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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE
INDIAN BRANCH

Report for July 1941.

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

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Bengal.-

Introduction of Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas)
Amendment Bill, 1941. †

Reference was made at page 1 of our May 1941 report to the intention of the Bengal Government to introduce the Bengal Criminal Law (Industrial Areas) Amendment Bill, 1941. The Bill was introduced in the local Legislative Council on 28-7-1941 by the Hon. Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin, Home Minister, Bengal.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-7-1941.)

Bengal.-

Introduction of Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment)
Bill, 1941.

At pages 2 to 3 of our March, 1941 report were given the salient features of the draft Workmen's Compensation (Bengal Amendment) Bill, 1941; the Bill was introduced in the local Legislative Council on 28-7-1941 by the Hon. Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, Labour Minister, Bengal.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-7-1941.)

Bengal.-

Introduction of ^{the} Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates)
Bill, 1941.

The draft Bengal Maternity Benefits (Tea Estates) Bill, 1941, to which reference was made at pages 1 to 2 of our June 1941 report was introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council by the Honourable Mr. H.S. Suhrawardy, Labour Minister, Bengal.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 30-7-1941)

Bengal.-

The Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Rules, 1941.

The Government of Bengal has gazetted the general rules of administration of the Bengal Rural Poor and Unemployed Relief Act, 1939.

(The Calcutta Gazette,
Part I, dated 17-7-1941,
pages 1779-1780.) ,

Bihar.-Rules re. Persons exempted from Restrictive Provisions of
the Factories Act. †

The Bihar Government has gazetted the Rules under the Factories Act defining the classes of persons deemed to hold positions of super-~~vision~~ vision or management and persons working in confidential capacity who are exempted from the restrictive provisions of the Factories Act.

(The Bihar Gazette, Part II, dated 2-7-1941, pages 480 to 481.)

Bombay.-Exemption of Clerical Staff from Operation of Bombay Shops and
Establishments Act, 1939.

Reference was made at page 2 of our February, 1941, report to the notification of the Government of Bombay of the exemption for six months of clerical staff employed in certain kinds of mills in Ahmedabad, Bombay and Sholapur from the operation of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act, 1939. The Government of Bombay has now extended the exemption for the duration of ~~the~~ the war.

(Notification Nos. 143 (a) and (b) dated 17-7-1941: The Bombay Government Gazette, Part IV-B, dated 24-7-1941, pages 625 to 626.)

Burma.-The Draft Burma Canal (Amendment) Bill, 1941.

The Burma Government intends introducing in the forthcoming session of the Legislature a Bill to amend the Burma Canal Act, 1905, so as to repeal Section 70 and amend Section 71 of the Act which deal with forms of forced labour. The statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill points out that the labour exacted under sections 70 and 71 of the Burma Canal Act, 1905, is held to be excluded from the exceptions given in Article 2 of the Draft Convention and Recommendations concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour adopted by the International Labour Conference. Section 70 is not being used in recent years as no notification has been issued under it declaring that the provisions of sections 66, 67 and 68 and 69 of the Act shall apply to any district or part of a district for purposes of constructing water-courses under the provisions of section 14. It is, therefore, proposed to repeal this section. As regards section 71 it has been considered whether, in the event of that section being repealed, it would be possible to employ the provisions of section 67 in cases where contractors employed for unsilting of canals are unable to obtain labour in sufficient numbers to complete the work before the break of the rains. If the canals are not unsilted in time, the supply of water is liable to be cut off from large areas and the result is likely to be "serious damage" which may entail "extensive public injury" within the meaning of section 67. In such

cases however section 67 cannot properly be used, as the damage done would not be "sudden". To enable such cases to be dealt with it is proposed to retain section 71 amended as indicated in the draft Bill. The section as so amended would appear to fall within the provisions of clause (d) of Article 2 of the draft Convention.

(The Burma Gazette, Part III, dated 19-7-1941, pages 163 to 164.)†

CONDITIONS OF WORK

Hours of Work

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Applicability of Bombay Shops and Establishments Act to Owner-Managed Shops: Government prefers Appeal to High Court. ✓

In view of the fact that different Presidency Magistrates have put different interpretations on the various provisions of the Bombay Shops and Establishments Act and the rules framed thereunder in deciding cases under the Act, Government have filed an appeal against the decision given by the Presidency Magistrate, Bombay, acquitting Mahomed Kassam Panwalla, who was charged with keeping open his shop after 9 p.m. on February 15 last, with failure to maintain a visit book for the Inspector appointed under the Act to record his remarks in, and with failure to exhibit in his shop a notice containing extracts of the Act. (Vide page 4 of our April 1941 report.)

The Government submitted that the Magistrate erred in his decision that one-man owner-managed shops were not subject to the regulations regarding closing hours under the Act; that he erred in holding that the owner of such a concern was not an employer ~~as defined~~ as defined under the Act; and that he put a wrong interpretation on the word "employer" and failed to follow the meaning allotted to it by the definition.

The appeal has been admitted by the High Court.

(The Times of India, 2-7-1941.) ✓

Proposal to extend Punjab Trade Employees Act to Delhi Province. ✓

It is understood that the Delhi Provincial Administration has under consideration the question of the extension to Delhi of the Punjab Trade Employees Act, 1940, or a similar statute from another province. The Chief Commissioner, Delhi, is reported to be in consultation on the subject with municipalities and trade interests in the Province.

(The National Call, 9-7-1941.) ✓

Special Rules for the Madras Factories Service (Women's Branch)

The Government of Madras has published the special rules governing the Women's Branch of the Madras Factories Service. The service is to consist of one Assistant Inspectress of Factories. Appointment to the service is to be by direct recruitment, provided that, for special reasons, appointment to the service may be made by transfer. The Service is restricted to women, and no woman above 30 years of age is eligible for appointment. A candidate for service should possess a medical degree or the B.A. or B.Sc. Degree (with training in maternity and child welfare, or in public health or social service); preference will be given to candidates having experience of social work among women and children. During period of probation, which is the same as in the General Rules, the probationer should pass colloquial tests in Tamil and Malayalam (the local languages) and the accounts test for executive officers. The salary scale is Rs. 190-20/2-250-25/2-350 per mensem.

(The Fort St. George Gazette, Part I,
dated 15-7-1941, page 841.)

Family Budgets Enquiry in Indore. ✓

The Labour Officer, Indore State, is now engaged in conducting an inquiry into the family budgets of working classes in the local textile mills as a first step in the preparation of a working class cost of living index, which would form the basis for future wage adjustments. The enquiry is expected to be completed within six months.

(The Hindustan Times, 2-7-1941.) ✓

Industrial Disputes

Cawnpore Labour Strike. ✓

Towards the beginning of July 1941, the Cawnpore Mazdoor Sabha gave notice of a general strike of mill workers if their demands were not met; these demands included, besides a 40 per cent. wage increase, better housing, provision of increased medical facilities, improved leave rules, more holidays, establishment of a Government labour exchange, etc. The strike began on 14-7-1941 with 5,000 workers, but soon the number increased to 40,000.

On 17-7-1941, the U.P. Government issued a press communiqué in which it declared that no Government can tolerate interference in the supply of essential articles to troops in the field in time of war and that it intended to use its powers under the Defence of India Rules to the full to restore normal working in Cawnpore. Government also instructed the Labour Commissioner, as soon as the men returned to work, to enquire into the important points in dispute between the employers and the men, other than those which have for some time been under consideration of Government, and to make recommendations. No such inquiry, it was pointed out, could take place on them until full working was restored and, in this connection, it was observed that the present strike was instigated by the Mazdoor Sabha and no proper steps were taken to open negotiations for resolving the points in dispute. Government declared that it could not continue to recognise that body, and that any representation made by it to the Labour Commissioner will be ignored. The Labour Commissioner would, however, deal with representations submitted by Mill Committees or other associations of workers.

(The Hindustan Times 18-7-1941)

The strike began to fizzle out towards the end of July and by the beginning of August 1941 normal working conditions were restored.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-7-1941)

3

Madras Bus Drivers' Strike.

Reference was made at pages 19 to 21 of our June 1941 report to the settlement of dispute between Madras bus-owners and their employees through the arbitration of Mr. V. Ramakrishna, I.C.S., Commissioner of Labour, Madras. On complaints received from the Madras Motor Drivers' Association that the terms of the award were not being properly implemented, a series of meetings were held by the Labour Commissioner with representatives of both sides. On 4-7-1941, the drivers and conductors declared a lightning strike, and some of them were found guilty of minor acts of sabotage, such as stealing ignition keys and cutting tyres. There was also unlawful picketing as a result of which several drivers were arrested and sentenced. A press communiqué issued by the Government of Madras on 19-7-1941, pointed out that a report received by it from the Commissioner of Labour went to prove the failure of the transport companies to properly implement the terms of the award of 28-4-1941, and subsequent agreements. Also, on a careful consideration of the various representations made by it, the Government came to the conclusion that both parties were at fault - the workers by embarking on a lightning strike without notice and

by resorting to unlawful acts, ^{and} the employers by their failure to implement the terms of the award and the subsequent agreement. The Government, in its desire to end the strike, advised the workers to resume work unconditionally and the employers to reinstate all those workers who have not been convicted for acts of violence, to implement the terms of the award and the agreement, and to compensate those workers who have been affected by the failure of the employers to give effect to the terms of the award. (Madras Government Press Communiqué dated 19-7-1941.)

The workers decided soon after to accept the Government's advice and end the strike, but bus-owners are showing hesitation to accept the advice. On 30-7-1941, Mr. T.G. Rutherford, Adviser to the Government of Madras, discussed the situation with representatives of the bus owners, but the dispute is continuing.

(The Hindu, 6-8-1941.) ✓ x

Bombay Legislation re. Compulsory Arbitration:
Protest by Millowners' Association, Bombay. ✓

Reference was made at pages 2 to 3 of our May 1941 report to the amendment of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1938, so as to introduce the principle of compulsory arbitration of trade disputes. The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in the course of a protest submitted on 18-6-1941 to the Government of Bombay:

Parties not Consulted. - The Committee recalled the debate on the parent Bill in the Legislature and pointed out that at no stage during the debate on the Bill was it suggested, either by the representatives of employers or the representatives of labour that the scope of the measure should be extended to include the principle of compulsory arbitration. In the circumstances, it was submitted that Government might well have consulted the parties mainly concerned before legislation incorporating this principle was framed.

Principle of Compulsory Arbitration Opposed. - As far as the Committee was aware, except as an emergency measure during a time of war, "the principle of compulsory arbitration had never been applied even in a country as industrially advanced as the United Kingdom, for the reason that it was strongly opposed by employers' and employees' organisations alike." The main objections of the Committee to the introduction of the principle of compulsory arbitration in the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act were:-

- (a) Compulsory arbitration was a reversal of the policy of settlement by agreement.
- (b) No judicial or quasi-judicial system could work with general assent unless it administered a set of known and established rules based upon generally accepted principles. No such principles could be defined in respect of trade disputes.
- (c) It would be impossible in practice to enforce an unacceptable award upon labour.
- (d) Compulsory arbitration might tend to lessen the desire of the parties to come to a settlement by agreement; the knowledge

that if a dispute went on long enough it would be referred to a Court with compulsory powers, would almost certainly tend to make a recalcitrant party put forward extreme claims, and avoid a friendly settlement in the hope of getting larger concessions from an arbitrator. In general, the use of compulsory arbitration would weaken the sense of responsibility of employers and employees, thus retarding the practice of settlement of discussion and agreement.

- (e) The penalties which might be imposed for participating in or instigating illegal strikes were not of such a character as to prevent their occurrence after arbitration had taken place, whereas the penalties laid down in the case of illegal lock-outs were deterrent. In any case, such penalties would be practically inoperative so far as labour was concerned.

Action on all-India Basis Preferred.- Appreciating the anxiety of the Bombay Government to remove the possibility of dislocation of the war effort of Indian industries owing to cessation of work during the period of the war, and the desirability of taking effective steps to achieve this end, the Committee had brought the question of preventing of trade disputes to the notice of the Director General of Supply, and had suggested that if action was taken, it should be taken under the Defence of India Act; that it should be of an All-India character; that the special measure might include some speedy and effective procedure for adjudicating finally on matters in dispute; that special protection ~~against cessation of work~~ should be limited to factories actively engaged in the production of war supplies; that the right to strike and lockout should only be taken away for the period of the war; and that after the war, the pre-war legislative position should be reestablished. The attention of the Government was also drawn to the fact that the Central Government had under contemplation an amendment of the Trade Disputes Act, 1926, and that, at the special conference which the Member for Labour with the Government of India had with representatives of employers' organisations in Calcutta in January 1941 (vide pages 3 to 5 of our December 1940 Report), the Member had indicated that it was the intention of the Central Government to lay down a "norm" or model in respect of various measures of labour legislation and that the Provinces might be expected to follow this "norm" as far as possible. The Labour Member had further indicated that in those Provinces where Section 93 of the Government of India Act was in force, it would be possible for the Central Government to ask them not to go further than the "norm" laid down by the proposed Central Act.

Assurance Sought.- In conclusion, the Committee pressed for an assurance that the Amending Act would be withdrawn if it failed to prevent dislocation of production owing to wanton and unnecessary strikes at a time when all endeavours should be devoted to the development of nation-wide war effort.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during June, 1941.)✓+

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Holidays.

Closed Holidays for Industrial Workers:
Indian Jute Mills Association's Proposal:
Scheme postponed in view of contemplated Central Legislation. ✓

In 1940 a proposal was made by the Indian Jute Mills Association that employing interests in Bengal, particularly those operating in the same districts, should come to some agreement with regard to the individual holidays to be observed in their establishments, and proposed to fix six days in the year - spread over the more important of the festivals observed by the workers - during which all mills in the Calcutta industrial area would grant holidays to their workers, with liberty to grant, in addition, such other holidays as local circumstances and custom dictated.

The principle involved has been favourably received by most industrial interests, though the question of applying it must depend on the circumstances of the individual industry concerned, for instance on the migratory nature of the workers and the seasonal character of the employment in certain industries. Those whose special requirements do not permit of actual holidays being given have been asked to consider the grant of pay in lieu of holidays. The intention had been to make this proposal effective from 1-1-1941, but in view of the possibility of early introduction of Central Legislation on holidays with pay (the subject was considered at the First and Second Labour Ministers' Conference), the introduction of the scheme has now been postponed.

(Report of the Committee of the Bengal
Chamber of Commerce for 1940, Vol.I.) ✓

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Economic and Financial Conditions in India - 1940-41:

Review by Reserve Bank of India.*

International Economic Situation.- World Economy during the year under review continued to be overshadowed by war and with the extension of the zone of hostilities the various economic controls in the sphere of production, consumption, prices, foreign trade, exchange, etc., instituted after the outbreak of war in the belligerent, as well as in certain neutral, countries were further intensified. In the main the essential problem of war economy continued to be the same as in the war of 1914-18, namely, the necessity for the mobilisation of all economic resources for the prosecution of war at a time when the real output of goods and services was reduced by the diversion of men to the forces. Though the introduction of the various control measures immediately after the outbreak of the war facilitated the economic mobilisation, the increased cost of waging war on a highly mechanised scale created financial problems of unprecedented magnitude which were reflected in the enormous increases in Government expenditure during the year.

Conditions in U.S.A. and Great Britain.- In the United States the recession in economic activity, which was noticed after the passing of the initial boom immediately after the outbreak of the war, was arrested in May, 1940, when industrial production began to assume an upward trend due principally to the increased volume of war orders received from the British Empire and the vast increase in domestic defence expenditure and reached a new record in March, 1941. The outstanding event was the passing of the 'Lend Lease Act' on the 11th March, 1941, empowering the President to transfer at his discretion defence articles to the Government of any country whose defence he deemed vital to the defence of the United States. In Great Britain, the dominant feature of the economic situation was the intensification of the economic and financial effort necessitated by the war, with a view to mobilising, to the fullest extent, all the available resources in materials and labour. Some idea of the magnitude of the financial effort of the war may be obtained from the fact that the daily expenditure on war rose from ~~£4.7~~ £4.7 millions in the first month of the war to about £14 millions in March 1941. In the financial markets the prominent features were the continued maintenance of cheap money conditions and the steadiness of gilt-edged securities. An important development in the exchange market was the recovery of the quotation for free sterling in New York market, as a result mainly of the payment agreements entered into by the Bank of England with the principal banks in the United States and other countries in the course of the year.

Situation in India: Commodity Prices Raised: Production Stimulated.- In India the setback to business conditions caused by the fall of France in June, 1940, continued to exercise a depressing influence over the markets generally during the earlier part of the

* Reserve Bank of India: Report of the Central Board of Directors for the year ended the 30th June 1941, to be presented to the Shareholders at the Seventh Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday, the 11th August, 1941, at Delhi. 1941. pp.31

year under review; from September, however, signs of a more hopeful outlook were in evidence owing mainly to the improvement in the war situation and the receipt of large Government orders for the supply of raw materials in connection with the war. Commodity prices recovered rapidly, the Calcutta index number of wholesale prices (1914=100) rising from 114 in June, 1940, to 138 in June, 1941, as compared with the peak of 137 in December, 1939, reached in the first upswing after the commencement of the war. The developments in the field of supply not only acted as a great stimulus to existing Indian industries generally but also led to the establishment of new industries. Available figures show that production in the cotton, iron and steel, paper and certain chemical industries was maintained at a higher level than during the corresponding period of the preceding year, though certain important industries such as jute and sugar remained depressed. Although owing to the loss of important European export markets as a result of war developments, ~~xxx~~ war-time controls of exports and imports and the scarcity of freight, India's foreign trade position as revealed by the published figures showed deterioration, this was offset by increased purchases by His Majesty's Government in India which are paid for in sterling and which are not therefore included in these figures. The financial and the currency system of the country as a whole continued to stand well the strain of war conditions, and signs were visible occasionally of an optimism which cannot be regarded as justified in view of the essentially artificial nature of any war prosperity.

Money Market: East. Conditions.- Owing mainly to the loss of important European markets for India's staple export commodities, referred to above, trade demand for funds was generally slack and monetary conditions remained easy throughout the year. The Reserve Bank of India rate continued to be maintained at 3 per cent. during the period.

Securities Market.- The gilt-edged market in India during the year continued to reflect the developments in the war situation and the trend of prices in London. After the heavy decline in prices towards the end of June, 1940, following the collapse of France, the market steadied in the first half of July and 3½ per cent. rupee paper advanced gradually from Rs.85-14-0 at the close of June to Rs.96-4-0 on the 11th February, the highest since the outbreak of war.

Commodity Prices.- The trend of commodity prices during the year under review reflected the repercussions of the war on Indian economy. Owing to the closure of important European markets, the prices of raw materials and foodstuffs which constituted the greater part of Indian exports prior to the outbreak of war remained at a comparatively low level. On the other hand, the prices of manufactured articles showed an upward trend owing to the fall in imports. The Calcutta index number for wholesale prices (July ~~1941~~ 1914=100) rose from 114 in June, 1940, to 122 in November, and after moving between 119 and 121 during the succeeding three months, again assumed an upward trend and reached 138 in June 1941.

Balance of Trade.- The total value of merchandise exported from India and Burma on private account during the eleven months ended May, 1941, amounted to Rs. 1794.8 millions as compared with Rs. 2163.6 millions during the corresponding period ended May, 1940. On a similar comparison, the total value of merchandise similarly imported ~~amounted to~~ Rs. 1321.3 millions against 1362.1 millions. The fall in exports was due mainly to the loss of important European markets as a result of

war developments, while that in imports is to be attributed principally to the scarcity of freight. The balance of trade in merchandise on private account in favour of India and Burma thus declined from Rs. 801.5 millions to Rs. 473.5 millions. These figures, however, do not correctly indicate the balance of payments since they do not take into account the large and increasing purchases by His Majesty's Government which are paid for in sterling.

Exchange: Control Measures.- The rupee-sterling exchange was steady throughout the year. The sellers' quotation for ready telegraphic transfers remained at lsh. 5-31/32d. till the 29th March, 1941, when it fell to lsh. 5-15/16 d. on a sudden enquiry for remittance. The principal control measures are briefly noticed below:-

The system of exchange control instituted by the Reserve Bank at the outbreak of the war continued during the year under review, and various modifications were made from time to time as necessity arose with a view to tightening up the regulations. ~~In the last report a reference was made to the extension of~~ Under the export control scheme in June, 1940, exports to hard currency countries were only permitted provided a certificate had been furnished by an authorised dealer in foreign exchange that the proceeds of the goods would be disposed of in a manner approved by the Reserve Bank of India. This reduced the volume of sterling that was passing to the free sterling market in New York. With a view to limiting this market still further, the Bank of England entered into various payment agreements during the year with the chief countries with which the Empire traded, whereby all sterling payments between the Empire and these countries passed through the official sterling accounts in London at fixed rates of exchange and no sterling payments were effected through the free market.

With the occupation of a large part of Europe by Germany, it became necessary to prohibit the import into India of Bank of England notes in order to prevent the enemy disposing of their large holdings of notes captured in the occupied countries. The Government of India therefore issued a notification on the 22nd August, 1940, prohibiting the import into India, except from Burma, of Bank of England notes.

On the 2nd November, 1940, the Government of India added a new rule, 90 (B), to the Defence of India Rules forbidding the taking out of British India, except to Burma, of any money except with the approval of the Reserve Bank of India or under the authority of an authorized dealer in foreign exchange.

In terms of the Defence of India Rules 92 and 94, the Government of India took over, in December 1940, the U.S. dollar holdings of all residents in British India and the rupee equivalent of their dollar holdings was paid out by the Reserve Bank at the rate of Rs. 330 per \$100 which was approximately the Exchange Banks' buying rate for T.Ts. on New York. Similarly on the 10th March, 1941, Government took over the holdings of residents in India of certain U.S. dollar securities at the market prices ruling in New York on the previous business day combined with the rupee-dollar rate of Rs. 330 per \$100.

14

Indian Purchase Mission to U.S.A.:
Sir S. Chetty explains work of Mission. ✓

Sir R.K. Shanmukham Chetty, Chairman of the Indian Purchasing Mission to the U.S.A., in the course of a speech made to the South Indian Chamber of Commerce at Madras on 15-7-1941, explained the work of the Mission. The main points of the speech are noticed below:-

The Government of India had been feeling the necessity for making purchases of war materials on a large scale from the U.S.A. So far this purchase had been effected through the British Mission. The Government of India felt that the time had now come when they should have an independent organisation of their own to deal with the American Government and American manufacturers. He would be concerned in purchasing for the Government of India all their requirements for war purposes. But it did not necessarily mean that the purchases should be confined to ammunitions only.

To say that India must take advantage of the war situation and go on industrialising the country was a fallacy; it was equally a fallacy to say that during the war no new industries should be started. The test to be applied was whether the importation of machinery and equipment would in any way divert the legitimate war requirements of the Government. If it did not divert the war requirements of the Government of India, then every encouragement should be given to expand the industries. He was sure that this was the view of the Government of India also.

Certain restrictions must necessarily operate in the work of the Mission. If, for instance, industrialists in India wanted machinery from America, they must first obtain import licence and dollar exchange from the Government of India and then ^{and} they should make their own arrangements for the purchase and supply of the machinery. Corresponding to the import restrictions here, there would be export restrictions in U.S.A., since the Government of the U.S.A. were actively engaged in the production of war materials and anxious, therefore, that their resources should not be diverted for other purposes. If the particular machinery that was required happened to be in the American export restriction scheme, then it would be necessary for him to intervene with the American authorities and make out a case for a licence under the export scheme.

It would be the duty of the Purchase Mission to improve the export trade of this country with America. The United States of America were not going to allow the use of 'Lend and Lease Act' unless they were satisfied that India had no dollar resources. It should be India's endeavour to keep up her exports so as to secure sufficient currency in U.S.A. for India's purchases. There need be no apprehension that there would be any overdoing of credit purchases so as to hamper India's exports.

(The Hindu, 17-7-1941.) ✕

India's Industrial Expansion:
400 New Articles Manufactured. ✓

Reviewing industrial progress in India since the war because of the stimulus of war requirements, a note in the Times of India dated

31-7-1941, points out:-

India is now manufacturing nearly 400 new articles, while the range and output of many of her existing industries have considerably expanded.

The circumstances which have led to this development are mainly twofold: firstly, the rapid intensification of India's own defence preparations, and secondly, the role she has been called upon to play as the "arsenal" of Empire countries east of Suez in terms of her undertaking at the Eastern Group Conference. In fact, every effort is being made to replace imports, wherever possible, by indigenous production, in order to attain the largest measure of self-sufficiency in the matter of defence and civilian requirements. There are many industries the creation or expansion of which are under negotiation or contemplation at the present moment.

Some idea of the nature and extent of the present industrial expansion may be had from the fact that India today is manufacturing a very large proportion of the defence requirements - ranging from shirts to ships, from buttons to bridges, from goggles to guns - not only of her own but of all the other countries of the Eastern Group. The largest expansion has taken place in the textile industry. The entire production of the woollen textile industry has been taken over by Government and the output of all descriptions of woollen goods expanded beyond all peace-time record.

Practically all the engineering works and factories are devoting the major part of their productive capacity to defence requirements, and many of the factories have been especially expanded for the purpose. Over 280 new items of engineering stores are being manufactured, ranging from small tools and machine parts to sea-going vessels and heavy-calibre guns.

Many essential chemicals, the lack of which had hitherto been one of the main handicaps to India's industrial expansion, are now being produced. Other industries which have greatly expanded include drugs and medical stores, foodstuffs, leather manufactures, timber, and a host of smaller industries, such as hardware, glassware, cutlery, haberdashery, brushware, optical goods, etc. Important medical and surgical stores, formerly imported, are now being manufactured in the country. In foodstuffs, the manufacture of cigarettes and biscuits has considerably increased, while at least one new item, viz., dried potatoes, has been successfully introduced.

(The Times of India, 31-7-1941.)

Scheme for Developing Groundnut Market:
Government of India to convene Conference in August, 1941.

To decide upon ways of affording relief to groundnut cultivators in India and consider schemes of stimulating consumption of groundnuts and its products in the country, a conference is being convened in Simla or Delhi in August 1941. Representatives of the Governments of India, Bombay, Madras, and Hyderabad will participate, besides other Provinces who may be invited to join.

Since the war broke out, it is stated, the foreign market for India's groundnut has been dwindling, with the exception of Great Britain, which has purchased large amounts of these nuts. Early this year, the Government of India opened a fund to afford relief to cultivators of groundnuts out of rebate received from shipping companies and it is now

proposed to make allotments out of this amount to the various provinces, to subsidise schemes of improving groundnut cultivation and consumption, on condition that the Provincial Governments concerned agree to contribute an equal share from their coffers.

(The Indian Express, 7-7-1941.) ✓

Abandonment of Motor Car Industry Scheme by Mysore State:

Law Minister's Statement in Mysore Legislative Council. ✓

References were made in previous reports to the scheme for the establishments of an automobile factory in Mysore State, and the abandonment of the scheme by the Mysore Government (vide page 19 of our April 1941 report). The following is a summary of the statements made by Mr. A.V. Ramnathan, Law Minister, on 3-7-1941 in answer to questions in the Mysore Legislative Council as to why the scheme was dropped:

Certain proposals were placed before the Mysore Government first in October, 1940, and later in March 1941 regarding the participation in, and concessions to be made to, the company to be formed in association with the American Motor Corporation. The proposed company was to advertise and sell and service the vehicles of the type made by the said Corporation in India, Burma and Ceylon.

The contract bound the proposed company to sell a minimum monthly quota of vehicles and provide for the manufacture of certain automobile parts subject to certain conditions. It was hoped that the imported parts of the vehicles would, in the course of a few years, be replaced by parts made in India. The proposed capital was Rs. 22.5 million. The original proposal was that the Mysore Government should underwrite Rs. 15 million and guarantee interest at three and a half per cent. for ten years.

From April 1941 proposals were under consideration that the Mysore Government should grant to the company ~~free~~^{free} near Bangalore, ~~lands~~^{land} and acquire at company's cost such private lands as required by the company to the total extent of thousand acres; that the Government should provide facilities for water-supply and electric power and guarantee three and a half per cent. on the paid-up capital, that the Government should contribute Rs. 4 million towards the capital, that the Government should endeavour to provide bonding arrangements at Bangalore for the imported parts of the materials required for the company; that they should buy and endeavour to persuade the Mysore local bodies to buy their automobile requirements from the company; that the imports of the company's materials be exempted from the customs; and that the Government should endeavour to obtain cheapest rail freight for the company on Mysore Railways.

Certain aspects of the scheme involved ~~the~~^{the} Government of India's assistance. The Government of India were definite that the establishment of the proposed factory would provide no contribution to the war effort. On the other hand, the factory would divert skilled personnel and machine tools away from the war effort and it was doubtful whether the plant erection during war time would be practicable owing to the Government control in India and the U.S.A. of steel and machine tools. The Government of India could not give any assurance of the availability of dollar exchange necessary to cover the imported components from the

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U.S.A. The Government of India added they had not scrutinised the long-term aspect of the project but all that was necessary now was that the plan should be considered against the immediate war background. In the light of this authoritative statement and the present international situation, it became obvious that the prospect was not in sight either for the manufacturing of motor vehicles in Mysore or fulfilling the terms of the proposed contract with the American Corporation.

The Government are fully conscious that great advantages would accrue from the successful establishment of a large and prosperous motor industry, but the circumstances mentioned made quite impracticable for the present the establishment of the industry in the manner in which the conditions were proposed, for starting such an industry. The negotiations were, therefore, broken off.

(The Hindu, 4-7-1941.) ✓

Mr. Walchand Hirachand's Criticism of Government of India.

Mr. Walchand Hirachand, promoter of the proposed automobile factory, in a statement to the Press on 12-7-1941 says that the promoters' agreement with the American Corporation was very advantageous to India. In his opinion, the agreement had secured for India reasonable terms from a foreign manufacturer to enable India to build up a motor industry in this country. For one thing definite, there would not be any kind of non-Indian financial interest in the concern, or participation in the management. Under the terms, advice, co-operation, inspection, technical knowledge, results of researches and inventions on which American concerns spent annually millions of dollars, and the needed technical foreign personnel, would all be available to the industry at every stage to enable it progressively to manufacture Indian-made cars as early as possible.

In the first place, help had been assured in the manufacture of parts and components in such a manner that imports would progressively be eliminated and replaced by Indian made parts. Secondly, the requisite machinery to manufacture the component parts would be made available to India under the agreement. He visualized that, with the co-operation of the American company, under the terms of the agreement, India would be in a position to stand on her own legs in a period of three to five years in the production of motor cars.

Referring to the Government of India's contention that the proposed factory would divert skilled personnel and machine tools away from the war effort and also their inability to spare the dollars, ^{exchange,} Mr. Walchand Hirachand stated that all he wanted was only three to four million dollars and a dozen skilled American engineers. The Imperial Government had been spending nearly sixty million dollars a day and what he required was a very small amount when compared to this. Furthermore, the dollars spent upon the Indian motor factory would enable the Government of India to save a good many dollars in the immediate future when India began to manufacture her own cars. An Indian automobile factory was the surest method of saving a good amount of dollars now spent upon American-made cars and trucks. It was the surest method of securing adequate supplies for the defence of India in these days of American restriction of production of automobile ~~and~~ products. Mr. Walchand hoped that Government of India would now revise their view and treat this as a ~~war~~ war industry.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-7-1941.) ✓

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New Industries in Indore:
Economic Development Board set up to examine Possibilities. ✓

The Government of Indore State has recently sanctioned the formation of an Economic Development Board. According to a Government order issued on 12-7-1941, the duties of the Board are: (1) To examine the possibilities of large and small-scale industries, including cottage industries in the State; (2) To advise the Government as to the measures which are necessary to promote the economic and industrial development of the State; (3) To advise the Government as to the best means of attracting capital for the said development; and (4) To do all other things that it may consider necessary in connection with the above.

The Minister in charge of Commerce and Industries is the Chairman, and the Assistant Home Secretary in charge of Commerce and Industry Department, ~~will be~~ the secretary of the Board.

(Communiqué dated 12-7-1941 issued by the
Publicity Officer, Holkar State.) *

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for
Various Centres in India during April 1941. ✓

The index number of the cost of living for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during April 1941, as compared with the preceding month:-

Bombay.- The index number (base: year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in April 1941 rose by 2 points to 121. The average for 1940 was 112 as compared with 106 for 1939.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad during April 1941 advanced by 2 points to 81. The average for 1940 was 79 as against 73 for the preceding year.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during April 1941 fell by 1 point to 78. The average for 1940 was 76 as compared with 74 for the preceding year.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Nagpur in April 1941, rose by 3 points to 72. The average for 1940 was 70 as against 63 for 1939.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in Jubbulpore in April 1941 rose by 2 points to 72. The average for 1940 was 67 as against 59 for 1939.

Madras.- The index number (base: year ending June 1936) of the cost of living in Madras during April 1941 rose by 1 point to 109. The average for 1940 was 107 as against 100 for 1939.

(Extracted from the Monthly Survey of Business
Conditions in India for April 1941.) ✓

Principal's Liability under Workmen's Compensation Act:
Bombay High Court Judgment

In Kokilabhai v. Messrs. Keshavlal Mangaldas and Co., a Full Bench of the High Court of Bombay gave an important decision under Sec. 12 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. Section 12 provides for compensation to a workman by the principal, who, in the course of or for the purposes of his trade or business contracts with any other person that the latter should execute for him the whole or any part of the trade or business of the principal.

The respondents, Messrs. Keshavlal Mangaldas and Co., were the selling agents of the Sassoon Spg., and Wvg., Co., Ltd., and as such salesmen had agreed to take delivery of the goods of the company from the company's godowns at their expense. The respondents, in their turn, employed a firm of carriers and contractors to bring the goods from the company's godowns to the respondents' shop in lorries. In the course of the transport operations, the cleaner of a lorry employed by the carriers of goods, was killed by a bale of cloth falling upon him. The appellant, who was the mother of the cleaner, claimed compensation from the respondents as principals.

It was held by the Full Bench that the removing of the goods from the mill godowns to the selling agents' shop was ordinarily part of the trade or business of the selling agents and was an essential part of ~~the trade or business~~ thereof. Although the selling agents were not the immediate employers of the deceased workman, the workman was employed in the execution of the work which was ordinarily part of the trade or business of the selling agents. The selling agents were, therefore, liable, as principals, to pay compensation to the mother of the deceased workman.

(The Times of India, 23-7-1941.)

Working of the Indian Emigration Act during 1940.

Emigration to Malaya.- There was no assisted emigration of unskilled workers to Malaya during the year, as the notification of the Government of India under section 13 of the Indian Emigration Act prohibiting such assisted emigration continued to be in force. 73 non-working dependants of emigrants in Malaya who did not come under the ban and 47 skilled workers who came to India on leave and their ten dependants were assisted to proceed to Malaya ~~77~~ 184 non-working dependants and 176 skilled workers through Negapatam.

Wages in Malaya.- The wages offered during the year in Malaya were 50 and 40 Straits cents (approximately 12½ annas and 10 annas respectively) per diem for able-bodied adult male and female labourers respectively, being slightly higher than the standard rates fixed by law in 1930.

Emigration to Ceylon.- The ~~ban~~ ban on the emigration of unskilled workers to ~~Malaya~~ Ceylon continued to be in force. During the year under report, ~~there were 22,133~~ 58,001 passengers who went to Ceylon and 86,646 returned from Ceylon.

Wages in Ceylon.- The wages in force on the estates during the year were as follows:-

	<u>Minimum Cash Wages</u>		
	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Low-country estates	45 cents	36 cents	27 cents
Mid-country estates	47 "	37 "	28 "
Up-country estates	49 "	39 "	29 "

From 1-2-1941 the wages have been slightly increased as shown below:-

	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Children</u>
Low-country estates	50 cents	40 cents	30 cents
Mid-country estates	52 "	41 "	31 "
Up-country estates	54 "	43 "	32 "

Repatriation.- 24,495 persons returned from Malaya paying their own passages. Of these, it was estimated that 8,947 persons (6,792 men, 1,088 women and 1,067 children) belonged to the labouring classes. 6,025 emigrants from Malaya as against 11,169 in 1939 were repatriated or assisted to return to India. Repatriation during the year from Malaya, thus, showed a further marked decrease. This is probably a result of the ban and may indicate that labourers who would otherwise be repatriated were being retained as there is no supply of labour from India.

During the year, 75,751 persons returned from Ceylon as ordinary passengers. Of these 12,578 persons are estimated to be labourers who returned from estates at their own cost. The total number of persons

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, for the year 1940. Bangalore: Printed at the Mysore Residency Press, and published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 7 annas or 3d. pp.16.

who were assisted to return was 3,528, as against 2,976 in 1939. ✓

Indian Immigration into Burma:
Baxter Commission Recommendations.

Reference was made at page 46 of our June 1939 report to the appointment by the Government of Burma of the Baxter Commission to go into the problem of Indian immigration into Burma. The main recommendations of the Commission, whose report, though submitted in 1940, was published *only* on 21-7-1941 along with the text of the Indo-Burma Emigration Agreement, are summarised below:-

Registration of Indian Nationals entering Burma after agreed date.- That from a date to be agreed upon after negotiation with the Government of India, Indian nationals entering Burma whether for purposes of travel, residence or employment, should be provided with a duly registered Indian passport containing the usual particulars sufficient to establish the identity of the individual. That Indian nationals entering Burma for the purpose of residence and employment should be required to obtain a visa in the form of a work or employment permit valid for three years issued by competent authority under the Government of Burma, on condition that the holders of the permits undertake to leave Burma on their expiration.

Registration of Indians already in Burma when system of registration is introduced.- (a) That recognition of the fact that Indians who are born and bred in Burma, have made Burma their permanent home and regard their future and the future of their families as bound up with its interests are entitled to be regarded as having established a claim, if they wish to make it, to a Burma domicile and therefore to the benefit of section 144 of the Government of Burma Act, 1935. (b) The recognition of the fact that Indians who have worked in Burma for at least five years immediately before (date to be specified) with the clear intention of continuing to work and reside in the country, are entitled to be regarded as having established a claim to the position of privileged immigrants with a recognised status and with a right to further residence and to continuation of their employments subject to such terms and conditions as may be prescribed from time to time. (c) The granting of work permits valid for three years to other Indian workers already in Burma, such permits to have preference for renewal over permits granted to new Indian immigrants.

Conclusion of an Immigrant Agreement.- That at an early date negotiations should be initiated with the Government of India for the conclusion of an Immigration Agreement which should deal inter alia with the following specific subjects:- (a) The definition of the several classes of Indian ~~immigrants~~ immigrants into Burma; (b) regulations for the issue of passports and permits for residence and employment or for residence only; (c) the definition of the prohibited classes of immigrants; (d) provision for the medical examination of immigrants; (e) conditions of repatriation of Indians; (f) the question of according a specially favourable position for the purposes of immigration to certain classes of Indians who are already closely connected with Burma; (g) civil and constitutional rights of Indian workers other than those domiciled in Burma; (h) provision for consultation in the event of the Governor of Burma having decided that the restriction of certain classes of immigrants had become necessary; and (i) co-operation to deal with ~~land~~ ~~frontier~~ migration.

Immigration Board.- The institution of an Immigration Board which should examine the relevant data and tender its advice to the appropriate Department of Government. The Board should be of mixed racial composition, Burman, Indian and European.

Compulsory Registration of Unskilled Labour in the Port of Rangoon.- The introduction of Compulsory Registration for all unskilled labour in the Port of Rangoon. Registration should be effected by means of the issue by Government of employment permits in the form of Personal Identity Cards, the number of such permits to be determined after consultation with the employers of labour concerned so as to ensure that due account is taken of the need for a reasonable margin of labour to meet variations in the demand for labour due to the intermittent character of port traffic. ✓

Provisions of Indo-Burma Migration Agreement. ✓

Reference was made at page 20 of our June 1941 report to the Bajpai Delegation sent out to Burma by the Government of India, which negotiated an agreement with the Government of Burma on the question of Indian emigration to Burma. The standing Emigration Committee of the Central Legislature which met at Simla on 14 and 15-7-1941 is reported to have approved the Indo-Burma pact. (The Hindustan Times, 16-7-1941.) The text of the agreement, as also a joint statement by the Governments explaining the main provisions of the agreement^{was} released to the press on 22-7-1941. The following is the text of the joint statement:-

Joint Statement.- In two Reports issued at the end of 1938 and early in 1939, the Riot Inquiry Committee, under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brand, drew particular attention to the existence of a serious apprehension in the minds of many Burmans that Indian immigration was largely responsible for unemployment or under-employment among the indigenous population of Burma. The Committee recommended that, in the interests of both countries, some public examination of the grounds for the existing apprehension in Burman minds should be undertaken urgently. Accordingly, the Government of Burma in a Resolution, dated the 15th July, 1939, after consultation with the Government of India, appointed the Hon'ble Mr. James Baxter to examine the question of Indian immigration into Burma, with the assistance of two Assessors, U Tin Tut, I.C.S., and Mr. Ratilal Desai, M.A. Mr. Baxter presented his Report to the Government of Burma in October 1940. His recommendations were carefully examined by both Governments and it was agreed without commitment on either side that these recommendations formed a suitable basis for negotiation. The Government of Burma, therefore, invited the Government of India to send a delegation to Burma and the invitation was accepted.

As a result of the conversations, the two Governments have agreed upon certain measures which in their view are calculated both to remove from Burman minds any reasonable apprehension that Burma may be subjected to undue economic competition by reason of Indian immigration and at the

same time to secure for the Indian community settled and resident in Burma recognition of their legitimate rights. The text of the agreement is attached to this statement. The agreement is based upon two main principles, ~~firstly~~ first, that Burma has, subject to the provisions of the Government of Burma Act, 1935, the right to determine the composition of her own population, and secondly, that Indians who have wholly identified themselves with the interests of Burma should enjoy the same rights as members of the permanent population. It is obvious that in the peculiar circumstances of the two countries, their geographical proximity, their cultural and economic ties and their long political association, the problems arising from regulation of immigration are of special complexity and delicacy. Both Governments have approached these problems in a spirit of cordiality and mutual understanding and are agreed that in giving administrative effect to the measures now proposed the closest co-operation will be required in the same spirit of mutual adjustment and identity of purpose which characterised the negotiations. It is their earnest desire that the agreement now achieved will serve to remove any causes for misapprehension which may have arisen either between the two countries or between the two communities in Burma and may furnish a lasting foundation for the development in the future of the firmest ties of friendship and goodwill.

Terms of the Agreement.- The principal provisions of the Agreement are summarised below:-

Definitions: In the agreement, "dependent" is defined as a person who is wholly or directly dependent for maintenance and support on a person who holds or is about to be granted a permit under the provisions of the Agreement and is related to such person as being (i) his wife, or (ii) his or his wife's parent, or (iii) his or his wife's daughter, or grand-daughter who is either unmarried or a widow or is divorced, or (iv) his or his wife's son or grandson who is under the age of 18 years or, being over that age, is permanently disabled and incapable of supporting himself. The word "work" and "skilled work" have the meanings assigned to them in section 2 of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922.

Date of operation of Agreement.- The agreement stipulates that the notice of the termination of the operation of the Government of Burma (Immigration) Order, 1937, with effect from the 1st April, 1942, will be treated as withdrawn, and that notice to terminate the same will not be given before the 1st October, 1945. Indian immigration into Burma will, with effect from 1-10-1941, be subject to regulations and restrictions.

Restrictions on Immigration into Burma.- No Indian may enter Burma without a valid Indian passport, together with visa or immigration permit issued by the Burma Government. The Government of India may issue visas on passports of Indians desiring to enter Burma as visitors or as students; such visas are valid for three months, but may be extended to 12 months, and in the case of students to 5 years.

Immigration permits are of two kinds; "A" permits will entitle the holder to remain in Burma for an indefinite period and to accept employment therein. No bar will be placed on the acquisition of a Burma domicile by holders of "A" permits; "B" permits will entitle the holder to reside in Burma for a specified period and to accept

employment therein. "B" permits being for limited periods, will not allow the holders to acquire a Burma domicile. They will be issued for a maximum period of three years and may be extended at the discretion of the Government of Burma for further periods which, with the original period, may not exceed a total of nine years. The holder of a "B" permit may apply for an "A" permit on the same terms as an original applicant for an "A" permit.

Restriction on Number of Permits and Visas.- The number of "A" permits to be issued will be at the discretion of the Government of Burma and they will be issued only to persons whom the Government of Burma consider to be of sufficient financial standing or possessed of an assured income in Burma of sufficient amount and to be persons who are likely to be suitable for permanent residence in Burma. The number of "B" permits will depend on the decision of an Immigration Board appointed under the agreement. The Government of Burma can limit the number of visitors' and students' visas. Dependents of permit holders, accompanying the latter are accorded the same class of permits and under same conditions.

Immigration Board.- The Government of Burma will institute at an early date an Immigration Board to examine the relevant data and to tender advice to the Government of Burma generally on matters of policy relating to Indian immigration into Burma and in particular on the fixing of quotas for the grant of permits. The Board will be of mixed racial composition and Burmans, Indians and Europeans will be represented on it.

Conditions for Grant of Permit and Visas.- There is to be a literacy test for applicants of "A" permits in languages other than Burmese or indigenous to Burma. Marriage or cohabitation with a woman belonging to the indigenous races of Burma may be made a condition for the cancellation of a permit or visa granted to a male Indian immigrant, provided that exceptions will be made of marriages entered into with the sanction of the Government of Burma and that such sanction will be given if the immigrant makes, before the proposed marriage, provision which is sufficient in the opinion of the Government of Burma for the permanent maintenance of the woman he desires to marry. The fees for "A" permits are Rs.500. For "B" permits for unskilled labourers the fees are Rs.12 plus a residential fee of Rs.5 for every year the permit is valid; and for "B" permits for others, an entrance fee of Rs.30 plus a residential fee of Rs.20 for every year the permit is valid. Each dependant has to pay half the fee of the immigrant. Fees on "B" permits should be paid by the employers if issued at their instance.

Repatriation.- Before entry into Burma a deposit of Rs.20 will be made to the Government of Burma by persons who are granted "B" permits and by their dependants to cover the cost of repatriating them. Repatriation will be, at the choice of the repatriated Indian, to the ports of (a) Calcutta, (b) Chittagong, (c) Madras, and (d) Vizagapatam.

Provisions re. Indians already in Burma.- The Government of Burma recognise that Indians who are born and bred in Burma, have made Burma their permanent home and regard their future and the future of their families as bound up with its interests are entitled to be regarded as having established a claim if they wish to make it, to a Burma domicile and therefore to the benefit of section 144 of the Government of Burma Act, 1935. No restriction will be placed on the acquisition of a Burma domicile under due process of law by Indians lawfully residing in Burma excepting those who by the terms and conditions of a permit which entitles them to reside in Burma are not

given the right of residence beyond a specified period. Indians who prove a total residence in Burma of seven calendar years between the 15th July 1932 and the 15th July 1941 will be termed "privileged immigrants". Such privileged immigrants shall have the right to further residence and to the acceptance of further employment in Burma without limit of time, but they will lose their status as privileged immigrants should they be absent from Burma for a continuous period exceeding one year after the 15th July 1941. A privileged immigrant, so long as he retains his status, will be given the right of free re-entry into Burma on his return after an absence of less than twelve months. One wife (if no other is residing with him in Burma), sons below 18 and unmarried daughters of privileged immigrants are granted "A" permits free of charge.

Other Indians who are in Burma on the 15th July 1941 will be entitled to remain in Burma indefinitely and to accept work for an indefinite period and will retain their privileges under section 44 of the Government of Burma Act, 1935. Should an Indian of this class leave Burma for any period, his claim to re-entry will be dealt with in the same manner as an application for entry by a new Indian immigrant and if re-admitted into Burma, such person will be treated as new Indian immigrant with the exception that he will have a preferential claim to a "B" permit over new Indian immigrants.

Transitory Provisions. - During the transition period pending the constitution of an Immigration Board and the consideration by the Government of Burma of proposals to be made by the Board for the quotas for permits to be issued to Indian immigrants, the Government of India will prohibit the emigration to Burma of Indians for the purpose of unskilled work from the 15th July 1941 with the exception of seasonal labourers who may, at the instance of the Government of Burma, be granted passports up to numbers agreed upon between the two Governments.

Registration of Indians in Burma. - The Government of Burma will institute at an early date a system of registering Indians in Burma.

(The Statesman, 22-7-1941.)

Indian Criticism. - The agreement has been bitterly attacked by the Indian Press and the sections of the population interested in Indo-Burma migration. The main points of the Indian criticisms are embodied in the following resolution adopted by the All Parties Meeting held on 28-7-1941 at Madras, Sir Mahomed Usman, ex-Governor of Madras, presiding. (Madras is the province most affected by the Indo-Burma agreement.)

"This meeting of the people of Madras condemns the recent Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement in as much as, among other things, (1) the Government of India did not publish until the Agreement itself was published, the Baxter Commission Report which has been in the hands of the Government of India since October 1940; (2) the negotiations in regard to immigration were separated from those relating to trade - a procedure prejudicial to Indians; (3) non-officials were not included in the Government of India Delegation to Burma, as was done in the case of trade negotiations with Burma; (4) the Delegation of the Hon. Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai, which was meant to conduct only exploratory talks, concluded straightaway an agreement and presented the country with a fait accompli; (5) an unduly long period has been prescribed for a person to acquire the status of a 'privileged immigrant' which status he will lose if he should be absent from Burma for a period of 12 months; (6) a fee of Rs.500 for 'A' class Permits is prohibitive and this and other conditions for the grant of 'A' Permits are harsh and calculated

to keep out a large number; (7) provisions in respect of 'B' Permits are unduly drastic and will cast an unbearable burden on numerous persons proceeding to Burma, especially on labourers who are required to lay out over Rs.60 for entrance, repatriation and residence fees and railway fare and passage money; (8) wide powers are given to limit the number of persons of all classes entering Burma and this is indefensible in view of the fact that many have to go to Burma for work in established businesses and in connection with lands and properties with employment assured beforehand; (9) penalising of marriage is unjust and unfair and discriminatory; (10) provisions in regard to cohabitation are unusual and drastic and may lend themselves to grave abuse; (11) the provision for a literacy test is vague and unsatisfactory; (12) the Agreement does not take into account the assurances given before separation in regard to the way in which Indian immigration would be restricted; and (13) the action of the Government in suddenly preventing without notice, the embarkation of Indians on and from July 21, 1941, while yet no machinery has been set up here and in Burma for the purpose of regulating immigration, has caused hardship to hundreds of labourers who were turned back; and therefore this meeting is strongly of opinion that the operation of the Agreement should be stayed until it is suitably modified in the light of public opinion and that no Order-in-Council should be passed giving effect to the Agreement."

Committee for Representation to Government of India.- The meeting appointed a Committee for the purpose of making representations to the Viceroy, the Governor of Madras, and the Secretary of State, in regard to the Agreement and to take such other steps as might be necessary to further the objects of the meeting.

(The Hindu, 29-7-1941.)

Ban on Emigration of Unskilled Labour from India from 21-7-1941.

By Notification No. F.144-1/38-O.S.(c) dated 21-7-1941, the Government of India has prohibited, under sub-section (1) section 30-A of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, with effect from 21-7-1941, all persons from departing by sea out of British India to Burma for the purpose of unskilled work unless exempted by special order of the Central Government.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 21-7-1941, page 421.) ✓

Colonial Office Enquiry into Labour Conditions
in Colonies: Major Orde Browne in Malaya. ✓

As a result of the representations made by the Government of India and the appeals made in Parliament, the Colonial Office had deputed its labour adviser, Major Orde Browne, to proceed to Malaya and make a thorough inquiry into the labour problem in view of the recent labour unrest in the colony. On his arrival in Singapore on 8-7-1941, Major Browne declared in a press interview that the Colonial Office would very much like to see a lifting of the ban on emigration of Indian labour to Malaya, and that the ban had really undesirable political aspects. "The ban concerns Malaya and Ceylon, but it is really a major political issue," he said. The ban in Ceylon was getting much more into the political aspect of things and as far as Malaya was concerned, it was inflicting great hardship, chiefly on the labourers. "I regret the existence of the ban and would certainly like to see an improvement on it", he added. Major Browne will investigate the living conditions of labour, the question of nutrition, and economies. As regards unionism, Major Browne expressed the opinion that it was better to form representative organisations for separate industries in Malaya, for their interests were not necessarily identical, and also that it was also not desirable for the unions to become the tools of outsiders who do not have the interest and welfare of the workers at heart.

The views of Major Browne have evoked strong criticism in India, and the press has been urging the Government of India not to lift the ban.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-7-1941,
The Hindu, 16-7-1941.) ✓

Settlement of Indo-Ceylon Problems:
Ceylon invites Government of India Delegation. ✓

It is understood that the Ceylon Government have invited a Delegation from the Government of India to visit the Island and discuss outstanding ~~press~~ problems as was recently done in the case of Burma. The Government of India's delegation is expected to be led by Sir Girja Shankar Bajpai and the negotiations are to start early in September 1941.

There is considerable opposition in India to the sending out of an Indian delegation to Ceylon at present. At the All Parties Meeting held at Madras on 28-7-1941, the following resolution was passed on the subject:

"This meeting is of opinion that in the atmosphere of distrust and doubt which has been created in consequence of the sad experience of the Indo-Burma Immigration Agreement, the sending of a delegation to Ceylon for the purpose of concluding an agreement should be postponed to a more favourable opportunity when a Delegation composed of the Hon. the Commerce Member and the Hon. Member designate for Indians Overseas and a few non-officials may be sent to negotiate a settlement on the subjects of immigration and trade together at the same time."

(The Hindu, 29-7-1941.) ✓

Grievances of Subordinate Telegraph Service-Men:
Demand for Enquiry.

At a general meeting of the All India Telegraph Union, held on 25-7-1941 at Calcutta, Mr. Mrinal Kanti Bose presiding, to ventilate the grievances of the subordinate telegraph employees, the following resolution was passed:

Having failed to secure redress through representations of a large number of grievances of the subordinate employees of the Telegraph Service on various subjects, some of which are stated below, the general meeting of members of the All-India Telegraph Union considers that a state of dispute clearly exists between the subordinate employees and the head of the Department, i.e., the Director-General, Posts and Telegraphs, and therefore requests His Excellency the Viceroy to appoint an Enquiry Committee consisting of officials, non-officials and representatives of the recognised Service Unions to investigate and report to His Excellency for necessary action on: (1) equal pay for equal work carrying the same responsibility; (2) flouting Government orders in working certain schemes and employing supervisor Telegraphists; (3) imposition of new conditions of service on men already in service; (4) defective system of computation and hardship of officials due to inadequacy of staff; (5) refusal to supply traffic figures and other documents touching the interest of the members of the Service; (6) stagnation of lower division clerks at Rs.100 and hardship of demoted clerks; (7) longer hours of night work for Telephone Operators and Mistries; (8) Non-grant of leave on average pay to inferior servants appointed before 1933; (9) inadequate leave reserve staff; (10) non-grant of pensionable status to the remaining non-pensionable staff; (11) stricter appeal rules and withholding of individual petitions and appeals; and (12) restrictions on Service Unions to represent individual cases and other acute grievances. etc.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 29-7-1941.)

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Workers' Organisations.

29

Rift in Indian Trade Union ranks over issue of Participation in War:
Move for forming Anti-Fascist All-India Trade Union Council.

The entry of Soviet Russia into the war has created a rift in Indian trade union ranks, mainly on the issue whether, now that with the entry of Russia the war has resolved itself into a fight on a world-wide scale between Nazism and the workers' cause as championed by Soviet Russia, Indian workers ^{should or} should not whole-heartedly further war efforts, leaving out of consideration for the moment India's political grievances against Great Britain.

(At the 1940 meeting of the All-India Trade Union Congress held at Bombay on 28 and 29-9-1940, the following resolution was adopted on the war issue:

"As the present war between Great Britain on the one side and the Fascist Powers on the other is claimed by Britain to be waged for the vindication of the principles of freedom and democracy and not for any imperialist purposes, India without having any sympathy for either Imperialism or Fascism, naturally claims for herself freedom and democratic government before she can be expected to take part in the war. Participation in a war which will not result in the establishment of freedom and of democracy in India, will not benefit India, much less will it benefit the working classes in India."

Even at the 1940 session, a section of the A.-I.T.U.C. was in favour of participation in the war effort, but a resolution urging that differing groups within the A.I.T.U.C. should be allowed freedom of action on the issue, though moved, was later withdrawn (vide pages 44-45 of our September 1940 report.)

The entry of Soviet Russia into the war strengthened to a certain extent the party in favour of participation in war effort, and the issue ~~is~~ again came up for discussion at the meeting of the General Council of the A.-I.T.U.C. held at Nagpur in the first week of July 1941.

Mr. M.N. Roy's Resolution in favour of Participation.- Mr. M.N. Roy had tabled a resolution for the meeting urging active participation in the war in support of Russia. In the course of a press statement issued on 4-7-1941 in support of the resolution, Mr. Roy pointed out that the grave danger to the Soviet Union to-day cannot be a matter of indifference to Indian nationalists. He referred to the recent declaration of Mr. Churchill assuring all help to the Soviet Union and asked: "Cannot Congress leaders and Indian nationalists declare even today, without making any compromise with or concessions to imperialism, that they are ready to support the British Government in the fight against Fascism?" He also emphasised that but for the help of the Soviet Government, Chinese freedom would have been extinguished long ago. (The Statesman, 6-7-1941.)

A.-I.T.U.C. President's Reply.- Mr. V.R. Kalappa, President, A.-I.T.U.C. issued on 4-7-1941 the following press statement against Mr. Roy's resolution:-

"The sudden aggression of Germany against Russia, which is the most momentous of all the developments of the present war, proves beyond doubt that all pacts and treaties signed by European Powers are mere scraps of paper. Society Russia and Nazi Germany became strange bed fellows in order to annihilate Poland and divide the spoils between them. Erstwhile allies and accomplices have suddenly become enemies. Is it due to an ideological difference that has sprung up overnight? At any rate, Russia is not engaged in a war in order to liberate India or its toiling masses from thralldom. Russia is fighting for her own existence, if not for the retention of her newly acquired territory. The resolution adopted by the general body of the A.-I.T.U.C. last year leaves no doubt as to the attitude of India and its working classes to the war. This central organisation is neither tied to the apron strings of the Indian National Congress nor dominated by Congressmen. There are in the central labour organisation very strong and powerful political groups which do not see eye to eye with the National Congress. The resolution on war was a compromise between the group that wanted effective resistance to the war effort of British Imperialism and the group that would go to the length of rendering unstinted support to the Government. Not only individuals but also labour organisations are at liberty not to follow the resolution if they have any conscientious objection. There can, therefore, be no justification whatever to break away from the central organisation and still less to contemplate setting up a rival organisation which is the bane of our body politic."

(The Hindu, 5-7-1941.)

Statement issued by A.-I.T.U.C. General Council on 6-7-1941:
Participation not favoured.- The General Council of the A.-I.T.U.C. met at Nagpur on 6-7-1941, Mr. Kalappa presiding, but as only 13 members were present and the ~~uniquation~~ quorum required was 21, the meeting was an informal one. The following statement was issued after the meeting:-

"The general view was that although the sympathies of the Indian Trade Union movement are with the Soviet in its defence against Nazi Germany, in the present state of subjection of India, the Indian Trade Union Movement is not in a position to render any effective assistance to the U.S.S.R. and that the resolution passed by the A.-I.T.U.C. session, last year in Bombay, affirming that participation in a war which will not result in the establishment of freedom and democracy in India will not benefit India, does not need any alteration."

(The Hindu, 7-7-1941.)

Mr. N.M. Joshi attended the meeting.

Move for Anti-Fascist All-India Trade Union Council.

Several labour groups, however, remained dissatisfied with the anti-war attitude of the A.I.T.U.C., particularly in Bombay and Bengal. In pursuance of an appeal issued by the Radical Democratic Party, which favours participation in the war, representatives of over thirty trade unions held ~~at~~ a meeting at Bombay on 13-7-1941 and adopted a resolution, constituting itself "into a Provincial Committee for bringing into existence an anti-Fascist All-India Trade Union Council with the object of assisting the world democratic alliance in the destruction of Fascism and for the effective and conscious participation by the workers in the war efforts in the country." The meeting also resolved to call an anti-Fascist Labour Conference in Bombay at an early date. A Committee to implement the resolution was appointed. (The Bombay Chronicle, 15-7-1941)

The first meeting of the Committee ~~was~~ held, with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta in the chair, on 25-7-1941, ~~and~~ issued a statement explaining the attitude of the All-India Trade Union Congress in the light of the latest international developments and the need for another organisation to further the interests of workers in this country. Making an appeal to the workers "to contribute their quota to the heroic efforts of international labour for freeing the world from the menace of Fascism," the statement says, "With its present policy, the A.-I.T.U.C. cannot be expected to serve the purpose. Therefore, it has become necessary to establish an all-India anti-Fascist trade unions council and for this purpose we think it necessary to hold an all-India labour conference."

(The Times of India, dated 28-7-1941.) ✓

Incidence of Malaria in India:
Dr. Paul Russell's Survey. ✓

Addressing the Nilgiris Rotary Club on 5-7-1941, Dr. Paul Russell of the Rockefeller Foundation, Director of Malaria Investigations at the Pasteur Institute, Coonoor, gave a comprehensive survey of the malaria problem in India; a brief summary of the more important points brought out in the speech is given below:-

Incidence of Malaria and its Consequences.- Malaria Microbes are responsible for the death of at least two persons in India every minute of the day and night, year after year; 2,880 victims per day! Malaria kills only about one in every 100 or 200 victims, but it is essentially a debilitating disease which weakens bodies and minds, and produces anaemia of muscle and brain. A man with chronic malaria is only half alive. He cannot do a proper day's work, he is incapable of thinking logically, he is easily dispirited, and quickly discouraged. He accepts his unhappy lot as Kismet or Karma. When a third of the population of a country is attacked by malaria each year, as in India, it is utterly inconceivable that this country can be progressive or prosperous. Malaria in India is primarily a rural disease and, since agriculture is by far the chief and greatest field of industry, the losses caused by malaria are almost beyond calculation, undoubtedly amounting to millions of pounds sterling each year.

Economic Loss due to Malaria.- Recently a careful survey was made in a typical malarial village in Pattukkottai Taluk, Tanjore District. The actual cost to this village, in money or kind paid to priests, temples, quacks, or physicians for treatment of malarial fevers amounted to Rs.2-8-0 per capita per year, and wages lost amounted to ~~Rxx~~ an additional Re.1-6-0 per capita. Here was an actual loss to these people of Rs.3-14-0 per capita per year, in a village where the average per capita income was Rs. 35-3-0. Yet malaria in this village could be controlled for As.4 per capita per year. This village is typical of at least 150,000 others in India. If, as seems possible, at least 125 million persons live in rural malarious villages, and if the figures are typical, as also seems probable, here is a direct annual loss to India of over 450 million rupees. That is to say, malaria costs the ryots of India each year directly more than 33½ million pounds sterling, in villages where the disease could be controlled by investing two and one-third million pounds. The losses named are in addition to the much greater indirect losses due to the relative inefficiency of labourers and farmers chronically anaemic because of malaria.

Nature of Control Measures.- Dr. Russell then dealt with the need for studying the habits of the mosquitoes in each area to exercise effective control. He stated that malaria could not be checked by better food or housing. It is true that malaria sometimes maintains its greatest prevalence in areas of lowest economic status. This may be due, for example, to poor drainage of cheaper lands. The evidence all goes to prove, not that poverty is responsible for malaria, but that malaria frequently maintains poverty. It is a very difficult task to raise ~~xxx~~ anaemic, malaria-beaten individuals to a plane of greater agricultural or industrial activity by any amount of political afflatus or social service. But it is surprisingly easy to stimulate a community which has been lifted up from the sloughs of chronic malaria by anti-mosquito measures.

Control Measures.- There are available numerous malaria control measures, such as screening, using bed-nets, oiling, spreading Paris

green, draining and filling, using certain fishes, spray-killing adult mosquitoes with pyrethrum extracts, using intermittent irrigation, etc. "Spray-killing" consists in attacking adult anopheline mosquitoes in their daytime resting places with a spray made from pyrethrum extract. Very small droplets of pyrethrum extracts are fatal to adult mosquitoes on contact, and, when these insects rest quietly on the inside walls of houses and cowsheds during daytime, it is possible to kill them by spraying with the pyrethrum extract. Many malaria-carrying mosquitoes, including the two species in South India, are easily attacked in this way by spray killing. It is not necessary or indeed usually possible to close doors or windows. The new methods are mentioned because the total cost in rural South India has been only about 4 annas per capita per year, when one uses ~~one's~~ own extract of pyrethrum grown in the Nilgris. Spray-killing has been successfully and cheaply used also in North India and in South Africa. But each malaria control project must be studied separately. Some 1.7 million of rupees have recently been spent to control malaria in New Delhi. Such a sum seems large until one realises that it is less than two per cent. of the cost of building this modern city, which is located in what is potentially a very malarious area, subject to severe epidemics.

Where irrigation is a source of malaria, another new and cheap method of control is intermittent irrigation. Water is periodically kept out of rice fields and field channels for two days or longer, to dry them so that all mosquito larvæ are killed. The dry period will depend on the nature of the soil and climate. Two days in seven are found sufficient. Longer drying will be required in other areas. This method promises to be useful and it does not harm the rice.

Obstacles to Control.- Dr. Russell enumerated certain social obstacles to malaria control as: (1) absence of enlightened public opinion regarding (a) economic and public health importance of malaria, and (b) available practical measures for its control; (2) absence of official recognition of what malaria costs a community, how malaria prophylaxis would benefit the people, and what constitutes a proper budget item for malaria control; (3) absence of sound administrative principles (a) for applying practically and continuously, malaria control measures, and (b) for obtaining effective co-operation between such government departments as those of public health, public works and agriculture; (4) lack of adequate training of health officers in malaria control, and lack of sufficient numbers of such specialist personnel as malariologists, malaria entomologists, engineers and agronomists. Such social obstacles as have been named are the ultimate stumbling blocks in the way of malaria control to-day. "The lack of that mainspring called public opinion is especially important. Schools teaching history, but no hygiene, colleges too busy with pedagogy to consider public health are the rule rather than the exception. Yet an educated community opinion about public health is essential to the eradication of such a public disease as malaria. The average individual has not the slightest conception of how malaria has retarded and is retarding India's progress and prosperity. Nor has he the remotest feeling of social responsibility for the control of malaria. There is little urge to contribute either money or labour or even co-operation, or to stimulate governmental action in this regard."

Need for Co-ordination of Departmental Effort.- There has been a notorious lack of co-operation between departments of public health and

public works as regards malaria. Malaria springs from irrigation systems, from ~~barrowpits~~, faulty culverts, improper siting and housing of labourers, and countless other sources. Probably 50 per cent. of all the malaria in India is man-made, in the sense that it is propagated by anophelines bred in collections of water for which some act of man himself is responsible. Sometimes it is the ignorant ryot who creates such breeding places, but all too often it is a highly trained and paid officer of a public works department of government or district board. Intelligent co-operation between various government departments and the health administrations would avoid much entirely preventible misery.

Need for Trained Personnel.- But the public health department cannot control malaria with amateur and inefficient personnel. One reason why there are 100 million cases of malaria per year in India is the fact that the numbers of health staff specially trained for malaria control are so few. Modern malaria control on a practical basis requires more than general health officer training. It requires specialists.

In conclusion, Dr. Russell remarked: "Malaria probably constitutes the greatest burden India has to carry to-day. The very complexity of the country itself makes the control of such a wide-spread disease a problem of serious dimensions. In fact, if one tries to envisage the whole canvas it is a most discouraging experience. But the outlook is far from hopeless. It used to be said that there was not money enough with the Government to control malaria, and when such control cost Rs.5 to Rs.15 per capita per year, the statement was sometimes true enough. But now there are available practical methods not only within the means of Governments but actually a source of profit to them, in that these measures would cost far less than the disease malaria costs the people. So that, in addition to the humanitarian urge, one may enlist the profit-making motive, which seems so potent a factor with so many officials, lay and public. In the last analysis, what the late Sir Ronald Ross once said is now of even more significance than ever. He said, 'Malaria prophylaxis depends not so much on profuse expenditure as on the intelligence, enthusiasm, and energy of these who are responsible for sanitary affairs.'"

(The Hindu, 8-7-1941.) +

Agricultural Education in Bengal:
Enquiry Committee appointed by Bengal Government. ✓

In order to make a survey of the existing facilities for agricultural education and research in Bengal and to examine the scope and adequacy of agricultural education imparted in high and middle English schools, an "ad hoc" committee has been appointed by the Government of Bengal. Mr. Fazlur Rahman, M.L.A. is the Chairman, and the Principal, Agricultural Institute, Dacca, the Secretary of the Committee.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 21-7-1941.) ✓
+

Wages

Dearness Allowance to Coimbatore Textile Labour Employees. +

Recently certain negotiations were being conducted between the textile workers of Coimbatore and the local mills, through the Labour Commissioner, Madras, regarding a dearness allowance for workers. The workers had demanded a 30 per cent. increase in wages with effect from 1-7-1941 or a 25 per cent. increase from 1-4-1941, or a 20 per cent. increase from 1-1-1941. It was pointed out in justification of this demand that the mill-stores selling at pre-war prices of food-stuffs were failures. It was alleged that the foodstuffs supplied were inferior in quality, that the rates approved by the millowners' association were not followed in some cases, that some articles were under-measured, and that there was difficulty in getting provisions, that they were not in a position to get other requirements besides foodstuffs, such as books, slates, etc., for their children attending schools, that workers coming from villages experienced great difficulty in carrying the provisions to their homes, and that in some cases concession had been granted only to those persons who had joined co-operative stores as members but not to other workers.

It is understood that the millowners have agreed to grant a dearness allowance of 10 per cent. of the wages subject to a minimum of one rupee per mensem per worker with effect from 1-7-1941, and that this will be continued so long as the need exists of the mills can afford the expenditure. A prosperity bonus for this year only of a month's wages or $\frac{2}{3}$ per cent. of the total wages drawn during the year will also be given, and such mills as have not given effect to the recommendations regarding 13 days' sick and casual leave with pay are to do so with effect from 1-7-1941.

All Coimbatore Mills are reported to have agreed to the above decisions. The workers, however, have rejected the millowners' offer and are planning a general strike.

(The Hindu, 19, 21, 29 and 30-7-1941) +

Dearness Allowance for Punjab Industrial Workers:
Punjab Industrialists to confer on 9-8-1941.

Sir Manoharlal, Finance Minister, Punjab Government, is expected to preside over a conference of Punjab industrialists to be held at Lahore on 9-8-1941. The Conference, inter alia, will consider the question of dearness allowance for industrial workers.

(The Hindu, 26-7-1941.) +

Dearness Allowance for Low-paid Government
Servants in Assam.

In supersession of the orders passed in October 1940 (vide page 39 of our October 1940 report), the Government of Assam has now decided to institute a dearness allowance based on the rise in price of common rice payable to all Government servants under the rule-making control of that Government and drawing pay up to and including Rs.30 per mensem. The allowance will be at the rate of one anna in the

rupee of their pay, for any month when the average price of rice for the province (excluding Manipur) rises from the pre-war average of 11 seers (1 seer = 2 lbs.) to 8 seers to the rupee, and a second anna when it goes to 6 seers.

(The Assam Gazette, Part II, dated 16-7-1941, page 930.) *

Employment.

Technical Training:
The Delhi Polytechnic Institute. *

The sudden demand of war on industry revealed a great dearth of technicians. Existing training facilities were surveyed and schemes prepared to make up the laeway. All this preliminary work took up a definite shape in the form of the Sargent Committee scheme (vide pages 50-51 of August 1940 report of this Office), now in operation to train workers. To further these attempts, the Government is converting some of their high schools, formerly used for general education into technical institutions. One such school is the Delhi Polytechnic, formerly known as the Government High School.

The Delhi Polytechnic is an All-India Institute. The former high school ~~and~~ pupils of the School are given opportunity to continue in the Polytechnic and most of them have stayed on. For the new session, there were 192 vacancies which have been filled by competitive examination 731 candidates presenting for it. Under the principalship of Mr. W.W. Wood, the Polytechnic, with 360 pupils, a new staff and workshops, opened on 15-7-1941. Preliminary courses in commercial, engineering, building and textile subjects lead to diploma standard. The commercial, engineering and building departments will also hold evening classes. Classes in commercial subjects begin immediately and those in engineering and building will begin as soon as workshops are ready. These courses will cover theoretical, laboratory and workshop training. The textile department, when fully equipped, will be a miniature mill. There are 12 other workshops in courses of construction for which machinery equipment and tools are being received. By the end of August 1941 these workshops will be training an additional 344 technicians.

At first there will be two shifts of machinists and turners and later two shifts in all trades embracing 1000 youths. Courses will last about a year. There will be a Director of Physical Training and free medical attention. On completion of course, students will be competent craftsmen.

(The Times of India, 4-7-1941.)

War Supplies

Central Provision Office starts Work:
organisation for co-ordinating and supplying requirements of
armies of Eastern Group.

The Central Provision Office, the ~~military~~ organisation recommended to be formed in India by the Eastern Group Conference held in Delhi last cold weather, to co-ordinate and submit to the Eastern Group Supply Council all requirements of the armies in the Eastern

Group which could not be obtained locally but which could be secured from the countries within the Eastern Group.

~~The office~~ (has begun to assume its duties, although its staff, which is to be drawn from the armed forces of Great Britain, India and the Dominions in the Eastern Group, is not yet complete. Up to now, the provision duties in respect of many stores ~~many~~ for the armies in the Middle and Far East have been carried out by the Indian Military authorities upon whose demand the Eastern Group Council have acted; but these duties will now be taken over by the Central Provision Office.

The Central Provision Office is a body performing military ~~main~~ functions. The organisation or the part of the Army Staff within each military command which is concerned with the work of supplies is usually called the local or internal provision office. It is with these local organisations that the Central Provision Office will mainly deal. The requirements sent in to the Central Provision Office ~~will mainly deal~~ by these local organisations will be in the form of (a) firm demands to meet the actual needs during the ensuing months and (b) long range forecasts to enable future supply to be planned. An important function of the Central Provision Office will be ~~the~~ priority of allocation of the available supplies to the military commands, should a shortage arise in any particular store or commodity. ~~It will thus be seen that~~ The Controller-General of Central Provision Office is virtually the agent of the various Commanders-in-Chief, to obtain the military stores required by them from the Eastern Group countries for the maintenance of their forces. He is also the Military Member of the Eastern Group Supply Council.

(The Hindu, 27-7-1941.) *

War Purchases

War Purchases in India in 1940-41:

Total over Rs. 760 millions. *

Over Rs. 760 million worth of articles were purchased in India through two purchasing agencies alone of the Supply Department - the Indian Stores Department and the Contracts Directorate - during the financial year 1940-41. Of these, the Indian Stores Department was responsible for purchases worth Rs. 552.2 millions, while the Contracts Directorate bought goods totalling Rs. 207.8 millions.

War purchases made by the Indian Stores Department aggregated Rs. 419.6 millions, while purchases made by it for other purposes totalled Rs. 132.6 millions. The former comprised the following main items:- Textiles - 151; Tentage - 70.8; Jute articles - 35.4; Steel sections, plates, etc. - 30.6; Ferrous metals - 28.1; Hardware and other stores - 25.9; Motor vehicles and spares - 19.5; Blankets - 16.2; Shipbuilding materials and vessels - 10.7; Engineering plant and machinery - 9.7; Electric stores - 8.7; Permanent way material and wagons - 6.9; Hutting and open shedding - 3.7; Camouflage nets - 2.1; Trench shelters - 3 million rupees.

Of the total purchases (peace and war) made by the Contracts Directorate, Rs. 163.3 million worth of goods were bought by Headquarters Office and the Bombay and Cawnpore Branches of the Directorate, while goods of the value of Rs. 44.5 millions were purchased by its Calcutta Office. The purchases made by the former three offices include: Foodstuffs - 54.5; Petrol, oil, lubricants and fuel -

27; Hides, tanning materials, footwear and leather products - 24.4; Timber, bamboos, and products thereof - 16.2; Hardware - 12.6; Scientific, haberdashery and miscellaneous stores - 11.8; Soaps and chemicals - 6.5; Ferrous and non-ferrous metals - 5.6; and Tools and components - 4.7 million rupees.

Besides the two purchasing organisations mentioned above, there are other agencies operating on behalf of the Defence Services whose purchases also run to huge totals.

(Bulletin No. 337 dated 4-8-1941 of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay.)

War Risk Insurance.

State Insurance of Private Chattels and Property: Scheme under consideration of Government.

The Government of India is understood to be considering the question of introducing war risk insurance schemes to cover compensation to owners for loss of and damage to immovable property and private chattels. The suitability of such schemes for India was discussed at the first meeting of the War Risk Insurance Advisory Committee convened in Bombay by the Government of India on 24-7-1941. The Committee arrived at no decision, and the matter has been left over for the present pending further consideration by the Government.

(The Times of India, 17-7-1941 and the Hindu, 25.7.1941.)

Control Measures.

Control of Iron and Steel.

To ensure that the iron and steel produced in India is only used for defence and war supply purposes and to meet really essential civil needs the Government of India has, in exercise of the powers conferred by sub-rule (2) of Rule 81 of the Defence of India Rules, by the Iron and Steel (Control of Distribution) Order, 1941, directed that no person shall acquire or dispose of without a licence any iron or steel, and that persons acquiring iron ^{or} steel, after taking the necessary licence, should not use the iron or steel otherwise than in accordance with the conditions imposed by the licence.

Mr. J.C. Mahindra, Sales Manager of Messrs. Tata Iron and Steel Company and at present adviser on steel supplies, has been appointed Iron and Steel Controller under the Order. He will be assisted in performing his day-to-day duties by representatives of the main steel fabricators and stock-holders and of shipbuilders.

An Iron and Steel Control Board will be constituted, with the Iron and Steel Controller as chairman, to advise on questions of iron and steel control policy and to keep the working of the iron and steel control scheme under regular review. The Board will meet at least once a month and will have as members a representative of each of the main steel producing firms of rerollers, of steel fabricators and of other users of steel, and a Government servant appointed by the Central Government, who will also act as Secretary to the Board and who will assist the Controller in running the Iron and Steel Control Office.

The order applies to the main types of iron and steel produced in India, including pig iron, ingots and billets, tinbar and tinplate, structurals, rails, black bars, bolts, nuts and screws and wire and wire nails.

The general effect of the order is to prevent the acquisition or disposal of iron or steel by anybody except under the authority of a licence issued by a department of the Central Government to which a steel quota has been allotted, or of a written order of the Iron and Steel Controller. The Central Government in the Commerce Department will, however, permit certain items to be acquired and disposed of in small quantities not exceeding limits which they will notify. The Order also gives the Iron and Steel Controller power to require producers and stockists of iron or steel to keep accounts and records relating to their business and to call for such returns and estimates as he may require from them and to have their premises inspected.

(Department of Supply Notification No. 315 dated 26-7-1941; The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 26-7-1941, pages 1072 to 1074; and the Statesman, 27-7-1941.) +

Food Rationing in Kashmir State:
Ration Ticket System For Rice.

To ensure the supply of rice, the staple food of the people of Kashmir, the Government have sanctioned the purchase of 1,068,800 maunds (1 maund = 82 lbs.) of shali (a variety of rice) by the Food Control Department. Shali will be stored by the Food Control Department and supply will be regulated by ~~the~~ ration-tickets. ~~as at present.~~

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 14-7-1941.) +

Compensation for War Injuries.

The War Injuries Ordinance, 1941. +

The Governor General promulgated on 25-7-1941 the War Injuries Ordinance, 1941, to make provision for the grant of relief in respect of certain personal injuries sustained during the continuance of the present hostilities. "War injury" is defined as a physical injury (a) caused by (i) the discharge of any missile (including liquids and gas), or (ii) the use of any weapon, explosive or other noxious thing, or (iii) the doing of any other injurious act, either by the enemy or in combating the enemy or in repelling an imagined attack by the enemy; or (b) caused by the impact on any person or property of any enemy aircraft, or any aircraft belonging to or held by any person on behalf of or for the benefit of His Majesty or any allied power, or any part of, or anything dropped from, any such aircraft. "War service injury", in relation to a civil defence volunteer, means any physical injury arising out of work under civil defence organisation and not arising out of and in the course of his employment in any other capacity.

Schemes of Relief.- The Ordinance empowers the Central Government

to make schemes providing for the grant of relief in respect of the following injuries sustained during the continuance of the present hostilities, namely:- (a) war injuries sustained by gainfully occupied persons (with such exceptions, if any, as may be specified in the scheme) and by persons such other other classes as may be so specified; and (b) war service injuries sustained by civil defence volunteers. Payment under the scheme may be by way of temporary allowance, of allowance in cases of prolonged disablement or death, or of cost of artificial limbs or surgical or other appliances.

Relief from Liability to pay Compensation.- In respect of a war injury sustained during the continuance of the present hostilities by any person, and in respect of a war service injury sustained during that period by a civil defence volunteer, no such compensation or damages shall be payable, whether to the person injured or to any other person, as apart from the provisions of this Ordinance (a) would be payable under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; or (b) would, whether by virtue of any enactment or by virtue of any contract or at common law, be payable (i) in the case of a war injury, by any person, or (ii) in the case of a war service injury sustained by a civil defence volunteer, by the employer of the volunteer, or by any person who has responsibility in connection with the volunteer's duties ~~as~~ as such of any other civil defence volunteer, on the ground that the injury in question was attributable to some negligence, nuisance or breach of duty for which the person by whom the compensation or damage would be payable is responsible.

The time lost in an unsuccessful claim under the war injuries scheme is not to be a bar to proceedings for claims under other existing laws.

(The Gazette of India Extraordinary, dated 25-7-1941, pages 427 to 431.) +

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List of more important publications received in this Office during
July, 1941.

Conditions of Work.-

Annual Report on the working of the Boilers Act in Burma for the year 1940. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Annas 12 or ~~15~~ 1s.1d.

Social Policy.-

Bulletin of Indian Industries and Labour - No. 72. Proceedings of the Second Conference of Labour Ministers (held at New Delhi on the 27th and 28th January, 1941). Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1 or 1s.6d.

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Government of Burma: Report of the Committee on Expenditure on the Public Services, 1939-40. Part I. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1940. Price Annas 14 or 1s.4d.
- (2) Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India. Statistical Tables relating to Banks in India, 1938. Published by Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Rs.4-14 or 7s.9d.
- (3) Census of Travancore, 1941. Economic Survey. Key Schedule and Instructions.
- (4) ~~Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour - No.71.~~ Proceedings of the Twelfth Industries Conference (held at Lucknow on the 16th and 17th December, 1940). March, 1941. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Rs.1-4-0 or 2s.
- (5) ~~Bulletin No.1 - Thirty-sixth issue.~~ Department of Statistics. Statistical Abstract of the Baroda State ~~for~~ from 1929-30 to 1938-39. Baroda: Printed at the ~~Bar~~ Baroda State Press, 1941. Price Re.1-9-0. *Bulletin No.1 - Thirty-sixth issue.*

Social Insurance.-

- (1) Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1939, together with a note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (Government of India). Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Annas 6 or 7d.
- (2) Government of Madras - Public Works Department (Labour). ~~is~~ G.O. No. 1178, 13th May, 1941. Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 - Working-1940 ~~Report~~.
- (3) Letter No. G./1386-3684 G.J. dated 15-7-1941 from the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Labour, embodying the report on the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Assam, for the year ending the 31st December, 1940.

Migration.-

Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in Burma for the year ending 31st December 1940. Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price 7 annas or 8d.

Agriculture.-

Agriculture.-

Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency for the year 1939-40. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press. 1941. Price 8 annas.

Co-operation.-

- (1) Annual Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in H.E.H. the Nizam's Dominions for the twenty-sixth year ~~1339~~ 1348-1349 F. (1939-40). Hyderabad-Deccan. Government Central Press. 1941.
- (2) Report on the Co-operative Societies in Orissa for the year 1939-40. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. Price Rs.2-14-0.

Living Conditions.-

Agricultural Marketing in India. Report on the Marketing of Milk in India and Burma. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. 1941. Price Re.1-4-0 or 2s.

Organisation, Congresses, etc.-

- (1) Report of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for the year 1940. Vol. I. Calcutta: Printed at the Criterion Printing Works, 8, Jackson Lane, Calcutta. 1941.
- (2) Report of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the year 1940, presented to the Annual General Meeting held on 5-3-1941. Bombay: Printed by G. Claridge & Co. 1941.

Public Health.-

- (1) Government of Bengal - Thirty-fourth Annual Report of the Bengal ~~Smoke Nuisances Commission~~ for the year 1939. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal, Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1940. Price Anna 1 or 2d.
- (2) Annual Public Health Report of the Province of Orissa for the year 1939 and the Annual Vaccination Report for the year 1939-40 by Lt.-Colonel G. Verghese, I.M.S., Director of Health and Inspector-General of Prisons, Orissa. Superintendent, Government Press, Cuttack, Orissa. 1941. ~~Price Rs.10-11-0.~~
- (3) The Administration Report of the Medical and Public Health Department of H.E.H. the Nizam's Government for the year 1348 Fasli (6-10-1938 to 6-10-1939). Hyderabad-Deccan: Government Central Press. 1940.

Miscellaneous.-

Report of the Village Administration Committee, 1941. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1941. Price Annas 4 = 5d.