, after giving a lucid exposition to the present position, he puts forward for the Government's consideration some clear cut recommendations which are as follow:-

The Government of India should (1) press for enquiries as to the basis of a civilisation franchise which shall be common to all races alike; (2) invoke the good offices of the Colonial Office and of the Government of Kenya in securing the consent of the European community to the establishment of a common electoral roll; (3) oppose the grant of responsible government to Kenya or of any institutions leading up to it; (4) oppose the establishment of a central council on the lines proposed by Sir Samuel Wilson; (5) demand in the case of the establishment of some such body, that the unofficial representatives from each province should include an adequate number of Indians; (6) advocate the continuance of the official majority in the Legislative Council of Kenya; and (7) demand that the representation of the natives in the Kenya Legislative Council should be by natives or by Europeans and Indians in equal proportions.

Discussing the position in Kenya, Mr. Sastri says that the most important questions in the political programme of the Indians are ^{the} in

in demand for a common electoral roll and the civilisation franchise. They have practised non-co-operation as well as boycott of the legislative and municipal bodies for gaining their end, for "they look upon a common roll as a sign of political equality, an ideal to which they are attached by the deepest and strongest sentiments, not only on their own account but on account of the people of India. In addition, they value a common roll as the only safe basis of Kenya citizenship". Another point is that the present communal arrangement is meant to secure their inferior status in the affairs of the Colony by making it impossible for their numbers or importance to tell on the elections. Mr. Sastri's attempts to induce them to abandon the non-co-operation policy were fruitless. The ² Closer Union Commission had recommended a common roll with the proviso that the consent of all the parties should be secured for the introduction of a common roll. The Indians naturally expected Great Britain would take this recommendation seriously and set about the task of getting the consent of the local European party, but they were doomed to disappointment. Yet a lingering hope remained that Sir Samuel Wilson might conduct preliminary enquiries regarding the basis of a civilisation franchise and bring together leaders of different communities for a discussion of the question. But the Deputation that waited on Sir Samuel Wilson was told that it was unlikely that any such consent of the Europeans could be got at present and that new avenues of approach may have to be explored.

Regarding Sir Samuel Wilson's proposal for a ^{closer union} ~~Closer Union~~, Mr. Sastri says that the Deputation denounced ^{wholesale} the idea of the proposed Central Council with the High Commissioner at its head, ~~wholesale~~ since they saw in it ^a the greater danger to eventual political union.

At the same time they demanded that should such a Council be established in spite of their protest, one of the two unofficial representatives from each province should be an Indian and that this should not be left to the discretion of the local authorities.

The Hilton-Young Commission had recommended the substitution of the official by unofficial representatives, and the Government of India were induced to give favour that view provided that as it would not end in an unofficial majority being established ultimately. The Deputation set their face definitely against the Hilton-Young recommendation and argued strongly for the retention of the official majority failing which the representation of native interest should be by natives themselves, but if non-natives were chosen, Europeans and Indians should be chosen equally.

Continuing the discussion, Mr. Sastri deplures the "utter lack of mutual understanding in political outlook between the Indian and European communities. The predominant view of the European section was that they should be the arbiters of the destiny of Kenya and that Indians should be allowed only a very subordinate voice in the administration of the Colony, irrespective of numbers, wealth, capacity or contribution to ~~the~~ taxation". On the Indian side "with passionate fervour, all the leaders demanded equality of status"; In spite of all these impediments, Mr. Sastri remarks "the extreme anti-Indian view no longer occupies the field so exclusively as before." A more ^{tolerant} ~~coherent~~ attitude finds expression here and there" and continues "I have brought away the impression that, if healthy opinion, now incipient on the spot, could be fostered by the firm and clear enunciation, from the headquarters of the Commonwealth, of a principle and policy consonant with its real character, the next few years may witness in

Kenya the beginnings of a common citizenship, full of promise for the future", and recommends that the Government of India "as the moral custodian of their interest" should oppose the transfer of final responsibility from London to Nairobi.

Mr. Sastri's mission was not completely successful; he could not promote negotiations for a mutual settlement of the above questions, partly because of the ignorance of local leaders of the trend of policy of the new Government in Great Britain and because ^{of the fact that} Sir Samuel Wilson ~~was not~~ [^] ~~not having been~~ authorised to make any binding agreement by the Government of Great Britain. He records the hope of Indians that the Labour Government when they discuss the question, will give opportunity for representing the Indian view.

Then he reverts briefly to the question of the disabilities of the local Indians in respect of educational and medical facilities and of their representation in the public services of the Colony, and states "It is, I submit, the duty of the Government of India to support the Indian claims for redress by all the methods open to them".

Discussing the position in Tanganyika and Uganda, Mr. Sastri says that though the position is better there, uneasiness is not wanting. He writes "For instance, I was surprised at the vigour with which the claim of our fellow countrymen in Uganda for equality of representation in ^{the} Legislative Council was insisted on", and goes on to say that the conditions there also would give cause for pessimism if the general attitude of some of the white settlers were not ~~not~~ counteracted by the Mandate of the League of Nations and the character of the present Governor, and hopes that the Labour Government will make a clear statement of policy which will assign to the Indian populations in East Africa a status compatible with their description as "equal partners".

(The ~~Final~~ 5-8-30)