

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch.

[ILO] C 1903/19

Report for June 1930.

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General.

In my last report I had mentioned that the Indian nationalist attitude was stiffening and efforts were being made to intensify the civil disobedience movement initiated by Gandhi. During the month under review the policy of "full steam ahead" was maintained by the Congress group.

The Working Committee of the Congress which met at Allahabad on 4 to 7-6-1930 to consider the situation created by the promulgation of the three Ordinances, to which reference has been made in my previous report, has recommended to the country to publicly ^{disobey} them with calm and unflinching courage and strict observance of non-violence. In particular, the Working Committee has advised the people to carry on with vigour the peaceful picketing of liquor shops and foreign cloth shops and the social boycott of government officers known to have participated in unjustifiable assaults, to extend the campaign for non-payment of land tax to parts of Gujrat, Maharashtra, Karnatak, Andhra, Tamil Nadu, and also to intensify and extend the campaign of non-payment of chowkidari tax in Bengal and to extend it to Bihar and Orissa. Newspapers are permitted to resume publication on giving an undertaking to write articles in defiance of the Press Ordinance and disseminate congress views, but the Committee has refused otherwise to remove the ban on publication. The bulletin publishing the decisions of the Working Committee, begins with a long survey of the progress of events in all parts of the country since its last meeting and, while congratulating the country on its adherence to the principles of non-violence, affirms that "no end of lawlessness committed in the name of Law and Order" will deflect the people from their determination to win Swaraj at all costs.

In response to the lead given by the Working Committee, more intensive forms of civil resistance are being initiated in the different provinces. Thus, in the Alibag and Mahad talukas of the Bombay Presidency it has been resolved to start a campaign of breaking the forest laws. A beginning is to be made with the cutting of grass and firewood from "reserved" forest areas and refusal to pay grazing fees. The Berar "War Council" has also decided on 4-6-1930 to launch a campaign of forest satyagraha, and has placed Mr. M.S. Aney in sole charge of the operations. At Bardoli the social boycott of Government servants has been carried out with such intensiveness and effect, that Government had to open special shops purveying provisions so that their servants could obtain the necessaries of life. The Jalalpur Taluk Conference which met on 8-6-1930 under the presidency of Mrs. Gandhi has decided on starting a no-tax campaign in the district. Resolutions on similar lines advocating one form or other of civil resistance are being passed in various parts of the country.

The outstanding event of the month has been the publication of the Indian Statutory Commission's Report on Indian Reforms. (The Report is dealt with in some detail in a separate section of this report). The report has evoked universal condemnation among all sections of Indian political thought, and has served the purpose of uniting the country again in ~~opposed~~ opposition to its reactionary recommendations. Thus prominent liberals like Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Sir Pheroze Sethna, Sir P.Sivaswamy Iyer, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad and Mr. C.Y. Chintamani have united in condemnation of the Report and assert that the boycott of the Commission stands completely vindicated in view of the reactionary recommendations made. The main lines of criticism are as follows:- (a) There is no evidence

of constructive statesmanship in the Report: (b) the Commission desire that their scheme should be taken as a complete whole in the same way as the Doughmore Commission recommended their scheme for Ceylon: (c) there is no indication of any reasonable solution of the problem of defence: (d) indirect elections for the Central Legislature weaken the Central Government: (e) even in the case of the provinces the net result is to leave the matters as they were in certain spheres and to curtail the powers of the provincial legislatures in other spheres: (f) the recommendations in regard to the Central Government curtail the powers at present possessed by the Assembly and the system of indirect election prevent the scope for joint action: (g) the provision for the inclusion of non-elected members of the Cabinet was a perpetuation of the existing system of Executive Councillors: (h) the scrupulous avoidance of mention of the phrase "Dominion Status": (i) the undue importance attached to the consent of 500 separate entities (the Indian States) as a condition precedent for India reaching its appointed political goal: and (j) the difficulties created by the Viceroy being empowered to act as the sole representative of the Crown in relation to Indian States. In view of the fact that the Recommendations have fallen far short of the expectations of even the mildest of moderates, the demand is made by Messrs. Jinnah and G.A. Natesan that in order to placate the moderate opinion a declaration should be immediately made by the British Government to the effect that it does not feel committed to the recommendations and that the Round Table Conference should be left free to formulate fresh proposals untrammelled by the Simon Report. The Hindus, the Sikhs and in a lesser degree the Muslims all condemn the Report as it has antagonised all interests.

The attitude of the Congress with regard to the Simon Report and to the Round Table Conference has been defined in an important interview accorded on 23-6-1930 by Pandit Motilal Nehru to Mr. ~~Mr~~ Slocombe, Special representative in India of the Daily Herald. The principal points developed in the interview are as follows: If the terms of reference of the Round Table Conference were left open and Indian delegates were given the liberty to argue the case for Dominion Status, the Congress would not be a party to such a conference. *If* it was made clear, however, that the Conference would meet to frame a constitution for a free India, subject to such adjustments of mutual relations as are required by the special needs and conditions of India, he (Pandit Motilal Nehru) ~~would~~ would recommend Congress to accept an invitation to the Conference. Indians must be masters of their own household and would meet Britain only on an equal footing. In the interview with the Viceroy on 23-12-1929, he and Gandhi had stated that even if the terms of reference of the Round Table Conference could not be announced, they would be content with an assurance that Lord Irwin and his government would support the Dominion Status plea. The assurance held good no longer. Even the great moral authority of Gandhi will not be able to induce the country to participate in the Round Table Conference on any terms short of complete independence. Even if these terms were conceded, the Congressmen would participate in the Conference only if it was accorded predominant representation. If these terms were accorded and a wide measure of political amnesty granted, he believed a settlement was possible.

The universal condemnation of the Report and the consequent estrangement of the Liberals have had a sobering effect on the Government. It is understood that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments are engaged on an unfettered examination of the Report.

? This prediction seems unlikely to be realized.

According to the political correspondent of the Associated Press, an effort will be made in the reports of the Central and Provincial Governments to make recommendations rectifying the worst blunders of the report so that Indian opinion may be placated to a certain extent. The new proposals will in several respects be in advance of those made by the Simonites. The weakest spots in the Simon Report are the weakening of the Central Legislature and the absence of real responsibility, the absence of real autonomy in the provinces, and unsympathetic handling of the army problem. The view is expressed in certain government circles that the details of the Simon scheme can be materially altered in these respects without affecting its broad outlines so as to reconcile Indian moderate opinion to a workable scheme which would introduce a real measure of responsible self-government till such time as the evolution of India's own army and the completion of the federation scheme makes the transfer of power complete, resulting in a Dominion Government, self composed and entirely autonomous. With such tinkering of the Report as a sop for the Cer@berus of public opinion and the vague assurance that the London Conference will have a clean slate and full liberty to examine the Simon proposals without any sanctity being attached to them, the Government hopes to rally moderate opinion and to round up a good number of the moderates for the Round Table Conference.

Meanwhile, the publication of the Report has induced the Congress to speed up the civil disobedience campaign and to tighten the economic boycott. It is understood that as the result of prolonged discussions with the Bombay Millowners in regard to the stiffening of the swadeshi programme an agreement has been arrived at with regard to the fixation of textile prices for a long period. The millowners, according to the

The British criticism is that there is too much tinkering.

agreement, are not to raise the price of cloth during that period on any account. Having regard to the present state of affairs in the country, it is regarded that this arrangement will effectively safeguard the interests of the consumer and at the same time ensure a reasonable price for the manufacturers of the mills. Details as to when and in what manner this agreement is to be given effect to are also said to have been discussed. The report that the Congress President demanded of the millowners that they would not aim at a profit higher than five per cent in the sale of their products has been contradicted. It is understood that the agreement which has been arrived at between the parties will be ratified at a meeting of the Committee of the Millowners' Association and that thereafter it will be communicated to the members of the Association for guidance.

Pandit Motilal Nehru has also concluded a similar agreement with the millowners of Ahmedabad on the boycott of foreign cloth and the popularisation of swadeshi. A Swadeshi Sabha has been formed at Ahmedabad consisting of representatives of millowners and of Mahajans dealing in swadeshi cloth. The salient features of this scheme are that the millowners agree not to produce any cloth which may compete with khadi, or to apply the term "khadi" or any similar indication to cloth manufactured by them. They further agree so to fix the prices of cloth that there will be no profiteering as compared with the March rates.

Concurrently with these efforts at making the boycott programme more effective, the political campaign is also being carried on with great vigour. The "War Councils" in the different provinces are functioning with the greatest efficiency. The storm centre of the agitation is Bombay City, where on 21-6-1930 battle was joined between the

Congress and Government forces on the question of Congress volunteers marching in drill formation and parading on the Esplanade Maidan. Despite the orders of the Commissioner of Police and the active opposition of the police force about 15,000 volunteers assembled on the maidan and their lines could be broken only as the result of repeated lathi charges. The volunteers remained peaceful and in spite of the severe beating they received, succeeded in carrying their point of drilling on the maidan. A sad development during the ^{month} ~~week~~ has been the revival of the cult of the bomb. On 20-6-1930 there were bomb outrages in five different cities of the Punjab:- Lahore, Amritsar, Sheikhpura, Lyallpur and Rawalpindi. Government has been sore pressed both by the ~~unusually~~ exasperatingly non-violent campaign of the Gandhites ~~and~~ the violent tactics of the revolutionaries. The result has been that the Government is tending to rely in increasing measure on rule by force. During the month one or more of the various recent Ordinances have been extended to the Madras Presidency, the Punjab and the Sind. A new move of the authorities has been to declare Congress Organisations unlawful, hoping thereby to nip congress activities in the bud. On 22-6-1930 the Madras Government declared the Andhra Provincial Congress Committee an unlawful association, as also the Guntur, West and East Kistna, West Godavari and Bezwada "war councils". The Punjab Government adopting the same policy had declared on 25-6-1930 the Punjab "war Council" and the Amritsar "war Council" and several organisations like all Naujawan Bharat Committees throughout the Punjab to be unlawful associations. The Congress has in all these cases decided to defy the law. At an emergent meeting of the Punjab War Council on 26-6-1930, it has been decided to create 30 new "War Councils", and that the personnel of each

council should be announced only as the existing one was arrested. The situation in the other provinces also is much the same — everywhere the adherents of the Congress are counting arrests in increasing numbers by open defiance of the law.

The Government's policy of repression has reached its climax with the arrest of Pandit Motilal Nehru, the acting president of the Congress and Dr. Syed Mahmood, the Secretary of the Congress, at Allahabad on 30-6-1930; and with the order issued by the United Provinces Government declaring the Congress Working Committee to be an unlawful body. The arrests, which were effected peacefully, have been followed by unprecedented demonstrations of protest all over the country. The Bombay demonstrations, where 60,000 mill hands downed tools for the day, deserve special mention as they serve to indicate the growing sympathies of Indian labour towards the nationalist movement. The arrests, it should be mentioned have not in any way affected the congress campaign. Pandit Motilal Nehru had before his arrest nominated Mr. Vallabhai Patel, who has been released from prison on 26-6-1930, to succeed him as President of the Congress and under his dynamic leadership, the movement is gathering fresh momentum. The declaration that the Congress is an unlawful body has torn off the last shred of pretence from the Government's policy of brandishing the "big stick" and has served to rally fresh adherents to the Congress camp. Thus Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya who had hitherto been holding aloof from the more extreme methods of the Congress, has on receipt of the news of Pandit Motilal Nehru's arrest, intimated Mr. Vallabhai Patel of his readiness to join the Congress Working Committee and his offer has been accepted. This

would mean the wholehearted identification of the Hindu Mahasabha with the Congress, in place of the qualified support which this premier communal organisation of the Hindus had hitherte been according to the Congress. Government's policy of increasing repression and the wholly unsatisfactory Simon Recommendations have thus succeeded in creating an unparalleled degree of unity in the country. The Congress is, therefore, meeting with increasing response to its appeals for boycott of foreign cloth, particularly foreign cloth of British manufacture. The "boycott week" inaugurated in Bombay has met with remarkable success and firms dealing in foreign cloth are feeling the pinch severely.

References to the I. L. O.

The 14th session of the International Labour Conference has ~~removed~~ ^{received} a fair amount of publicity in India. From a scrutiny of the Indian papers one finds that the only source of publicity with regard to the proceedings of the Conference, as far as Indian papers are concerned, has been the Reuter's Agency at Geneva. Reuters Geneva Cables on conference topics to India have mostly been confined to those aspects of the Conference proceedings either relating to India in particular or to Asiatic countries generally. Thus, the speeches of Messrs: S. C. Joshi (Indian workers' delegate) and Amritlal Ojha (Indian employers' delegate) which contained copious references to political conditions in India, and the reply of Sir Atul Chatterjee have received good publicity in India. A sprinkling of telegrams relating to the progress of the general work of the Conference has also percolated to this country. The publicity given to the Conference has also been supplemented to a considerable extent by communiqués issued by this Office, but owing to the political preoccupations of the moment and the demands on newspaper space made by the necessity to chronicle in full the development of the civil disobedience campaign, several papers have found it impossible to publish the materials supplied by this Office.

The Hindu of 12-6-30 and all papers give publicity to Mr. S. C. Joshi's resolution in favour of convening a special conference of Asiatic countries, including, the representatives of organised employers and workers, for the purpose of reporting to the general conference on matters affecting labour conditions in the East.

The Hindu of 30-6-30 and all papers publish a Reuter's cable to the effect that Mr. S. C. Joshi's motion urging the holding of an Asiatic Labour Conference has been lost for want of a quorum.

The Times of India of 18-6-30 and all papers publish a summary cabled by Reuter of Mr. S. C. Joshi's speech in the discussion which followed the presentation of the Directors Report. Reuter's version of the speech points special attention to the fact that Mr. Joshi's speech contained many references to the political situation in India, and that he asserted "the right of Indians to shape their destinies according to their own will against the domination of any Western Power". The message says "The speech has given rise to comments in Conference circles and surprise is expressed that the President has allowed him to proceed and adds "the President merely rebuked Mr. Joshi for exceeding the time-limit of 15 minutes."

The Times of India of 20-6-30 and all papers publish an account of Mr. Ojha's speech at the conference cabled by Reuter, beginning "~~The Indian Delegates were again prominent at the I. L. Conference~~". Reuter points out that Mr. Ojha's speech was on the same lines as that of Mr. Joshi.

The Hindu of 19-6-30 and all papers also publish Reuter's summary of Sir Atul Chatterjee's speech, in the course of which he expressed "great surprise and regret" at the statement in the speeches of Messrs. Joshi and Ojha, and asserted that their references to the political situation in India were outside the competence of the International Labour Conference. The message also refers to Sir Atul's denial of the allegation that the Government of India were not taking action as regards the unemployment convention.

The Indian Labour Review of June 1930 (Vol. IV, No. 4) in an editorial comment on Mr. Joshi's speech observes that Mr. Joshi's references to communism in India and the civil disobedience movement, are, to say the least, disappointing. The paper points out that Mr. Joshi's remarks gave the wrong impression that Indian labour

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supported the civil disobedience movement and asserts that there are many Liberals and Trade Unionists in India, who are opposed to the present campaign of law-breaking. The paper also asserts that Mr. Joshi was wrong in belittling communist influence among Indian workers.

It has to be pointed out that in publishing accounts of Mr. S. C. Joshi's speech, most Indian papers made the mistake of attributing the speech to Mr. N. M. Joshi. A communiqué issued by this Office correcting the mistake has been published in the Pioneer of 23-6-30, the Times of India of 24-6-30 and in all papers.

... ..

The Hindu of 14-6-30 and all papers publish a newspara to the effect that Mr. Roy Chowdhury, representing mine-workers of India, has been elected to the Committee of the Conference dealing with hours in collieries.

Other messages about the work of the Conference in respect of hours of work in coal mines published in Indian ~~an~~ papers refer to the rejection of the workers proposal for a 7-hours day, the walk-out by the employers' group, and the acceptance by the I. L. Conference of the ~~co~~vention providing for a $7\frac{3}{4}$ -hours day in coal mines.

... ..

The Statesman of 29-6-30 and all papers publish a Reuter message to the effect that the International Labour Conference has adopted a Draft Convention for an 8-hour day and 48-hour week for salaried employees. An earlier Reuter message published in all papers points out that Dr. Paranjpye stated that though he would ~~U~~ote in favour of the convention, his action should not be taken to

mean that the Government of India would ratify the Convention.

... ..

The Hindu of 17-6-30 commenting editorially on the rejection by the Committee on Forced Labour of the Government of India's proposal to continue the system of begar in the case of any work or service imposed with the object of improving certain tribes, says that the Committee was right in its decision. The paper says "to compel people to do forced service in furtherance of even such programmes is not the right way to go about the business of improving them".

... ..

The Hindu of 13-6-30, the Statesman of 14-6-30, the Pioneer of 15-6-30 and all the important English Papers publish a four column summary of the Director's Report to the 14th Conference issued in the form of a communiqué by this Office. The summary, while dealing with all the important ~~praxis~~ portions of the report, directs special attention to the I. L. O.'s relations with Asiatic countries, particularly India, as also to the successful efforts made by the I. L. O. to stabilise its budget by practising the most rigorous economy.

... ..

The Pioneer of 1-6-30, the Times of India 2-6-30, and all papers publish a communiqué issued by this Office on the Grey-Blue Report on Hours of Work in Coal Mines issued by the I. L. O.

... ..

The Pioneer of 18-6-30 publishes an editorial note on Mr. C. Vijayaraghavachariar's suggestion that India's claim for self-government should be submitted to the League of Nations for arbitration and says that the claim is inadmissible as the subject of Indian reforms is a domestic affair to be settled between Britain and India.

In this connection, attention has also to be invited to an article under the caption "Refer it to the League" contributed to the Servant of India, Poona, of 12-6-30 (Vol. XXIII, No. 24) by Mr. K. R. R. Sastry. The writer asserts that as the situation in India amounts to a "threatened state of continued peacelessness" among some members of the League, it is within the competence of the League to arbitrate on this question.

... ..

The Servant of India, Poona, of 19-6-30 (Vol. ~~XX~~ XXIII, No. 25) publishes at page 297 a review contributed by the Deputy Director of this Office on the book "Can World Peace be Won?" by Robert Corkey. In the course of the review, numerous references are made to the work of the I. L. O.

... ..

The Labour Gazette, Bombay in its issue of June 1930 (Vol. IX No. 10) publishes at pages 1053-1059 a summary of the reply of the Government of India to the I. L. O. Questionnaire on Hours of Work of Salaried Employees, as also the texts of the proposed draft Convention and two draft Recommendations on the subject.

... ..

An incidental reference is made in an editorial article appearing in the M. & S. M. Railwayman of July 1930 (Vol. 2, No. 1) to the equality of treatment accorded by the I. L. O. to Delegates and Advisers to I. L. Conferences. The paper ~~and~~ contrasts the I. L. O.'s practice with that of the Indian Railway Board, which recently decided that representatives of Indian railway workers proceeding to Simla to attend the All-India Railwaymen's Federation's Conference with the Railway Board on 16-6-30 should be given only passes of the class to which they were departmentally eligible, while outsiders attending the Conference were to be given first class passes by the Railway Board.

Conditions of Labour.Reintroduction of 54 hour week in Jute Mills, Calcutta.

The Indian Jute Mills Association has at its General Meeting held on 13-6-30 unanimously decided to reduce working hours in Jute Mills from 60 to 54 hours a week as from 30th June 1930. The period of restriction will last until December 31, 1931. Before its close, the position will again be reviewed by the Association.

By another provision of the agreement all mills will close down for 54 working hours between June 30 next and January 2, 1931. They may do this individually at any time they like within these limits, the only proviso being that each mill must notify the Association of the dates on which it will not be working. (Statesman.-14-6-30).

It may be recalled that it was on 6th November 1928 that the Association decided to work the mills for 60 hours a week from 1st July 1929 (see the report of this Office for December 1929, page 10). The decision to increase the working hours was then made, as at that time when mills were working only 54 hours a week, the demand for manufactured goods was steadily increasing, and taking advantage of the good prices ruling, many new firms began to enter the jute trade. The situation at present is completely altered.

The causes which have necessitated the restriction of production have been apparent for some time in the accumulation of stocks of manufactured goods both in Calcutta and in consuming markets.

It is estimated by the trade that stocks of hessians and heavy goods in mill godowns approximate over a month's and a fortnight's production respectively, apart from which it may be stated, as an instance of the general situation abroad, hessian stocks in North and South America are reported to amount to some 1,75,000 bales apart from afloat shipments.

The slump in the value of raw jute and goods is ~~not~~ closely allied with the general depression in world trade, and with the acute decline in the values of all commodities and textiles. Generally speaking, production has outstripped a diminished demand, a general cycle of trade depression having been intensified by adverse economic and financial conditions.

The negotiations aiming at curtailed production by the mill industry in Calcutta reflect conditions which have operated for some time past overseas where spinners have gradually reduced output substantially owing to unfavourable trading conditions. While the Calcutta mills through the medium of their Association have endeavoured to bring about a unanimous decision applicable to the whole trade, overseas spinners have naturally had to act individually

according to conditions in different spheres, but even so, it is estimated that restriction in their case has recently increased to the extent of 40 to 50 per cent.

The general overstocked position of the industry is such that in the present unfavourable state of world trade no immediate appreciable rise in values in the near future can be confidently expected, but it is hoped that the inauguration of a general curtailment of production will gradually correct the existing accumulation and eventually result in a more healthy period of trading on a profitable basis of manufacture.

Grievances of Textile Workers, Madura.

Mr. S. R. Varadarajulu Naidu, Organising Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Federation, interviewed the Labour Commissioner on 25-6-30 and represented to him the grievances of the work people in the textile mills in Madura, Tuticorin, and Ambasamudram. Mr. Naidu it is understood, pointed out to the Commissioner about the lack of ventilation, ^{facilities} vacuum dust absorbers and cooling plants in the mills in the places mentioned and also to the fact that in certain of the mills ~~in the places mentioned and also to the fact that in certain of the mills~~ the workers had to work for more than sixty hours a week, no overtime allowances being paid for extra hours of work done. He next drew attention ~~to~~ to the employment of women in certain departments ^{of} work involving risk and danger. Half-timers were being compelled to work for more than six hours a day. These and other difficulties such as the imposition of fines on, and constant suspension of, women from duty, he said, were most deplorable. Besides these there was some kind of hostility on the part of employers towards even registered trade Unions. Frequent use was also made of Section 144 of the Criminal Procedure Code, in dealing with industrial disputes. Finally, Mr. Naidu requested the Labour Commissioner to use his influence to see that a conciliatory policy was adopted by the Government in the matter of labour disputes.

The Labour Commissioner is said to have promised Mr. Naidu that he would look into those matters and asked for a written representation. In the matter of the use of Section 144 by local officials, however, he is stated to have declined to interfere.

(Hindu .- 27-6-30).

KLB.

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Labour conditions in Travancore Tea Estates.

The following account of labour conditions in the tea estates of Travancore, South India, is summarised from a report prepared by Mr. C. V. Venkatarama Iyyengar, an Advocate of Coimbatore and an ex-M.L.C., after a visit to the tea estates in the High Range, the tea zone in North Travancore, undertaken in March 1930 at the invitation of Mr. F. E. James, M.L.C., and Mr. H.L. Pinches, the Manager of the Khannan Devan Hill Produce Company Ltd., of Munnar, Travancore. The conditions of labour in the tea industry are also dealt with in previous reports of this Office as follow :- Indian coolies in Ceylon Tea-Gardens - pages 32 to 35 of June 1929 report; conditions of Labourers in South Indian Tea Gardens - pages 17-18 of November 1929 report; Labour conditions in Annamalai Plantations - pages 33-36 of February 1930 report

Nature and Extent of Area under cultivation .- All the important estates in the High Range belong practically to the Khannan Devan Hills Produce Company, Ltd. These 31 estates have the advantage of having one common firm of managing agents, viz., Messrs. James Findlay Company, Ltd., Calcutta, on whose behalf their General Manager Mr. H. L. Pinches is managing all these estates. The soil of these estates is very good and all the lands have been divided by management into four classes, viz., (1) Land under crop, (2) forest lands fit for tea cultivation, (3) grass lands fit for ~~taxation~~ grazing and for gardening purposes, and (4) fuel lands. The whole area belonging to both the companies is 135,000 acres of which about 24,500 acres are under tea and about 4,300 acres have been planted with timber as fuel area. Mr. Iyyengar further adds that generally speaking jungle lands are the fittest to be converted into tea gardens as they are more fertile and require less manure than grass lands with the exception of some of the estates such as the Aruyikkadu estate where tea grows better than even in the jungle lands. Mr. Iyyengar is of opinion that tea plants generally grow ^{for} 50 years ^{or} more. Their yield is increasing year after year thus getting a nett profit of Rs.150 per acre to owners.

Social Amenities .- Every estate has its manager and one or two European assistants besides about half a dozen highly paid European officers at the Central Office at Munnar. Thus the ~~Munnar~~ Munnar Club whose membership is restricted solely to Europeans has at present about 80 members on its rolls. There is a good Indian staff also, consisting of about a dozen officers in each estate and ⁶ the well organised Indian Staff Club at Munnar ~~to which a very~~ ^{The Indian Club} good building has been provided by the management. ~~It~~ ^{It} has a

membership of about 140. These Indian Officers are paid handsomely and are given free quarters. Also a Provident Fund scheme has been established for both European officers and the Indian staff.

Strength and Wages of Labour Force.- Regarding labour, in these planting districts there are 10,271 men, 11,500 women and 5,059 children above 12 years, engaged as coolies, generally drawn from the districts of Tinnevely, Ramnad and Madura. As for wages, men are paid 7 annas a day for field work, and 8 or 9 annas a day for factory work. Women are paid 4 annas a day when they do cooly work but most of them are employed on plucking green leaves and are given 3 pies per pound of green leaves plucked and the children are paid 3 to 4 annas per day according to their age. In this connection Mr. Iyyengar would make only one suggestion, i. e., that the company might favourably consider the question of increasing the daily wages of women from four to five annas. To encourage labour, the company have also set up a good well-equipped cinema house where interesting pictures are occasionally shown to all coolies and other employees in all the 31 estates with the help of good ~~film~~ films taken on ~~hire~~ hire from various companies, mostly Indian. It would be better if they got films of an educative nature to show how the work on tea-fields could be better done and health improved.

Rice supply.- It will appear from previous reports submitted by Mr. Iyyengar about other districts that the coolies are supplied rice by the estates at the rate of seven measures per rupee, whatever the market rates might be on the plains. In the Munnar district the cooly has been given at the rate of $7\frac{1}{2}$ local measures per rupee, thus losing about Rs.200,000 a year in the average on this account. In supplying rice to estates Mr. Iyyengar suggests that some responsible member of the staff, either European or Indian, should be present at the time of the distribution of rice and carefully supervise the measurement. If this is done, prices can be so fixed that the company ~~might~~ might not lose or gain anything, and the coolies will then have a proper quantity for their money.

Settlement of Accounts .- As for the settlement of accounts there is an important difference between Munnar and other districts. The accounts are settled generally after a period of ten months' work and the coolies are absent in the plains only for two months, but in the Munnar district accounts are generally settled after a period of nine months. Generally, in other planting districts, almost all coolies go down to the plains every year. In the Munnar district, the coolies do not at all go to the plains every year and their accounts are settled after a period of nine months and immediately afterwards they enter the estates for work after receiving new advances. Here, in these estates a system of creche prevails to supply midday meal for children not able to work. This is done in every estate and all children who are not old enough to go to work are looked after by women paid by the estates; and given a midday meal. Besides these all pregnant women are given a free midday meal whether they go to work or not for three months before and after confinement.

Health and Hospitals .- The general health of the whole district is very good and arrangements made for attending on sick people and treating them in the hospitals are very satisfactory. The general hospital is in the charge of a European medical officer with two Indian assistants and three trained ~~pm~~ nurses and is fitted with an up-to-date operating theatre and x-ray operators. There are 25 beds for women and 25 for men. When Mr. Iyyengar inspected the Hospital practically all the bed were occupied and he was told that they were so occupied throughout the year. Besides this General Hospital there are even small hospitals. There are 18 dispensaries in the various estates, 29 Indian medical officers and 26 midwives employed in them who are properly qualified and experienced. All coolies who are seriously ill are taken as in-patients and are fed free while those that are slightly ill are attended to in their own lines by their respective estate medical officers.

Venereal and other diseases .- In most of the estates, though the cooly population is mostly made up of married couples there is very large amount of venereal diseases and Mr. Iyyengar suggests that something tangible should be done to improve matters in the connection, and some propaganda work and probably some cinema shows might be tried especially on the lines of showing to the coolies that children born of people having venereal diseases either die very soon after birth or remain invalids for their whole lives. The sick rate in the Munnar estate is not very high. The medical report for ¹⁹²⁹~~1928~~ shows that the year is satisfactory from the health point of view. The total number of in-patients for the year 1929 in the General Hospital was 430 drawn practically from all estates and the total number of deaths in that Hospital was 32 for the whole year. Out of the total number of 430 cases there were 52 cases of pneumonia with 14 deaths, 63 cases of venereal diseases with no deaths at all, 22 cases of fever with only one death, and 32 cases of dysentery and diarrhoea with three deaths, besides 14 cases of malaria with no death. There were 14 cases of eye disease. The above analysis of the figures shows that the whole district must be very healthy.

Maternity Benefits .- If pregnant mothers come to hospitals for confinement with little delay, the present high rate of infant mortality might be considerably reduced. In every case of confinement a bonus of five rupees is given to the mother and at the time of settlement of accounts another sum of five rupees is given if the child is alive. But this payment is generally given in most of the estates only in cases where the child has been born in hospitals so that it might be an inducement to take confinement cases to the hospital. Mr. Iyyengar makes a suggestion that a specially equipped motor ambulance van might be purchased.

General conclusions .- Mr. Iyyengar states that the world is fast becoming socialistic and will be to their own interest ~~if~~

if they take a forward view and do at once things which they might probably do about a decade hence. Once again he appeals to Indian politicians and economists to ponder a little over the state of affairs regarding these plantations. There are in Southern India including the Indian States of Cochin and Travancore but not Mysore, about 1000 estates under European management and with practically European capital with an area of about 500,000 of acres chiefly under tea, coffee and rubber with a little of cardamoms and chincona. Their capital value is at least Rs.500 millions of rupees belonging to the shareholders who are all practically Europeans. The magnitude of the whole thing ~~is only~~ to be studied to be realised. In the Munnar district the area under crop is only five per cent of the total area mentioned above. The gross income for 1928 was about Rs.20 millions of rupees, which is equal to the total annual income of the Travancore State and three times that of the Cochin State. "We should also remember" he says, "that these enterprising European planters have not competed with India in these sources of income and we have still extensive forests in southern India where enthusiastic Indians can very well imitate our European friends and co-operate with them by opening new areas of coffee, rubber and chincona."

(Times of India.- 5-5-30.)

East Indian Railway Loco Workshop Strike, Lucknow.

Over 4,500 workers employed in the Loco Workshops of the East Indian Railway at Lucknow struck work on 18-6-1930. The reasons for the strike are as follow:- It is stated that the authorities recently enacted a new regulation by which every labourer will have to write to the Work-Manager and get sanction before he could be absent or take leave as against the old practice of obtaining leave directly from their immediate superior. Secondly it seems many mistries and workmen were entertained on promises of being given an increase after regular intervals, but were put off indefinitely without listening to their representations. The third point appears to be the shortening of privilege leave. (Times of India, 21-6-1930) The strike was called off on 23-6-1930. The Chief Mechanical Engineer, East Indian Railway gave a sympathetic hearing to representatives of the strikers, whom he assured that their demands

would be carefully considered. As the final decision on the matter did not rest with him, however, he asked them to call off the strike, and give the authorities sufficient time to examine the questions raised by them. The strikers accordingly resumed work on 23-6-1930. ~~but~~ ~~was making a mistake~~ Although the strike was mainly due to the new rules regulating leave, brought into operation by the Works Manager, it was continued inspite of the fact that the particular rules to which exception was taken were withdrawn. The workmen are now demanding that their wages should be subject to increments particularly in the case of those who are drawing the maximum of their grade. They cite numerous instances which show that there are workmen who have been drawing the same wages for six years and more. They also demand that in the matter of recruitment of apprentices preference should be given to the claims of sons and brothers of present employees.

(Pioneer, 23-6-1930).

Enquiry into Labour Conditions in Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore.

Consequent on the recent labour troubles and the Police firing at the Kolar Gold Fields, which were amicably settled by the intervention of Sir Mirza Ismail, the Dewan, (see pages 18-20 of the report of this office for April 1930) the Government of Mysore have now appointed Mr. M.A. Srinivasan, a member of the Mysore Civil Service, who had been deputed to England for administrative training, to enquire into the conditions of labour prevailing in that area and to report to Government the results of his enquiry.

Mr. Srinivasan has left Bangalore for the Gold Fields. It is learnt the enquiry will be finished in a month's time. (Hindu, 18-6-30)

In this context, it is worth while to summarise the debate in the Mysore Legislative Council on 29-6-1930 following on a motion for a grant of Rs. 2,25,800 under head Supervision of Mines by Mr. N.Rama Rao,

the Development Secretary. The occasion was also utilised by the Mysore Government to make an important statement ~~and~~ outlining its policy with regard to labour organisations, and to give certain indications with regard to the future trend of labour legislation in the State.

The following is a summary of the relevant portions of the debate:-

Mr. C. Reddi, speaking on a cut motion on this demand, drew the attention of Government to the conditions of labour prevailing at the Kolar Gold Fields. He first pointed out the housing accommodation of these labourers in that area. Since these mines were worked out no sufficient care had been devoted to this all important question. The huts they were living in were worse than cattle sheds. Mr. Reddi, proceeding, referred to the organisation of labour in the Kt Kolar Gold Fields area. At present sufficient encouragement was not given to outsiders to form labour unions to look after labour interests. The speaker next referred to a particular ~~and~~ section in the Mining Regulation, which gave the power to the Assistant Superintendent of Police to ask a worker to quit the area within 24 hours of such a notice, when he was desired undesirable. This particular section, the speaker pointed out, was really a hardship. Concluding Mr. Reddi thanked the Government for the appointment of a special officer to investigate into the conditions of labour in Kolar. He only wished that this officer would proceed on the right lines, keeping himself in touch with all classes of people.

Mr. C.S. Balasundaram Aiyar, Member of Council, replying outlined the policy of Government in regard to labour organisations. As regards these labour Unions, it was fairly well known that they were movements fairly well spread in other advanced countries. So far ^{as} Mysore was concerned, Government had under consideration a law to provide for the formation of labour unions and for their proper management and control in certain directions. At that time, the Whitley Commission were enquiring into the conditions of labour all over India, to see how far the present conditions were satisfactory and in what respects they could be improved. It was therefore considered desirable to wait till the Commission had submitted its report. After the proposed law was passed, suitable steps would be taken for the organisation of proper labour unions. Under existing conditions, it was considered by Government not desirable to permit various organisations of labour chiefly controlled and guided by people who had absolutely no inside knowledge of their working conditions, and who had no interest in the permanent welfare of the labourers. It was for this reason, that the Government discountenanced the formation of such labour organisations under practically outside control and guidance.

As regards the housing accommodation of the labourers, the Member observed that he fully sympathised with the views of Mr. Reddy but they were certainly better than the houses of the people in the surrounding villages. As regards the Mining Regulation the Hon. Member observed that it was no doubt a drastic law. But he would only say that conditions of work in mines were peculiar. The kind of peoples whom they had to deal with in that area, were not the normal type of citizens. The particular section referred to by Mr. Reddy had been under the

serious consideration of Government and a draft law to this
was placed before the Representative Assembly. The member
Assembly were not inclined to agree to the modifications an
Government to go much farther. But Government found it no
The Member was afraid Government could not agree to any rad

The cut motion was then withdrawn and the demand was t

(The Hindu, 30-8-

serious consideration of Government and a draft law to this effect was placed before the Representative Assembly. The members in the Assembly were not inclined to agree to the modifications and wanted Government to go much farther. But Government found it not possible. The Member was afraid Government could not agree to any radical change.

The cut motion was then withdrawn and the demand was then passed.

(The Hindu, 30-6-1930).

Working of Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the
Bombay Presidency during 1929.

The following facts about the Working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency during the period ending 31st December 1929 are extracted from the Report submitted to the Government of Bombay by the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence, Bombay, and which is published in the Labour Gazette, Bombay. (June 1930, Vol. IX, No. 10).

The provisions of the Trade Disputes Act were brought into force with effect from 8th May 1929 at the special request of the Government of Bombay in order that the machinery under the Act could be utilised to bring about a speedy settlement of the dispute in the cotton mill industry in Bombay City which was then in progress since April 1929. The Court of Inquiry appointed by the Government of Bombay to investigate the above dispute was the first tribunal of the kind to be appointed under the Act in India. The Court consisted of a Chairman and two members and was constituted on the 3rd July 1929. The terms of reference to this Court were -

- (1) To inquire into and ascertain the exact nature of the dispute or disputes between the employers and workmen of the cotton mills in Bombay City which led to the strike in those mills in March and April 1929.
- (2) If there was any such dispute, to what extent the employers or workmen or both were responsible in matters connected therewith?
- (3) What were the causes of the prolongation of the strike? Whether the employers or workmen or both were responsible for such prolongation, and if so, to what extent? and,
- (4) What were the difficulties in the way of a settlement of the dispute or disputes between the employers and the workmen?

The sittings of the Court commenced on the 6th of July and ~~continued~~ continued till the 21st of August 1929. The Court submitted its report to Government on 2nd September 1929 and it was published on the 18th of the same month. The Court found the Bombay Girni Kamgar

Union - a registered Trade Union of cotton mill operatives in Bombay City, controlled by Communists - to be mainly responsible for the dispute and its prolongation. Apprehending lack of public opinion in their favour, the officials of the Union had to call off the strike although they attributed certain other reasons for their action.

The report states that during the period under Report no prosecutions were launched under sections 15 and 17 of the Act. The Court of Inquiry experienced certain difficulties in the course of their investigation due to defective provisions in the Act and in the Regulations framed by the Local Government under the Act. In so far as the Bombay Regulations are concerned, proposals for a revision are under the consideration of the Local Government. The provisions of the Act also require to be amended in certain respects but definite proposals in this behalf will be submitted to Government after some further experience is gained, of the working of the Act.

Working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act*

for the year 1928

The Government of India has ^{recently} ~~just~~ published the Annual Report on the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act for the year 1928. Though the year under report was the fourth complete year of the working of the ~~Indian Workmen's~~ Act, there has been no great general improvement in the matter of securing satisfactory returns from employers. A small improvement, however, took place in Madras where returns under Section 16 of the Act were received from 1,343 out of 1,480 establishments. In the other provinces, the difficulty in getting the cooperation of the employers in the proper compilation of statistics relating to the Act by their sending the returns promptly and accurately, still exists. The difficulty mentioned impairs to some extent the accuracy of the figures showing the number of cases and the amount of compensation paid during the year.

General Statistics. The total number of accidents increased from 15,216 in 1927 to 16,768 in the year under review, though the corresponding figures regarding total compensation paid during the year fell to Rs. 10,95,730 as compared with Rs. 11,11,254 in 1927. Of these accidents, 51 affected minors, and the injuries proved fatal only in 828 cases, including the cases of 9 minors. There were 1,113 cases of permanent disablement including those of 8 minors. The number of cases causing temporary disablement only, were 14,827 of which 51 are those affecting minors. There are definite indications to show that the Act is becoming more and more widely known, although there is doubtless still a large number of employees who are ignorant of the provisions of the Act. ~~It is to be noted that~~ The Punjab report records a great increase

* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1928, together with a note on the working of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Published by the Order of the Government of India. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch. Price annas 6 or 8d. Pages 6.

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in the number of cases coming under the operation of the Act and the increase is attributed partly to the familiarity which the workers in general have acquired with the provisions of the Act. It is, however, recorded in Bengal that the number of cases under the Act during 1928 shows a slower rate of increase, and the Commissioner expresses the opinion that the number has nearly found its level, unless an extension of the scope of the Act brings about a change. It is satisfactory to note that the Act appears to be beginning to be better known in the coalfields of Bengal, as there were 14 applications for compensation during 1928 from those areas as compared with 4 during 1927. The Mines Department have contributed to this better knowledge by assisting claimants and reminding employers of their liabilities. The Bombay Report mentions the excellent work done by the Textile Labour Union of Ahmedabad to help injured workmen to obtain their just claims; about 90 per cent. of the cases arising in Ahmedabad are dealt with by this Union who take up, gratis, cases not only for members, but for workmen of all kinds. Apart from the activities of the Textile Labour Union of Ahmedabad, trade unions in the Bombay Presidency do not appear to be yet in a position to take a prominent part in obtaining compensation for workmen. It appears that in the same Presidency, a large number of cases under the Act are taken up by Agencies which charge a fee for their services. An interesting step was taken by the Government in Burma to bring the provisions of the Act to the notice of workmen. A notice drawing attention to the procedure to be followed by injured workmen or the dependents of deceased workmen was prepared and printed in the more important vernacular languages of the workmen, and copies of the notice were distributed through local officers to all owners of establishments employing workmen within the purview of the Act with instructions to affix the notice in some conspicuous place near the main entra-

-nce of every such establishment.

Attitude of Employers. The attitude of employers towards claims made by their employees for compensation does not appear to be uniformly generous. The Central Provinces Report records that employers in general display no unwillingness to pay compensation due under the provisions of the Act, but it is reported from Madras that there is a marked tendency on the part of the employers to repudiate liability for compensation on the ground that the accident was the workman's own fault, though this plea is seldom successful. It is reported that in Burma there is still a tendency among some employers to evade the obligations of the Act, and that in fatal cases in which compensation is payable, employers often fail to make deposits as required by section 8(1) of the Act.

Applications before Commissioners. The total number of applications filed before Commissioners in 1928 under section 10 of the Act for the award of compensation stood at 558, as compared with 554 in 1927. The number of distribution cases filed before Commissioners under section 8 has also shown an increase, the number being 531, as compared with 491 in 1927. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of by Commissioners was 23.7, as compared with 22.9 in 1927, and 23.7 in 1926. The number of applications filed before Commissioners for the registration of Agreements was 906, as compared with 711 in 1927, and 610 in 1926, and it is satisfactory to note that out of these 906 Agreements, modification by the Commissioners was necessary only in respect of 25 Agreements and that only 7 Agreements were not registered on account of inadequacy or other causes. A further satisfactory feature is that, though, compensation was claimed during the year in respect of 16,768 cases, only 1,299 applications for compensation were made before Commissioners. It is obvious from these figures

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that the vast majority of workmen's compensation cases which occurred during the year were disposed of without the intervention of Commissioners. The number of Appeals filed in the High Courts against the decisions of Commissioners under the Act continued to be few, the total filed during the year under review being only 5.

Special Diseases. 44 cases of plumbism are reported to have occurred in the Namtu Mines of Burma during 1928. Of these, 31 were mild cases of affection reported as plumbism and were treated in hospital for periods varying from 3 to 7 days, after which the men were able to resume duty. Under section 3(1) (a) of the Act, no compensation is due in respect of these mild cases. Out of the remaining cases, 9 were assessed as permanent partial disablements and 2 as permanent total disablements and compensation was paid under the Act. Two of the cases involved deaths, but it is stated that no claims for compensation were received from the dependants of the deceased workmen. Compensation totalling Rs. 6,982-8-0 was paid in Bengal in 3 cases of lead-poisoning. No other cases of occupational diseases are reported to have occurred during the year under review.

Legislative Changes. The Act remained unchanged throughout the year but the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1929, received the assent of the Governor-General on the 29th March 1929. (See pages 23-26 of this Office's Report for April 1929). This amending Act effected certain changes of a non-controversial character. The Government of India do not propose to initiate further changes in the Act until they have considered the report of the Royal Commission on Labour. Two notifications under section 2(3) of the Act were issued during the year, one to declare all occupations involving blasting operations to be hazardous occupations, and the other to make a similar declaration in favour of the work of boatmen and other regulation establishment on

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canals and their connected works. The first of these notifications has since been embodied in the Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1929 which has included in Schedule II to the main Act persons employed in any occupation involving blasting operations.

Administration. No difficulty of any magnitude was experienced in the administration of the Act during the year. It is, however, mentioned by the Government of Behar & Orissa that one of the difficulties arising at present in disposing of claims promptly is that of tracing the relatives of deceased workmen. In Burma, since the 1st October 1928 District Magistrates have been appointed Commissioners for workmen's compensation for their respective districts in lieu of District Judges, except in Rangoon and in certain adjacent districts, where the Officer-in-Charge of the Labour Statistics Bureau has been appointed Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation.

(The ^{Review of the} Annual Report on the working of the Act for the year 1927 is given in pages 26- 29 of the Monthly Report of this Office for June 1929)

Shipping Coolies' Strike, Rangoon.

At pages 24 to 25 of the report of this Office for May 1930 reference had been made to the shipping coolies' strike at Rangoon. The friction between Indian shipping coolies and Burmese coolies who were temporarily recruited to replace the striking Indian coolies, led to fierce inter-racial riots between the lower sections of the Indians in Rangoon and the Burmese. According to the Pioneer of 6-6-30, the riots were over by 4-6-30 and normal conditions having been restored, harbour work was resumed on that day.

A Government resolution has been issued on 5-6-30, announcing

the appointment of a Committee by H. E. the Governor-in-Council to enquire and report on the origin of the recent disturbances in Rangoon and the methods taken to deal with them, the Committee having the liberty to make such suggestions for future action as may seem to it necessary. The Enquiry Committee consists of Mr. Justice Brown, Chairman, U. Pu, President of the Burma Council, Mr. N. M. Cowasji, Barrister-at-Law, and Mr. H. B. Prior of the Bombay Burma Trading Company as members with Mr. A. J. Page, I. C. S., as Secretary. The Committee's enquiries will be conducted in camera but the Secretary will issue daily a summary of the proceedings. Giving the reasons for prescribing this procedure, the resolution states that firstly the composition of the Committee is in itself a guarantee that the enquiry will be thorough and impartial, secondly as the bitterness engendered by the disturbances between the two communities principally concerned is dying down, the Governor-in-Council is not prepared to take the risk of keeping that bitterness alive and even of exacerbating it by allowing reports of the evidence tendered to the Committee to be published daily in the press, and thirdly, the Committee's work will be facilitated if witnesses appearing before it have reason for confidence that their evidence will neither incriminate them nor lead to reprisals. (Hindu.- 6-6-30).

Note on Indian Coolies in Rangoon.- The Indian coolies in Rangoon, who mostly come from the Andhra (Telegu) districts of the Madras Presidency number about 40,000, and they practically monopolise labour in Rangoon. This has been the feature in Rangoon ever since Burma was annexed by the British. The Burmese people as a race are easy-going, and hard manual labour never appeals to them. This large Telegu cooly population is distributed in the docks, the mills, the conservancy department, rickshaw-pulling, the Chinese merchant households and in general cooly work. A few of these Andhra Rangoon coolies have also their families in Rangoon but most of them are a shifting population who remain in Rangoon when there is work and go to their Indian homes when there is none. The big European business houses in Rangoon like the shipping companies and mills employ thousands of these labourers through maistries. The maistries undertake to supply so much labour to the companies, and the coolies are paid through these maistries.

(Summarised from an article on the subject contributed to the Hindu of 12-6-30.)

Quarterly Strike Statistics (period ending 30-3-30.)

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has in a press communique dated the 18th June 1930, published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 30th March 1930. During the period under review, there were altogether 35 disputes involving 74,282 men, and entailing a total loss of 15,82,028 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bengal Presidency, where 16 disputes involving 47,146 men were responsible for a loss of 605,227 working days. Bombay comes next with 13 disputes, involving 19,698 men and entailing a loss of 846,888 working days. There were ~~two~~ 2 strikes in Assam, 1 in Behar & Orissa, 1 in Burma and 2 in Madras; while there were no strikes in ^{the} Central Provinces, the Punjab, ~~and~~ ^{the} Delhi and ^{the} United Provinces.

Of the 35 disputes during the ^{first quarter,} year, 16 were due to the question of wages, 10 due to personnel, 4 to leave and hours and 5 to other causes. In 3 disputes, the workmen were successful, in 7 they were partially successful, in 19 they were unsuccessful and 6 disputes were still in progress ^{at the close of the year quarter.}

Classified according to industries, there were 11 disputes in cotton and woolen mills involving 5,720 men and entailing a loss of 71,096 working days; 5 disputes in jute mills involving 41,139 men and entailing a loss of ~~221,702~~ 566,762 working days; 4 disputes in railways including railway workshops involving 17,533 men and entailing a loss of 857,944 working days. There were 5 disputes in engineering workshops, 1 in mines and 9 in other industries altogether involving 9,890 men and entailing a loss of 76,226 working days.

(The Statistics for industrial disputes in British India for the last quarter of 1929 are given at pages 35-36 of the Report of this Office for January 1930.)

Industrial Organisation. (Workers' Organisation)
Trade Union Statistics of Bombay Presidency* (1928-1929).

Valuable information on the growth of trade unions in the Bombay Presidency is furnished in the Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending the 31st March 1929 submitted to the Government of Bombay by the Registrar of Trade Unions, Bombay Presidency. The report which was due for submission by the 1st September 1929 was submitted only on the 10th April 1930, the principal causes for the delay being :- (1) the arrest in March 1929 of several prominent trade union officials in Bombay City under warrants issued by the District Magistrate, Meerut, for offences under section 121-A of the Indian Penal Code and the seizure of the books of the Unions, and (2) the General Strike in the textile mills in Bombay which lasted from the 26th April 1929 to the 18th September 1929. These events delayed the submission of returns by a number of unions and in a few cases no returns could be submitted at all. Apart from this, few Unions submitted correct returns and the latter had to be sent back to the Unions for rectification or amendment, often more than once.

Number of Registered Unions .- The total number of Unions registered during the year under report amounted to 26 (including one Federation) which, with the 12 Unions registered during the ten months - 1st June 1927 to the 31st March 1928, brought the total number of registrations during the period— 1st June 1927 to the 31st March 1929 to 38. Out of these 38 Unions, the G.I.P. Railway Workmen's Union, which was

* Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act (Act XVI of 1926) for the Bombay Presidency for the year 1928-29. (Price - Anna 1 or 1d.) Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1930. Obtainable from the Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Bombay, or through the High Commissioner for India, India House, Aldwych, London, W.C.2, or through any recognized Bookseller. pp. 17.

registered on the 27th October 1927, and the G.I.P. Railway Employees' General Union, which was registered on the 31st October 1927 amalgamated to form the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union which was registered on the 5th October 1928. There was no actual case of withdrawal or cancellation of a certificate of registration of a ~~Trade~~ ^{Trade} Union during the year except in the case of two Unions which amalgamated to form the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union and whose certificates of registration were automatically cancelled. The total number of registered Unions at the end of the year amounted to 36. The total number of registrations in the Bombay Presidency up to the date of presentation of the Report (10th April 1930) amounts to 47, and the number of Unions on the Trade Union Register amounts to 40,- the registrations of five Unions having been cancelled on the 21st February 1930 for failure to submit the annual returns for the year ending 31st March 1929. In two of the cases the Unions appeared to have become defunct.

Out of the 36 Unions standing on the Trade Union Register as at the 31st March 1929, the Bombay Girni Kamgar Union and the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union were absolved for the time being from submitting their annual returns owing to all the books and papers of these Unions having been seized by the Police at the time of the arrest of Mr. S. A. Dange and Mr. K.N. Joglekar, officials of the Union. Both these Unions have been instructed, however, to submit complete returns when their books and papers are returned to them.

Classification of Unions .- The 29 trade union bodies which submitted returns for the year consisted of 28 individual Unions and 1 Federation. The 28 unions may be classified thus :- Textile Industry - 3; Railways, including Railway Workshops - 11; Seamen - 1; Municipal - 3; Port Trust and Dock Workers - 4; Miscellaneous - 6. The Federation was the G.I.P. Staff Union, which at the end of the year had 9 unions affiliated to it.

Membership and Finances.

The following table gives the membership figures and the opening and closing financial balance as at the beginning and ending of the year under review for the 28 unions, and 1 Federation which submitted returns:-

Name of Union and date of registration.	Number of Members.		General Fund.				
	At beginning of year.	At close of year.	Opening balance.			Closing balance.	
			Rs. A. P.			Rs. A. P.	
<u>Textile Industry.</u>							
1. The Bombay Textile Labour Union, Bombay (23rd December 1927)	7,573	5,959	17,577	3	11	6,545	11 1
2. The Girni Kamgar Mahamandal. Bombay (21st May 1928)	1,200	1,200	947	8	0	743	8 0
3. The Bombay Mill Workers' Union, Bombay (1st June 1928)	445	528	...			667	7 0
Total ...	<u>9,218</u>	<u>7,687</u>	<u>18,524</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>7,956</u>	<u>10 1</u>
<u>Railways, including Railway Workshops.</u>							
4. The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Association, Ahmedabad (27th October 1927)	5,290	3,846	6,152	6	11	7,405	7 5
5. The B.B.&C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Bombay (31st October 1927)	3,473	6,147	24,906	7	6	30,176	10 9
6. The Wadi Bunder Staff Union (G.I.P. Railway), Bombay (7th November 1927)	426	597	929	10	1	1,144	0 9
7. The G.I.P. Railway Cabin Staff Union, Bombay (19th January 1928)	476	496	276	3	0	596	0 9

Name of Union and date of registration.	Number of Members.		General Fund.					
	At beginning of year.	At close of year.	Opening balance.			Closing balance.		
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
8. The All-India and Burmah Covenanted Non-Gazetted Railway Services Association, Bombay, (8th March 1928)	264	265	1,235	4	3	3,015	1	9
9. The G.I.P. Railway Peena Staff Union, Peena (21st May 1928)	437	334	509	5	3	418	1	3
10. The G.I.P. Railway Shelapur Staff Union, Shelapur (13th June 1928)	245	206	90	0	0	230	5	6
11. The National Union of Railwaymen of India and Burma, Bombay (22nd August 1928)	1,577	1,697	47,567	12	10	53,916	10	3
12. The Bombay Port Trust Railwaymen's Union, Bombay (10th October 1928)	247	304	439	5	9	1,152	9	5
13. The V.T. Commercial Section Staff Union (G.I.P. Railway), Bombay (12th October 1928)	122	130	180	4	0	328	14	0
14. The G.I.P. Railway Mechanical Department Office Staff Union, Bombay (13th October 1928)	...	216	...			206	10	0
Total ...	12,557	14,232	82,286	11	7	98,590	7	10
Seamen.								
15. The Indian Seamen's Union Bombay (1st December 1927)	19,501	21,613	45,982	1	3	93,387	7	9
Total ...	19,501	21,613	45,982	1	3	93,387	7	9

Name of Union and date of registration.	Number of Members		General Fund.	
	At begin- ning of year.	At close of year.	Opening balance.	Closing balance.
			<u>Rs.</u> <u>A.</u> <u>P.</u>	<u>Rs.</u> <u>A.</u> <u>P.</u>
<u>Municipal.</u>				
16. The Bombay Municipal Work- men's Union, Bombay (24th August 1927)	1,609	1,409	942 4 9	1,721 10 0
17. The Karachi Municipal Sweep- ers' Union, Karachi (5th January 1928)	248	731	82 1 0	15 6 11*
18. The Bombay Muni- cipal Kamgar Sangh, Bombay (29th January 1929)	...	219	...	69 12 0
Total ...	<u>1,857</u>	<u>2,359</u>	<u>1,024 5 9</u>	<u>1,775 15 1</u>
<u>Port Trust and Deck Workers*</u>				
19. The R.I.M. Deck Workers' Union, Bombay (24th May 1928)	784	676	70 3 6	1,123 2 9
20. The Bombay Port Trust Employees' Union, Bombay (4th January 1929)	974	1,910	9,426 2 0	15,065 12 4
21. The Mazagen Deck Employees' Union, Bombay (8th January 1929)	167	1,161	23 12 0	2,611 13 6
22. The Karachi Port Trust Labour Union, Karachi (28th February 1929)	...	684	...	409 9 6
Total ...	<u>1,925</u>	<u>4,431</u>	<u>9,520 1 6</u>	<u>19,210 6 1</u>

Name of Union and date of registration.	Number of Members.		General Fund.					
	At beginning of year.	At close of year.	Opening balance.			Closing balance.		
			Rs.	As.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
<u>Miscellaneous.</u>								
23. The Tramwaymen's Union, Bombay (24th May 1928)	...	881	8	0	0	1,629	11	6
24. The Bank Peens' Union, Bombay (16th August 1928)	...	315	...			475	2	6
25. The Bombay Telephone Company Employees' Union, Bombay (21st August 1928)	206	206	...			599	2	6
26. The Bombay Taxi Drivers' Union, Bombay (12th September 1928)	...	767	...			4,040	1	6
27. The Clerks' Union, Bombay (8th October 1928)	250	375	1,136	13	9	661	8	5
28. The Ambernath Labour Union, Ambernath (29th January 1929)	...	729	...			93	6	6
	—	—	—			—		
Total ...	456	3,273	1,144	13	9	7,499	0	11
	—	—	—			—		
Grand total ...	45,514	53,595	1,58,482	13	9	2,28,419	15	9

Name of Federation and date of registration.	Number of Unions.		General Fund.					
	At beginning of year.	At close of year.	Opening balance.			Closing balance.		
			Rs.	A.	P.	Rs.	A.	P.
The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union (17th August 1928).	7	9	270	13	0	731	3	10
Total ...	7	9	270	13	0	731	3	10

Conclusion .- The report points out that no appeals were preferred against any of the decisions of the Registrar during the year. Neither the registered Federation, nor any of the individual unions maintained the political fund permitted by Section 16 of the Act. The report also points out nearly three years' working of the Act and two years' experience with the annual returns have shown that the present form for submitting the annual returns is not only defective in many respects, but is also a difficult form for the majority of the unions to fill in.

All India Railwaymen's Federation's Conference with
Railway Board.

In accordance with the undertaking given by Sir George Rainy to representatives of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation ~~and by~~ on February 28 (see page 30 of the Report of this office for February, 1930), the Railwaymen's Federation led by its General Secretary Mr. V.V. Giri, accompanied by eight other delegates, namely Messrs. V.R. Kalappa, General Secretary B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union, U.K. Chatterjee, E.B. Railway Indian Employees' Association, K. Viraswamy, M. and S.M. Railway Employees' Union, S.G. Kale, G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, Marshall Fernandez, B.B. and C.I. Railway Employees' Union, R.A. Mathurani, N.W. Railway Union, R.S. Ruikar, G.I. P. Railwaymen's Union, and S. Guruswami, Assistant Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, had its first half yearly conference with the Railway Board on the 16th and 17th June 1930. The Railway Board were represented by Mr. T.G. Russel, Chief Commissioner for Railways, Mr. A.A.L. Parsons, Financial Commissioner of Railways, Mr. A.M. Hayman, Member Staff Duties, & Mr. H.A.M. Hannay, Member Traffic.

The agenda suggested by the Federation and accepted by the Board included the following subjects:-

(1) G.I.P. Railway Strike; (2) Rules Relating to the discharge and dismissal of railway employees; (3) Leave rules; (4) Relations between railways and railway unions and between the Federation and the Railway Board; (5) Wages question; (6) Other matters relating to the demands put forward by the Federation in May 1929 and (7) Hours of employment and periods of rest for railway employees.

Mr. Giri had furnished the Railway Board on June 14 with a memorandum on these subjects covering twenty pages. The proceed-

ings began with a speech by Mr. Russel in which he welcomed the Deputation and stated briefly the action taken by the Railway Board on various subjects dealt with in the memorandum. He then invited Mr. Giri to open the discussion on the agenda.

Re-employment of G.I.P. strikers. Mr. Giri at the outset thanked Sir George Rainy and the Railway Board for the opportunity afforded to the Federation of placing its views before the Board on question concerning the railway staff. He then took up the question of reinstatement of G.I.P. Railway strikers and observed that according to his information, although a high percentage of the workers had offered to return to duty on or before March 17, the date prescribed for the purpose in the Government of India communique of March 1 (see pages 18 and 19 of the Report of this Office for March 1930), the administration refused to take back several of them or even to register their names in the Waiting Lists on the ground that they had not vacated railway quarters as ordered by Railway officials. Mr. Giri pointed out that this condition found no place in the negotiations of February 28. The Board replied that the statement made was not in conformity with the information in their possession, but that they would in accordance with the assurance given in Mr. Russell's opening speech instruct the Agent in every case in which an individual could prove that he had complied with the terms of the communique to place him on the waiting list. Mr. Giri demanded in order to avoid all misunderstandings full and proper inquiry into the matter in conjunction with a representative of the Federation. Mr. Russel, while he was not prepared to commit himself agreed to consider the suggestion.

Re-instatement of re-employed strikers. Mr. Giri then suggested that the strikers who were taken back in service should be treated as reinstated and not as re-employed so that they may be able to count their past service. The Board agreed that any man who was taken back either on or before March 17, or was put on the waiting list (whether at the time or subsequently) and then taken back, would be treated as reinstated.

Mr. Giri then pleaded for those who had not complied with the terms of the communique, and with a view to avoiding unemployment, suggested that their cases be considered sympathetically. The Board replied that although this was not provided for in the settlement on February 28, they had instructed the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway that after dealing with the claims of the men on the waiting list, preference should be given to applicants who had lost their posts by failure to return to duty by the date prescribed. They had also asked the Agents of the other State Managed Railways in India to give special consideration to applications for employment from such persons. The Deputation then urged that when such men applied for employment their names should be registered to enable them to be definitely considered on the occurrence of vacancies. The Railway Board undertook to issue instructions to the Agents of all State Managed Railways in India to maintain a register of applications for employment from such persons.

Retrenchment in Workshops. Mr. Giri then referred to the retrenchment effected in the workshops which he said was considered by the workers as having been ordered to punish ~~workers~~ strikers.

The Board replied that workshop employees had been warned before the strike that the workshops were overstaffed, that in the event of a strike occurring, retrenchment would be inevitable, as it would upset the whole of the workshop programme. The Chief Commissioner reminded the ~~Board~~ Deputation of the responsibility the Board owed to the taxpayer and the public at large, for the economical management of the railways, and said that although it was known that the workshops were overstaffed, the Government had agreed to place on the waiting list workshop hands who offered to return to work by the prescribed date. Mr. Russell repeated that instructions had also been issued that when vacancies occurred outside the waiting list men originally employed in the G.I.P. Railway should be given the first choice.

Powers of dismissal. The next subject discussed was the new rules regulating the discharge and dismissal of State Railway Non-Gazetted Servants. Mr. Giri suggested that the benefits of the rules regarding discharge should be extended to temporary hands. The Board promised to consider this in respect of temporary employees who had completed 3 years' service. On the question of powers of dismissal and discharge it was suggested that no distinction should be made between discharge and dismissal and further that no delegation of such powers should be allowed to any member of the Subordinate Staff. The Board replied that dismissal was a graver punishment, as it constituted a bar to re-employment in Government service, and that the rules accordingly provided for an officer of not lower rank than a Head of a Department or Divisional Superintendent exercising the power. Regarding the objection raised to the delegation of powers, it was pointed out that it was left to the discretion of the Agent, who would delegate such powers only to selected Senior Subordinates.

Service agreement. The Deputation then stressed the need for amending the form of the Service Agreement for railway employees, which unlike practice obtaining in other Government Departments, gave the railway administrations the power to discharge railway servants without assigning reasons. The Board explained that the Railway Department was different from other Government Departments, and that, due to fluctuations in traffic, retrenchment was sometimes inevitable.

Mr. Giri observed that block retrenchment caused acute hardship and unemployment and should therefore be avoided ~~so~~ that whenever such measures were contemplated the local unions should be taken into confidence with a view to avoiding any misunderstandings.

The Board reiterated the terms of the reply given to the Federation in their letter of May which runs as follows:- "The Government of India cannot commit itself to a statement that in no circumstances will a large number of posts be brought under reduction. Everything possible is always done to avoid such action". The Board agreed that railway administrations who have recognised unions should inform them at the earliest possible date of any intention to bring about retrenchment to an appreciable extent.

Independent Medical Tribunal. The Deputation asked that when ~~it~~ discharge was ordered on the grounds of physical fitness an appeal should be allowed to an independent medical tribunal. To this suggestion the Chief Commissioner replied that, as the railways provided their own medical establishment, the Railway Board consider that on general grounds, and as many of ^{the} railway staff were engaged on duties connected with the safety of the travelling public, the railway ad-

administrations could not share their responsibility in the matter with an outside tribunal.

The Deputation asked that the period allowed for returning a charge sheet with a written explanation should be extended from 3 to 7 days. This suggestion the Board agreed to consider.

New leave rules. The third item taken up for discussion was ^{the} new leave rules for railway ~~servants~~ servants. The Deputation complained that while they had asked for the extension of Fundamental Rules applicable to Government servants, to all railway employees, irrespective of class or community, and for an increase in the relieving staff, the new rules were distinctly illiberal and likely to cause discontent. Mr. Giri handed in a statement showing how the new rules compared adversely with Fundamental Rules. The Board promised to examine ~~the~~ and consider the statement, but reminded the Deputation that it had long been recognised that Fundamental Rules were over-liberal in their application to Government Servants generally, and to ~~the~~ railway servants in particular. The new rules were admittedly less favourable than the Fundamental Rules but it was expected that they would in actual operation confer substantial benefits on lower paid employees by the abrogation of the condition which was often imposed in their case that the grant of leave should not impose any extra cost on the State. The Deputation, while ~~admitting~~ admitting this, pointed out that the rules for persons in Inferior Service did not allow leave on a medical certificate, except after the completion of 20 years' service. The Board agreed to examine the question whether leave on medical certificate should not be allowed to employees in the Inferior Service of shorter than 20 years. The Board explained in conclusion that the most important point about leave privileges was not that the staff should merely earn leave on a generous scale, but that they should be able to get a reasonable amount of leave, and to ensure this, the Board have authorised Agents to entertain adequate relieving staff. They further propose to watch carefully the actual results of the working of new leave rules.

17th June, 1930. B Second Day's Proceedings.

The meeting which the Railway Board had with a Deputation from the All India Railwaymen's Federation was resumed on the 17th June when the following subjects were discussed:- (1) Relations between railways and railway unions, and between the Federation and the Railway Board; (2) Hours of employment; and (3) The wages question.

Relations with Railway Unions. The first subject was one of those to which Mr. Giri said that the Federation attached the greatest importance. They were anxious to see a rapid development on the sound lines of the Trade Union movement, and this would be possible only if the Federation and individual railway unions were given every possible encouragement; and certain facilities demanded were: (1) That one or more employees who were selected as union officials be given leave of absence to work and organise trade unions on sound basis, ~~and~~ and while so away, should be treated as on Deputation without prejudice to their pay and other privileges, (2) That card passes be allowed to union officials and

to office-bearers of this Federation, (3) That office buildings for railway colonies should be provided for union purposes, as quarters for employees appointed as Secretaries of Union. subscriptions in aid of union funds should be allowed to be through salary bills, (5) That unions be allowed to represent dual grievances, and (6) That prior consultation should be with the Federation before effecting any changes in the work tions of the staff.

Attitude of Railway Board to ^{Specific} demands. Mr. Russell that the Board and the railway administration had every des courage the growth of trade unionism on sound lines, but th tion whether a particular union should be recognized, and d dure for the conduct of business between railway administrat recognised railway unions, must necessarily be left to the A railway to decide.

Encouraging Trade Unionism. With regard to the speci made by the Federation on this subject, Mr. Russell replied that Railway Board could allow was to grant leave of any ki full extent due to the employee to enable him to work for provided he could be spared by the administration, (2) that of passes the Board could only agree to grant x of cheque p office-bearers or members of the Federation or of railway u they were invited by the Railway Board or railway administr attend meetings, (3) that ~~xxx~~ application from recognised rent buildings which were available would be favourably con that an employee who was given leave to work as a union off retain all such privileges in the matter of quarters as it ~~only~~ to grant to an employee on ordinary leave, (4) that th tion of subscriptions through salary bills was not a workab and could not be agreed to, (5) that the Board could not a include individual cases, within the scope of business to b with the Federation, and that they must leave it to ~~the~~ of Agents of railways to decide this question on their rail local unions as they thought fit.

The Federation and the Railway Board. On the general of relations between the Federation and the Railway Board, observed that the Board had ~~an~~ already agreed to keep the informed of all orders issued by the Government of India an Railway Board affecting the service conditions of railway e Communications from the Federation to the Railway Board on subject are fully and promptly attended to. The Railway Bo not share its responsibilités for the administration of rai the Federation. It must, therefore, be free to issue order the service conditions of employees without necessarily di them with the Federation. But it did not follow that ther no occasions on which the Board would not consult the Feder prior to arriving at a final decision on such questions. in one important matter, viz., Hours of employment Rules, t had adopted this course.

With regard to Hours of Employment Rules, the Deputati that they had not sufficient time to examine them and at th the Board agreed to discuss the rules a fortnight or a mont with representatives of the Federation before finally issu

to office-bearers of this Federation, (3) That office buildings in railway colonies should be provided for union purposes, as well as quarters for employees appointed as Secretaries of Union. (4) That subscriptions in aid of union funds should be allowed to be recovered through salary bills, (5) That unions be allowed to represent individual grievances, and (6) That prior consultation should be arranged with the Federation before effecting any changes in the working conditions of the staff.

Attitude of Railway Board to ^{specific} demands. Mr. Russell replied that the Board and the railway administration had every desire to encourage the growth of trade unionism on sound lines, but that the question whether a particular union should be recognized, and detailed procedure for the conduct of business between railway administrations and recognised railway unions, must necessarily be left to the Agent of the railway to decide.

Encouraging Trade Unionism. With regard to the specific demands made by the Federation on this subject, Mr. Russell replied (1) that all that the Railway Board could allow was to grant leave of any kind to the full extent due to the employee to enable him to work for the union, provided he could be spared by the administration, (2) that in respect of passes the Board could only agree to grant a of cheque passes to office-bearers or members of the Federation or of railway unions when they were invited by the Railway Board or railway administration to attend meetings, (3) that ~~xxx~~ application from recognised unions to rent buildings which were available would be favourably considered and that an employee who was given leave to work as a union official would retain all such privileges in the matter of quarters as it was customary to grant to an employee on ordinary leave, (4) that the collection of subscriptions through salary bills was not a workable idea and could not be agreed to, (5) that the Board could not agree to include individual cases, within the scope of business to be transacted with the Federation, and that they must leave it to ~~the~~ the discretion of Agents of railways to decide this question on their railways with local unions as they thought fit.

The Federation and the Railway Board. On the general question of relations between the Federation and the Railway Board, Mr. Russell observed that the Board had ~~xx~~ already agreed to keep the Federation informed of all orders issued by the Government of India and the Railway Board affecting the service conditions of railway employees. Communications from the Federation to the Railway Board on such a subject are fully and promptly attended to. The Railway Board could not share its responsibilities for the administration of railways with the Federation. It must, therefore, be free to issue orders affecting the service conditions of employees without necessarily discussing them with the Federation. But it did not follow that there would be no occasions on which the Board would not consult the Federation prior to arriving at a final decision on such questions. Indeed in one important matter, viz., Hours of employment Rules, the Board had adopted this course.

With regard to Hours of Employment Rules, the Deputation explained that they had not sufficient time to examine them and at their request the Board agreed to discuss the rules a fortnight or a month hence with representatives of the Federation before finally issuing them.

The last question to be discussed was about wages. It was stated on behalf of the Deputation that in recent revisions, wages had been ~~re-~~duced in some cases which would cause further discontent.

On this point Mr. Hayman made it clear that the Board's aim was to investigate the grievances of staff and that, if in such an investigation or otherwise, they came to the conclusion that in past extravagant rates had been sanctioned, it was their duty as businessmen to revise the rates on an equitable basis, although the existing employees would be allowed option of retaining the old rates.

Wages Revision on G.I.P. Railway. With regard to the revision on the G.I.P. Railway, the Deputation referred to the reductions made in the rates for employees of the Carriage and Wagon Department.

It was explained on behalf of the Board that it had long been recognised that these employees were in some cases overpaid, and instances were quoted in which their rates were much higher than those paid to corresponding employees in other branches. This was a relic of the old departmental regime which it was necessary to rectify to secure a reasonable measure of co-ordination. On the whole, however, the revision of wages of lower paid employees on the G.I.P. Railway was calculated to increase the wages bill by Rs. 400 thousand per annum, the immediate cost being Rs. 800,000 per year. The Deputation pointed out that the unskilled rate sanctioned for places like Nagpur and Ehusawal was particularly low. The Board promised to consider this matter if it was represented by the Agent. Mr. Giri concluded the discussion by reiterating the opinion of the Deputation that the revision of wages recently sanctioned was inadequate, particularly the minimum wage adopted, and that the Board should immediately consider the question of a further improvement in the minimum wage. Mr. Russell thanked Mr. Giri for stating the case on behalf of the Deputation and assured him that whatever had been said at the meeting would be considered very carefully and sympathetically.

At this stage Sir George Rainy arrived and Mr. Giri read a speech thanking him and the members of the Board for the interview and the patient hearing accorded to the Deputation, and reiterating the prayers of the Federation on the subjects included in the agenda, more particularly on the relations of the Federation with the Board and trade unions with the railway administrations, the reinstatement of G.I.P. Railway strikers, new leave rules, and revision of wages. He also asked that immediate steps be taken to settle the Dohad dispute in accordance with the terms decided by the Board of Conciliation.

Special Meeting for discussion of Wages and hours. Sir George Rainy was glad to hear that the Board had agreed to discuss the hours of employment rules for railway servants at a special meeting with the representatives of the Federation and hoped that the result of the discussion would be to clarify things and to expedite the introduction of conventions on the question of holding prior consultations with the Federation before issuing orders of a general nature. Sir George Rainy observed that, while it was not possible to do so in each and every case, these ~~max~~ half-yearly meetings would provide opportunities for such consultation and that he hoped it would be found convenient and useful from the point of view of both the Federation and that of the Railway Department, to hold such consultations.

On the question of the Dohad dispute, Sir George Rainy announced that the Agent of the B.B. and C.I. Railway had been authorised to settle the dispute on the terms decided by the Conciliation Board. He was glad that in this case, which was the first in which the machinery brought into being under the Trade Union Act, had been utilised.

In closing his speech, Sir George Rainy said that, while he had not taken part in the detailed proceedings, he would read the record of the meeting with very great interest and hoped that the discussions would be productive of better mutual understanding and of benefit to the staff.

The conference has evoked but little enthusiasm among railwaymen.

Below are given (1) the opinions of Mr. Giri with regard to the Conference, and (2) the summary of a leading article reviewing the results of the Conference appearing in the July 1930 issue of the M.S.M. Railwayman (Vol. II, No.1).

Mr. Giri's statement. Mr. Giri, in a statement on his recent Conference with the Railway Board, acknowledged the patience and courtesy shown by the Board in discussing all matters at great length with the representatives of the Federation, but he stated that the workers were dissatisfied with the results obtained. Revision of leave rules and revision of grades for low-paid staff were considered reactionary, and unless matters were materially altered in this connection, discontent would grow. The Federation felt that, under no circumstances, could they allow worsening of the existing conditions. He hoped that the Railway Board would take a broad-minded view regarding the immediate reinstatement of strikers on the G.I.P. Railway and deal directly with the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, and thus close the strike chapter. He appreciated the decision of the Government of India and the Railway Board to accept the award given by the Conciliation Board in the matter of the dispute between the B.B. and C.I. Railway Workers' Union and the Agent.

(M. & S.M. Railwayman, July 1930).

The M. & S.M. Railwayman, Madras, the official organ of the employees' Unions of the M. & S.M. Railway, the Nizam's Guaranteed State Railway and the Mysore State Railway, commenting editorially on the results of the Conference in its issue of July, 1930 points out (1) that 14,000 G.I.P. strikers who had all offered themselves for work before the date specified, still remain to be reinstated and unless this is done there will be no real peace on the G.I.P. Railway; (2) that the retrenchment effected in the workshops is due to a spirit of vindictiveness; (3) that the new dismissal and discharge rules, even with the concessions made by the Board in case of temporary employees of over three years of service are unsatisfactory and that insecurity of Railway service can only be removed by a complete revision of the Service Bond; (4) that the new leave rules are equally unsatisfactory; (5) that the promised re-investigation into the system of wages in the E.B.R. and G.I.P. Railway systems will in actual practice not amount to much and (6) that the treatment accorded to railway unions by the Railway Board in respect of recognition, presentation of individual grievances, etc., collection of union subscriptions, travelling facilities to union officers, etc. is not conducive to the establishment of harmonious relations between the workers and the authorities.

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The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union's
Annual Conference -1930.

The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union's second annual conference was held on 28 and 29-6-30 under the presidentship of Professor W. G. Kale. The executive Committee met on the morning of 28-6-30, and the open session of the conference began on the evening of the same day.

The annual report pointed out that for six months and more the Union's activities received from the employees a response which was as creditable to the Union workers as to the employees themselves and the figures of membership kept climbing up and it seemed as if the bringing together of all employees under the banner of one healthy union was but a question of time, and that too, a very short time. Unfortunately that was not to be and the clouds began to hang about, unfortunately for the workers of India and those on the G. I. P. Railway. The cloud burst before the increasing solidarity among the rank and file could be effectively brought to tell upon the administration and that burst occurred at the Nagpur split and the recent strike on the G. I. P. Railway. The most important, but at the same time the most regrettable, event of the year was the split in the All-India Trade Union Congress.

Regarding the strike of the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union the report pointed out that the Staff Union, realising the futility of the proposed action of that union to enter upon a strike, tried to induce the sister union to desist from that idea and to devote more attention towards preparation for direct action, and it was really unfortunate that all their efforts proved unsuccessful. After explaining how the Staff Union had taken up an attitude of sympathy and had helped the strikers in every possible way, the report went on to refer to the other activities of the Union during the year under report. The work of organization during the period between April 1929 and February 1930 was splendid, and special mention was made of the organisation fund started by the Wadi Bunder Staff. The Union succeeded in certain cases to get redress for its members and several minor grievances have been redressed owing to the agitation on the part of the Union. Considerable amount of educative propaganda was carried on through the medium of the "Union Herald." In conclusion the report pointed out that the future seemed to be much more difficult than the past and it lay entirely in the hands of the Union whether the ship would sink or not.

In his presidential address Professor Kale referred to the prolonged and dreadful strike, which characterised the past year, which, he said, was a period of trial and tribulation to thousands of workers who waged a desperate struggle for a fair wage and decent conditions of work with, however, little success. The initiation and the aftermath of the strike were matters of momentous importance to all railway workers, calculated to teach valuable lessons with regard to the conduct of the Union movement and their efforts to obtain redress of their legitimate

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grievances and the amelioration of their condition. He felt bound to point out that the Trade Union movement could never prosper in India if it was not worked on the essential principles of internal discipline, harmony, co-operation and the strict observance of necessary rules and conventions. He pointed out that a strike weapon should not be lightly taken up, and he said that the history of the Trade Union movement all the world over taught that a strike should be launched upon after careful consultation with, and the full support of, all members of the Unions who were to be affected by it, and he observed that it was public knowledge that those essential conditions were not fulfilled in the last strike.

The speaker went on to urge that at present there was the supreme need for better and more strongly organised Trade Unions in India with a much larger membership, with proper training and education and with more discipline and public spirit. He pointed out that the rights and utility of Trade Unions had been universally recognised, and their success in India would depend upon the organising capacity of their leaders, the loyalty of members, and the sense of discipline and responsibility that animated all those who were connected with the movement.

At the open session of the Conference held on 29-6-30 several resolutions were adopted of which the following are the important :-

In view of the "repressive policy of the Government towards the present labour movement in the country," the Conference was of the opinion that labour leaders and labour organisations should have nothing to do with the Round Table Conference as long as the Government did not come to some honourable terms with the true representatives of the people with regard to certain basic principles. It expressed the whole-hearted sympathy with the present struggle so far as it effected the economic well-being of the people in general and the labouring classes in particular, and strongly recommended to the members the use of Swadeshi cloth, particular reference being made to the use of khaddar. The Conference requested the railway authorities to inquire into the rules governing the subordinate railway servants in respect of pay, gratuity provident fund, leave, quarters and hours of duty, as, it was suggested, they were highly unsatisfactory.

The conference also expressed its resentment at the "callous attitude of the railway administration in dealing with the genuine and legitimate grievances of the railway staff represented to them by the Union and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, and warned the Government that, unless there was an immediate change in the attitude, serious consequences would follow. The recent orders of the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway prohibiting the railway employees from attending political meetings evoked an emphatic protest from all the delegates to the Conference who characterised the action as an unreasonable restriction on the liberty of person and an encroachment on the civic rights of the employees. The interpretation put by the authorities on Rule 23 of the Public Servants' Conduct Rules militated in the opinion of the Conference against the intention of the framers of that rule.

Special attention has to be drawn to the attitude of Mr. Purandare, one of the delegates to the Conference, who was not in favour of following constitutional methods for the redress of grievances and advocated resort to communist methods. Mr. Purandare's views, however, met with a cold reception from the Conference.

British Help for Organising Indian Mining Labour.

A special cable to the Pioneer of 8-6-30 says that Dewan Chaman Lall, Mr. Joshi and Mr. John Cliff of the Labour Commission met Mr. A. J. Cook and a full Executive of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain on 5-6-1930 and explained the position of Indian miners with the object of creating live contacts between the miners of India and Great Britain. All three addressed the Executive. After a two hours' consultation the Miners' Executive decided apart from other actions to contribute £ 100 annually for three years for the organisation of coal miners in India. The Transport Workers' Federation made a substantial donation to the Central Organisation of Indian Workers known as the All-India Trade Union Federation.

(Pioneer .- 8-6-1930.)

Economic Conditions.

Tariff Board Inquiry into Sugar Industry.

The following resolution has been published in the "Gazette of India" dated the 24th May, 1930 (No.21, Part I, pages 538-539):-

At the beginning of the current year the import duties on sugar were as follows:- 23 Dutch Standard and above Rs. 4-8-0 per cwt. Inferior to 23 Dutch Standard but not inferior to 8 Dutch Standard Rs. 4-0-0 per cwt. Below 8 Dutch Standard, molasses and sugar candy 25 per cent. ad valorem.

The Finance Act of 1930 enhanced these duties, for revenue purposes by Rs. 1-8-0 cwt. in each case. During the last session of the Legislature the Government of India received a representation from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research which stated that in March 1929 the Government of India had addressed all Local Governments on the subject of the sugar industry and that on receipt of replies to this letter the whole question had been examined by a specially qualified Committee appointed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research.

This Committee's report had been considered by the Council, which resolved that the Government of India be asked to refer to the Tariff Board for inquiry the question whether protection is required, and if so in what measure for the sugar industry in India. In making this application the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research had taken into consideration the fact that the three Provincial Governments most vitally interested in the sugar industry, namely, the United Provinces, the Punjab and Bihar and Orissa, together with the Government of Bombay, had asked for an enquiry by the Tariff Board.

The question whether a prima facie case has been established for

Statistics of Joint Stock Company Registration, 1929-30.

The year 1929-30 saw a remarkable expansion of joint stock enterprise and the number of companies registered was 842 as against 733 in the previous year, the authorised capital being Rs. 610 millions a record figure since 1923-24.

There were registered during the year 6 navigation companies with a capital of 9.15 millions, 2 railway and tramway companies with a capital of Rs. 9.0 millions, and 32 motor traction companies with a capital of Rs. 5.3 millions. The number of public utility companies was 21 with an aggregate capital of Rs. 15.9 millions, engineering works numbered 14 with a capital of Rs. 15.3 millions, tanneries numbered 4 with a capital of Rs. 3.05 millions and printing presses numbered 32 with a capital of Rs. 2.8 millions.

Under mills and presses, the number of cotton mills registered was 15 with a capital of Rs. 18.5 millions, while there was only one jute mill registered and its capital was Rs. 1.00 millions. Rice mills numbered 5 with a capital of Rs. 450,000, flour mills one with a capital of Rs. 1 million, and saw and timber mills 1 with a capital of Rs. 100,000. The number of oil mills was 4 with a capital of Rs. 400,000 only.

Under mining and quarrying, coal companies registered numbered 9 with a capital of Rs. 2.2 millions, mica companies numbered 1 with a capital of Rs. 1 million, and petroleum companies numbered 1 with a capital of Rs. 7 millions. The aggregate capital for tea and other companies amounted to Rs. 12.2 millions and the number of companies was 37.

(Times of India.- 13-6-30).

Unemployment.Unemployment in the Central Provinces.

The following facts about unemployment conditions in the Central Provinces are taken from the reply given by the Jubbulpore Municipal Committee to a questionnaire recently issued by the Central Provinces Unemployment Committee. The questionnaire covers the existence and extent of unemployment amongst the educated classes only.

The Jubbulpore Municipal Committee in its reply states that within a period of 6 months 16 persons holding certificates after training in civil engineering schools applied to the Municipal Committee for the post of overseer, carrying a starting salary of Rs. 60 per mensem. All the applications were turned down as there was no vacancy.

Facts and figures quoted to prove the extent to which men who have received superior or specialised education and who have been forced into employment in which they derive no advantage from such education, or ~~are~~ are unable to earn a decent living owing to overcrowding of their particular profession or calling are still more illuminating.

Incomes in the legal profession. Taking as an instance the Bar, it is said that the maximum income of the most promising junior is Rs. 200 per mensem, but the majority of them cannot even earn Rs.100. Many members of the Bar who have no other income, besides that of their profession are indebted and there are several decrees against them in the ~~x~~ civil ~~courts~~ courts, and sooner or later most of these men will have to seek relief in the court of bankruptcy.

Salaries of Teachers. The teachers' lot is as bad as that of the lawyers. Those holding a trained teacher's certificate after passing the Matriculation or Intermediate examination are employed

on Rs. 35-50. High School teachers start on Rs. 60, and the most senior of them ~~in~~ ^{after} 15 years service, draws Rs. 150.

Causes of Unemployment. Some of the principal causes of unemployment are put down to (1) that educated people do not wish to ~~start~~ start at a low beginning on a small salary; (2) absence of industrial concerns; (3) aversion of leaving the town where they were educated and work in villages as cultivators and (4) want of funds to start business, having spent all their money on their education. Most students, it is said, are induced to proceed to higher non-specialised courses in the hope of securing highly-paid posts in Government service. Unemployment is to a certain extent accentuated by the joint family system, but nowadays the tendency of grown up educated men to rely on their relatives is fast vanishing.

Remedial Measures. Some of the remedies suggested are that students in vernacular middle and high schools should be taught carpentry, smithy, ^{work} and other allied subjects. In high schools and colleges there ought to be departments of applied and industrial chemistry. If a rural trend is given to the education of the rural population they will be more interested in agriculture and try to earn their living on the land. The educated classes must be diverted towards agriculture and industries. For this purpose agricultural and industrial banks should be started to help with loans at a low rate of interest on suitable security. Protection must be afforded by the state increasing the import duty on such foreign goods as are capable of being produced successfully in this country.

(Times of India, 24-6-1930).

Social Conditions.Cocaine Traffic: Efforts at special investigation.

The Standing Finance Committee of the Assembly met on 16-6-30 with Sir George Schuster as chairman. One of the items before the committee was the provision, for further investigation, of the problem of smuggling of cocaine into India from the Far East. The following facts are taken from a statement issued by the Government of India furnishing ~~the~~ to the Standing Finance Committee the necessary information regarding illicit traffic in cocaine and the steps taken by Government to combat the evil.

It was stated that the smuggling of cocaine into India and Burma was becoming, a serious problem. It was not possible to estimate its extent even approximately but there was no doubt that it was enormous. The quantities seized in the years 1926, 1927 and 1928 were about ^{87 lbs, 265} ~~87~~ ²⁶⁵ lbs. and 156 lbs. respectively. It was generally assumed that only 10 per cent. of the illicit traffic was detected. In Calcutta, the chief place where cocaine was smuggled into India, the Customs Department seized 446 lbs. of drug. During 1929 the number of hauls were exceptionally large, the quantity seized ranging from 68 to 83 lbs. The bulk of the drug being small, compared with its value, it was difficult to reduce materially the traffic. Even though liberal rewards were now paid little slackening of the traffic was noticeable.

In view of the seriousness of the situation the Government of India considered it desirable to conduct a special investigation into the seizures of cocaine in India. For this purpose they secured the services of Mr. Slattery of the Indian Police Service who was on special duty under the Central Board of Revenue. In connection with the proposed organisation of a Central Intelligence Bureau to deal with traffic in dangerous drugs, Mr. Slattery submitted his report recently

and it fully corroborated the suspicion that the sources of supply of contraband cocaine were chiefly Japan and China. China, however, was a distributing and not a manufacturing centre. It had been suggested to the Government of India that the material collected by Mr. Slattery would justify a special effort to follow up to their probable origin in Japan the channels through which the drug passed and thus to check evil and the source. They accepted the suggestion and considered that such special effort should be made in order to complete the work already done in India by Mr. Slattery.

A strong opinion in favour of closer collaboration between the Police services of the various countries with the object of combating the illicit drug traffic had been expressed by the Opium Advisory Committee of the League of Nations at ^{the} last meeting of the Committee. The Japanese representative made a personal suggestion to the same effect. He also suggested visits by Police officers of one country to other countries probably affected so as to enable the facts to be ascertained with greater precision and secure closer co-operation. The Government of India would ~~not~~ welcome any practicable methods likely to be useful in elucidating the details of illicit traffic and in promoting, closer co-operation for its prevention. They thought that an inquiry in the Far East might be very useful. There was of course no question of revenue involved. What was aimed at was an effective contribution towards the solution of a grave problem affecting the welfare of the people of India. The Government accordingly proposed to depute Mr. Slattery, with two assistants, to visit Japan and certain other places on the way.

It would be sometime before the details of the scheme were finally settled but the matter was so important that the Government had considered it desirable to place it before the Standing Finance

Committee at once. It was estimated that the cost would not exceed Rs. 40,000, (say Rs. 20,000 non-voted and Rs. 20,000 voted). It was not possible to meet this expenditure by reappropriation from demand No. 41 Central Board of Revenue. A demand for an additional grant of Rs. 20,000 would, therefore, be presented to the legislature, but the Government would try to effect a corresponding saving under some other grant.

The Standing Finance Committee desired to be furnished with fuller information about this case. The committee agreed to the proposals for the strengthening of the appraising establishment for *the* Calcutta Custom House.

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Public Health.

Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, Mysore.

The Mysore Government has passed orders defining the constitution and functions of the Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, which is a part of the Public Health Department, which was reorganised last year. ~~on a system of Bureau.~~

The Bureau of Sanitary Engineering will be under the charge of Mr. Mieldazis, whose services have been lent by the Rockefeller Foundation. A suitable staff has been placed at his disposal. The principal duties of the Bureau will be the planning and designing of all new works of watersupply, drainage, inspection, supervision, and alteration of existing works, the approval of all town planning improvement or extension schemes, sanitation, ventilation and lighting of public buildings, and irrigation works so far as they affect public health.

(Times of India.- 13-6-30).

Women and Children.Medical Relief for Women in Dhanbad Colliery Area.

m At pages 59-60 of the Report of this Office for December 1929, an account has been given of the scheme put forward by the Jharia Mines Board of Health for the establishment of a maternity home at Dhanbad to provide adequate medical relief for women in the Dhanbad Colliery Area. The scheme has been circularised among the members of the Indian Mining Association, having collieries in the Dhanbad Area, with a request to submit particulars of the hospital accommodation and medical facilities generally available to their labour. The Committee of the Indian Mining Association, in consultation with the Technical Sub-Committees in the coalfield have since given the matter their careful consideration and at a special meeting of the Committee held on 11th June, at which the Chairman and the Chief Medical Officer of the Jharia Mines Board of Health were present, the scheme was discussed very thoroughly.

At this meeting the Committee made it quite clear that they were definitely in sympathy with any scheme to give medical relief to women in the coalfields. They considered, however, that the amended scheme was still somewhat ambitious and having regard to the present conditions of the coal industry they did not feel justified in approving of colliery companies being asked to accept any further financial responsibility. In the past, experiments in connection with maternity work have been tried at individual collieries but these experiments had failed on account of the reluctance of confinement cases to enter a hospital of any kind; and for this reason the Committee considered that any maternity scheme for the coalfields should be commenced on a small scale and gradually

extended as the women gained confidence and began to realise the benefits of the scheme. The suggestion put forward by the Committee was that a few of the larger collieries in the Jharia field should appoint lady health visitors or welfare workers who would have under them a number of trained dais (Indian midwife^{yes}) working ~~with the colliery women and try to gain their confidence and induce them~~ in conjunction with the colliery doctors. The duty of these welfare workers would be to mix with the colliery women and try to gain their confidence and induce them to utilise the services of the trained dais (Indian midwife) at the time of their confinement. Such a scheme could be gradually extended and in the opinion of the Committee it was more practicable and far more likely to succeed than the more comprehensive scheme put forward by the Board.

(Sumarised from report of the Proceedings of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 18-6-30.)

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Maritime Affairs.

Bombay Port Trust Docks Staff Union.

The annual general meeting of the members of the Bombay Port Trust Docks Staff Union was held at the Indian Seamen's Union Hall, Carnac Bunder, Bombay, on 14-6-30, Mr. A. N. Surve presiding. The annual report stated that there were six meetings of the Managing Committee of the union during the year under review, when important questions pertaining to the grievances and management of the union were discussed. The meeting adopted the report and audited statement of accounts for the year ending March 31, 1930, after which resolutions were passed requesting the Chairman and the Board of Trustees of the Bombay Port Trust to grant house allowance for the clerical staff of the docks department in view of the discontinuance of the rent restriction act and to give them annual increments of ~~five~~ Rs. 5/- instead of the present rate of Rs. 3/-. With ~~the~~ the election of office bearers for the current year, the meeting terminated.

(Times of India .- 17-6-30).

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First Batch of Naval Cadets from Training Ship "Dufferin"

At pages 58-59 of the Report of this Office for August 1929 an account has been given of the prospects of Indian naval cadets undergoing training in the training ship Dufferin, which is at present the only agency for training Indian youths as naval cadets. The first batch of cadets who joined the Dufferin in December 1927 finished their training on the 14th June 1930. The Captain Superintendent of the "Dufferin" has issued the following statement regarding the absorption of these cadets by various steamship companies :-

"On June 9, 1930, at the office of Messrs. Mackinnon Mackenzie and Co., the following eight Cadets, S. N. Roy, S. K. Dutt Kumarhia, Jagat Singh, B. K. Sahgal, K. Lahiri, J. Jacob, A. Chakraverti and P. N. Kohli signed indentures for three years as Cadets in the British Indian Steam Navigation Co., Two joined the s.s. GARISOPPA immediately, and the remainder will all join their ships before the end of the month. These Cadets joined the Training Ship Dufferin in December 1927, and complete their training on June 14, 1930.

Out of the original batch ^{which} ~~of~~ joined the Training Ship, eight have joined the B. I. S. N. Co., eight the Scindia Steam Navigation Co., two the P. and O. Co., two the Asiatic S. N. Co., one the Mogul Line; and one Messrs. Cowasjee Dinshaw, Aden.

One Cadet, Qumraddin Ahmed, is sailing for England on June 21 having secured the State Scholarship for Marine Engineering offered by the Central Government.

Cadet Ram Dass, who was the winner of the Viceroy's Gold Medal, is joining the River Survey Department under the Commissioners of the Port of Calcutta.

Cadet Chuckerburti is joining the Bombay Port Trust workshops as an apprentice, and one Cadet is proceeding to Civil employment.
Hinder 11-6-30

Migration.Closer Union of East Africa and Indian Interests.

The conclusions of His Majesty's Government regarding the closer union of East Africa have recently been issued as a White Paper. The Government first reaffirm the policy of native interests being paramount as enunciated in the Kenya White Paper of 1923, and announce that a High Commissioner should be appointed to supervise Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika for the purpose of their social and economic development. The Commissioner's duties are (1) to be a chief adviser to the Secretary of State on native and other policy, and (2) under an order of His Majesty the King in Council to administer and legislate in respect of certain "transferred" services in all these territories such as Railways, Customs, Port, and Defence. He is to be assisted in his duties by a Council, of which he shall be the Chairman, consisting of 3 officers on the High Commissioner's Staff and 21 nominated members consisting of 7 members (of which 4 are to be officials and 3 non-officials) from each of the three Dependencies. The High Commissioner may submit any decision of the Council to the Secretary of State on his own volition or by request of three members of the Council. Mr. Sastri, it will be remembered, had strongly opposed the establishment of such a council but had recommended that in case it was established, the unofficial representatives from each territory should include an adequate number of Indians.

Regarding the future of Kenya, the White Paper declares that the goal of constitutional evolution in Kenya is responsible Government by the ministry representing every section of the electorate, but that the goal cannot be reached at an early date due to the political immaturity of the native community. It expresses the opinion that the line of

development in the future is not direct participation in legislature, but increasing the importance to be given to Native Councils by a continuous widening of their functions. The constitution of the Kenya Legislative Council is at present to remain substantially unchanged; that is the official majority is to be retained. This decision is substantially in accord with Mr. Sastri's recommendation on the subject. But the only change effected by the White Paper is that there shall hereafter be two (instead of one) members nominated by the Governor to look after the rights of Africans and other unrepresented interests.

Mr. Sastri's chief recommendation was for a civilisation franchise which shall be common to all races alike. The White Paper dealing with the franchise question declares that the establishment of a common electoral roll is the object to be aimed at, and attained with an equal franchise of a civilisation or educational character open to all races. To chalk out in what manner this end is to be reached, an enquiry is to be undertaken by the High Commissioner when appointed. The British Cabinet have now definitely recognised the justice of the Indian claim for franchise and have therefore ~~am~~ dispensed with the necessity for the prior consent of Europeans.

This White Paper is to be examined by a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

Memorandum on Native Policy. Along with the White Paper, His Majesty's Government have issued a memorandum on Native policy. It announces no new changes in policy but simply reaffirms the old policy which has guided His Majesty's Government and the officers in East Africa and urges the policy to be followed both in letter as well as in spirit. The memorandum declares that the Mandate for Tanganyika is not to be abandoned, and accepts the principle that the relationship between His Majesty's Government and the Native populations in East

Africa is one of trusteeship which is indivisible and undeputable. The memorandum goes on to expatiate on the principle of paramountcy of African interests and states that the creation and preservation of a field for the full development of native life is the first charge on any territory. It declares the Government's intention to develop native social and political institutions on native lines, to increasingly associate natives with Government through local native councils, and to admit natives to full membership of native land boards and similar bodies.

The application of the general principles of native policy are examined under the three heads political, social and economic. The stages of political advancement are to be settled by the parliamentary committee to be appointed to examine the Hilton Young Report. Social advancement is chiefly to be achieved by education "in the widest sense" to reach not only children and youths, but also adults. In the economic sphere, the Government is of opinion, that the feeling of insecurity as regards tribal land should be removed from the native mind and lands should be kept available for all tribes to ~~at~~ ^{satisfy} ~~satisfy~~ fully their future needs. All restrictions on possession, occupation and use of lands by natives such as will compel them to take service under private employers are to be removed. Government officers are not to assist in recruiting Native Labour. By these means the Government contemplate the gradual disappearance of the two kinds of compulsory labour now legal, viz., for public services in case of emergency, and for tribal services based on traditional tribal custom. The provision of transport for easy access to market for native produce is to be a primary consideration and fair dealing as between native producers and traders is to be secured.

The memorandum lastly deals with taxation and makes the important declaration that taxation must be levied in proportion to ability to pay, and that Government expenditure on native services in the annual budget is to bear a proper relation to the revenue raised from natives. (The Hindu, 20-6-1930).

Though Indian opinion as a whole is satisfied with the White Paper, it is disappointed with regard to the enunciation of native policy. The Hindu of 21-6-1930 maintains that native policy should have been overhauled rather than reaffirmed, since a mere reaffirmation is not likely to bring any better results than those already achieved. Regarding the Government's economic policy, the "Hindu" fears that though an effort is made to put down compulsory labour, in the actual working the attempt will be futile ^{for the three following reasons: (1) the} ~~because of the~~ ^{(2) the} insufficiency of lands reserved for natives, while, a few handfuls of Europeans hold the lion's share of the best lands, ^{(3) the} heavy taxation, and lastly the pressure brought to bear on the local bodies to drive the natives from the reserves and thus leave them no alternative to maintain themselves but to work under Europeans. The "Hindu" on these grounds is of opinion that compulsory labour and exploitation of the land by outsiders will not cease and consequently the position of the natives will in no wise be better.

The Eastern Africa Indian National Congress has addressed a communication to His Majesty's Government welcoming the latter's reaffirmation of the policy of the paramountcy of native interests and acceptance of the responsibility of trusteeship, requesting immediate introduction of a common franchise, protesting against the continuance of racial discrimination as regards the acquisition and transfer of agricultural land in the Kenya Highlands and opposing the contemplated Federation of Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika.

(Times of India, 30-6-1930).

Indian Franchise in Ceylon.

In view of the forthcoming introduction of reforms in Ceylon, the question of franchise for Indians in the Island has been decided by His Majesty's Government, who have despatched their conclusions to Ceylon. It will be remembered that, during the last session of the Legislative Assembly, on ~~22~~¹¹-2-30, there was an important discussion on the following resolution of Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru[†] regarding the question of Indian franchise under the new constitution in Ceylon:-

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council to represent to His Majesty's Government that the proposals of the Government of Ceylon regarding franchise, which have been accepted by the Colonial Office, in so far as they make possession of a certificate of permanent settlement and renunciation of the protection of the Government of India by Indian ~~immigrants~~ immigrants a condition of eligibility to vote should not be put into effect and that immediate steps should be taken to secure the adoption of the original recommendations of the Donoughmore Commission making five years' residence the basis of the franchise."

Non-official speakers in that debate criticised the proposals made by the Government of Ceylon that, as an alternative qualification to the one now prescribed by Art XXVI (1) (H) of the Order-in-Council of 1923, viz., compliance with the decisions as to literacy and the possession and occupation or the enjoyment of property of a prescribed value, which is to be retained, an applicant for vote should produce a certificate of permanent settlement based on satisfactory evidence of 5 years' residence and accompanied by a declaration (1) that he or she was permanently settled in the Island or was residing within the Island with intent to stay therein; (2) that while registered as a voter, he or she would renounce any claim to special protection by any Government other than that of Ceylon; and (3) that he or she would make a similar renunciation in regard to any statutory rights, privileges or exemptions to which, residents of all races or communities are not

entitled. The Government of India ~~was~~ promised on that occasion to reinforce the representations which they had already made on the question to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India by making ~~further~~ further representations in favour of the adoption of the original recommendations of the Donoughmore Commission, that five years' residence should constitute the basis of this alternative qualification for the franchise.

His Majesty's Government, after a full consideration of the views of the Government of India and of the leaders of the Indian community in Ceylon, have decided to omit from the Order-in-Council the requirement of an explicit renunciation, by an applicant for a certificate of permanent settlement, of any claim to special protection by any Government other than that of Ceylon.

As regards the Governor's recommendation that the applicant for a certificate should renounce also his claim to any statutory rights, privileges or exemptions to which the residents of all races and communities are not entitled, although His Majesty's Government propose to provide in the Order-in-Council that the holder of a certificate, while registered as a voter, shall not be entitled to claim any rights, privileges or exemptions which under the law of Ceylon are not common to all British subjects resident in the Island, they do not propose to require that any individual applicant should make a formal act of renunciation of such privileges, and also wish to make it clear that there is no intention of repealing or amending, to the detriment of Indians in Ceylon, any of the laws in Ceylon affecting their position or privileges nor of abrogating or lessening the powers and functions of the Agent to the Government of India or the Controller of Immigrant Labour in Ceylon.

His Majesty's Government have also decided that any Bill

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diminishing or abrogating any of the existing conditions or privileges of Indian emigrants would fall in the category of those to which the Governor could not assent unless he had previously obtained ~~a~~ ~~the~~ the instructions of the Secretary of State thereon or unless it contained a suspending clause. It will thus be observed that as regards the second and third conditions, of alternative franchise proposed by the Governor, His Majesty's Government have made substantial concessions to Indian opinion. The third condition viz., requirement of a declaration of intention to settle permanently in the Island is to be retained, but His Majesty's Government have given the assurance that any one making such a declaration shall not be subjected to any penalty other than forfeiture of franchise if he pays a visit to India which he intends in good faith to be of short duration, and that, absence from the Island upto 12 months will not involve cancellation of the certificate of settlement or loss of franchise.

(Hindu .- 16-6-30).

Previous History of the Question .- The circumstances that have led up to the present situation may be briefly summarised thus :-

Some time ago, His Majesty's Government appointed a special commission to report on the Ceylon constitution. The Commission found that in Ceylon, women were disqualified from being electors and that, so far as the male population was concerned the franchise was based on literacy and possession or occupation of property and enjoyment of income of a prescribed value. The Commission came to the conclusion that, if a constitutional advance was to be made in the status of Ceylon, it was necessary that the electorate should be widened. It accordingly recommended manhood suffrage in the case of males and the enfranchisement of all women not less than 30 years of age. As this question had an important bearing on the position of Indians resident in Ceylon, the Commission devoted a section in its Report to the examination of this matter. There are about 700,000 immigrant Indians or labourers on tea and rubber estates in Ceylon at the present day. In considering the qualifications for the franchise, the Commission recommended that :- "A qualification of five years' residence in the Island --- should be introduced in order that the privilege of voting should be confined to those who have an

abiding interest in the country or who may be regarded as permanently settled in the island."

In fixing the qualifications for franchise, the Commission considered carefully the relation of Indians to the rest of the population of Ceylon, and deliberately arrived at the conclusion that the qualifications it had fixed would be fair to all parties concerned. At present the Indian community in Ceylon, known as Indian Tamils, are represented in the Legislative Council by two Members. As the Commission was in favour of the abolition of communal electorates, it had naturally to consider what the effect of joint electorates would be on the position of the Indian community. It expressed the view that, while the existence of two representatives of the Indian community in the Ceylon Legislative Council might have tended to improve its position, yet in the main Indian rights would depend on two other considerations. One was the continuous pressure exerted by the Government of India in favour of the Indian population in Ceylon. The other was that, in case franchise was granted to the Indian population on the same terms as to other communities in Ceylon, their position in the electorate would be a sufficiently strong one to enable them to protect their just rights. On these grounds therefore the Commission treated Indians in regard to electoral qualifications on the same basis as other constituent portions of the Ceylon population, and also recommended the abolition of communal representation, not merely for non-Indians but also for Indians.

Shortly after the Report of this Commission was made public, it was debated in the Legislative Council of Ceylon in 1928. It was generally felt there that the reforms recommended by the Commission were not substantial, and that they would not pave the way for the introduction of responsible government in that Colony. The Report of the Commission was therefore rejected by the Ceylon Legislative Council. Thereupon, the Governor of Ceylon sent a despatch to the Colonial Office dealing with the views of the Legislative Council as regards the Report of the Special Commission, and recommended some alterations in the franchise proposed by the Commission. The result of these proposed alterations was that, by arrangement between the Governor and the Colonial Office virtually a bribe was offered to Ceylon at the expense of the interests of Indians resident therein. The Governor made domicile the basis of the franchise in Ceylon. As regards those who are undomiciled, he proposed that, while five years' residence should certainly be insisted on, with residence there should be coupled the condition that those who wish to be registered as voters should produce a certificate of permanent residence in the Colony. It is desired that an Indian who is not already domiciled in the Colony and who has been residing there for five years should produce a certificate of his intention to reside there permanently, and at the same time make a declaration that, while registered as a voter, he or she would renounce any claim to special protection by the Government other than that of Ceylon, or to any statutory rights, privileges or exemptions to which residence of all races and communities were not entitled.

The ^{Indian} objections to the Governor's proposals ^{are based} ~~were made~~ mainly on the following grounds :- (1) The considerable improvement that has been effected in the lot of Indian labourers in Ceylon during the last ten years is due to the vigilant interest taken in their welfare