

C 6/2/57

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE  
INDIAN BRANCH

Industrial and Labour Developments in December, 1944.

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

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SOCIAL POLICY.

Central Government's Scheme for Training  
Labour Officers.

The Central Government has had under consideration the starting of a scheme for the training of labour officers. It was thought more advantageous to get some recognized academic institution to conduct a special course for the purpose than to start straightaway a separate course directly under Government management. Accordingly, arrangements have been made with the Calcutta University to conduct such a course at Calcutta. There will be two courses in a year—July to November and December to April. About fifteen Government nominees in all are to be deputed for each course. The first course commenced on 3-7-1944 and the second on 11-12-1944.

Instruction is being given in the following subjects:- Sociology; Applied Economics including Industrial History of India; Law; Statistics; Social and Industrial Psychology; and ~~Public~~ Public Health Administration including Sanitary Engineering, and Food and Nutrition. Practical training will also form a part of the course and will include field work, investigation of conditions of work in mills, conditions of family life, welfare activities, sanitary supervision, propaganda, etc.

(Indian Labour Gazette, November, 1944).

Fifth Conference of Chief Inspectors of  
Factories: Details of Proceedings..

The following details of the proceedings of the fifth conference of the Chief Inspectors of Factories held at New Delhi on 24 and 25-10-1944 (vide pages 9 to 10 of our report for October, 1944) are taken from a note on the conference published in the Indian Labour Gazette, November, 1944.

The agenda of the conference consisted, among others, of the following items:- (i) Factory Inspectorate Machinery.—(a) possibility of improvements: specialisation in health, engineering, etc.; (b) ~~team work~~ of the inspectorate; (ii) Survey of wartime conditions of working in factories.—hours worked—standards of welfare, ventilation, lighting etc. in relation to minimum statutory requirements and optimum requirements. (iii) Improvement of labour statistics, with particular reference to the recommendations made by the Statistician, Department of Labour, in his Report. (iv) Adequacy of the present Factories Act (and Rules)—(a) Interpretations causing difficulty; (b) Desirability of amendment or extensions; (c) Feasibility of a provision in the Factories Act requiring approval of plans for factory layout and buildings before erection.

Under the first item the Conference discussed, among other things, the desirability of (i) strengthening the factory inspection staff (ii) organising training courses in U.K. and in India. There was a general discussion as to whether all factory inspectors should possess engineering qualifications. It was considered desirable that a certain proportion of inspectors should be non-engineers, including medical experts. It was agreed that all inspectors should have a knowledge of

workshop discipline, workshop tradition and workshop practice.

Under the second item the Conference surveyed the wartime conditions of working in factories. Mr. W.H. Kirby, Rationing Adviser to the Government of India, told the Conference what is being done in England in respect of factory canteens and what is possible and desirable in India in this connection (vide pages 9 to 10 of our report for October, 1944). Mr. Mankikar of the Labour Department, Government of India, read a paper (reproduced at pages 147-152 of the Indian Labour Gazette, November, 1944) on the importance of sufficient and suitable artificial light in industry and made some very useful suggestions. The general feeling of the Conference was that the rules and standards of lighting similar to those suggested by Mr. Mankikar should be enforced as soon as the required material is easily available.

Under the third item it was agreed that no immediate improvement is necessary with respect to the data collected under the Payment of Wages Act and the Workmen's Compensation Act. As regards the Factories Act the following decisions were arrived at :- \*

(i) There should be separate statistics of the number of factories and the average daily number of workers in factories coming under ~~Section 2 (j)~~ Section 2 (j) and Section 5 of the Factories Act. (ii) The classification according to size of factories desirable to start with, in major groups like textile, engineering, etc. (iii) In the Statement IV figures of employment should be given in respect of engineering, minerals and metals, sugar and paper and printing, etc. (iv) In the Statement V showing hours of work, the number of workers affected should be indicated. (v) The form for accidents in the factories adopted by Bombay and Bengal, giving details for each industry may be followed. It is not necessary to go into the details of the injury and subdivide serious accidents into two parts. (vi) To start with, the figures of number of factories and employment may be compiled ~~half-yearly~~ half-yearly for perennial factories only.

Under the first item there was a general discussion on the items which were included in the memorandum for discussion and in most of the cases solutions were suggested in respect of the difficulties pointed out.

(Indian Labour Gazette, November, 1944). 4

Co-ordination of Labour Laws in Mysore State:  
Committee Constituted by Government. \*

The Mysore State Government has constituted a committee to review comprehensively all labour legislative enactments and rules on all their bearings with the object of securing the reconciliation of conflicting provisions noticed in the existing legislation and providing a coherent body for labour laws which, in actual application, would ensure prompt and effective settlement of industrial disputes. The committee is also charged with examining questions like the scheme for compulsory insurance against unemployment of industrial workers and the desirability of making separate legislative provision for the regulating employment of children in industrial undertakings.

(The ~~Hindu~~ Times of India, 11-12-1944). 4

Reorganisation of Labour Department  
in Sangli State.

The decision to reorganise the Labour Department of Sangli State was announced by the Raja Sahab in the State Legislative Assembly on 21-12-1944. It is intended to furnish the Department with a panel of influential persons from among whom members could be chosen to work on committees for the conciliation of labour disputes.

(The Statesman, 23-12-1944).†

Government of Bihar to implement the  
Recommendations of the Bihar Labour  
Enquiry Committee.

According to a report published in the Amritabazar Patrika, the Labour Department of the Government of Bihar has been seriously engaged in the matter of implementing the recommendations of the Bihar Labour Enquiry Committee.

Fixation of hours of work for labour in factories, stoppage of fines arbitrarily imposed on the workers by the management, monthly pay instead of daily wages for permanent workers, maternity welfare etc. are the questions which are reported to have been taken up for solution by the Department. It is stated that to attain the above objective the Department may also move the Government for the amendment of the various Acts dealing with factories and labour.

(The Amritabazar Patrika, 21-12-1944).†

# Conditions of Work.

4

## Forced Labour.

### The Adivasis of Umbergaum, Bombay Presidency.

In a letter published in the Bombay Chronicle, 26-12-1944, Mr. D.N. Wandrekar, Honorary Secretary, Adivasi Seva Mandal, has drawn attention to the prevalence of a form of forced labour among the Adivasis of Umbergaum Petha in Bombay Province.

The Umbergaum Petha of the Thana district in Bombay has a population of over 86,000. Of this population 63.7 per cent or about 55,000 are Adivasis. These ~~last~~ Adivasis are mostly agricultural tenants or landless labourers. A few years back they were the owners of the soil, but at present they own hardly 2.2 per cent of the cultivated area.

Conditions of Work.- The conditions under which these people work and live are miserable. The rentals are high. The usual wage rate was 2 annas per day till recently, even though the Government had fixed a minimum of 10 annas for work in jungles. Besides the rental they paid, the tenants had to render other services either free or at nominal wages to their landlords. With the rise in prices due to the war, living became still more hard. Two years back there was a severe famine in this area and these people had to depend either on doles, or famine relief works or grain loans advanced by the Government, the Saukars or the ~~last~~ Adivasi Seva Mandal.

Awakening among the Adivasis.- There was an awakening among these people ~~when the Government took up the government of the province.~~ The passing of measures like the Tenancy Act, the fixing of a minimum wage for jungle work, etc, contributed to this awakening. The appointment of a Special Officer to look after the interests of the Adivasis of the Thana district made by Government was a further step in this direction. This officer has been touring about the district investigating their grievances and trying to get them redressed. The Adivasi Seva Mandal has also been carrying on vigorous propaganda among them for the last five years.

Present Position.- But even today the Adivasis are living in a condition verging on serfdom. While the landlords are offering their Adivasi tenants or servants a wage of only 4 annas a day for work in the fields, the jungle contractors in the area are offering them wages at the rate of Re.1 per day for work in the jungle. The landlords, however, forcibly prevent their Adivasi tenants or servants from availing themselves of this better paid employment offered by the contractors. The Adivasis are, however, attempting to get themselves freed from the virtual serfdom they are living in. The paddy and grass crops got ready for harvesting about a month back, but the Adivasis decided not to work on the harvesting operations until and unless the wage question was settled to their satisfaction and some other grievances were removed.

(The Bombay Chronicle, dated +  
26-12-1944 )..



## Industrial Disputes.

### Industrial Disputes in British India during quarter ending 31-3-1944. +

According to the statistics published by the Government of India of industrial disputes in British India during the quarter ending 31-3-1944, the total number of stoppages of work during the quarter (including 10 in progress at the close of the quarter) was 159 and the number of workers involved 163,126 as against 311 stoppages involving 286,515 workers for the same quarter of the previous year; the total number of working days lost was 1,180,877 as against 1,354,263. There were 8 stoppages involving 5,000 or more but less than 10,000 workers and one involving 10,000 workers or more. In two stoppages 100,000 or more working days were lost and in one of them the number of workers involved was less than 5,000.

Provincial Distribution.- The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay where 59 disputes involving 37,714 workers were responsible for the loss of 79,430 working days. In Bengal there were 47 disputes involving 87,174 workers and entailing a loss of 322,540 working days; in Madras there were 21 disputes involving 7,174 workers and entailing a loss of 43,210 working days; in Central Provinces and Berar there were 17 disputes involving 27,470 workers and entailing a loss of 722,042 working days; in the United Provinces there were 8 disputes involving 2,153 workers and entailing a loss of 2,730 working days; in Sind there were 3 disputes involving 148 workers and entailing a loss of 507 working days; and in Bihar and the Punjab 2 disputes each involving 1,200 and 93 workers and entailing a loss of 3,225 and 186 working days respectively.

Classification by Industries.- Classified by industries, the largest number of disputes occurred in the textile industry (cotton, woollen and silk mills) where there were 35 disputes involving 45,336 workers and entailing a loss of 746,492 working days. There were 21 disputes in the engineering industry involving 32,860 workers and entailing a loss of 115,279 working days; 15 disputes in the jute mills industry involving 45,972 workers and entailing a loss of 195,629 working days; 6 disputes in the railways, including railway workshops, involving 22,197 workers and entailing a loss of 46,578 working days; 4 disputes in mines involving 1,540 workers and entailing a loss of 10,286 working days; and 78 disputes in other industries involving 15,221 workers and entailing a loss of 66,613 working days. The cotton, woollen, silk and jute mills together thus accounted for 31 per cent of the number of stoppages, 56 per cent of the workers involved and 80 per cent of the working days lost.

Causes and Results of Disputes.- Of the 159 disputes 100 arose on questions of wages or bonus, 19 were in respect of personnel and 9 in respect of leave and hours; 31 disputes were due to other reasons. 25 disputes were successful, 28 partially successful and 89 unsuccessful. Indefinite verdicts were obtained in 6 cases and 10 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(Communique issued by the Department of  
Labour, Government of India, on  
16-12-1944). +

6

General.

Conditions of Work in the Mica Industry.+

The conditions of work in the mica industry in Bihar and Gudur (South India) are surveyed in a note published in the Trade Union Record, September, 1944. India as a whole produces 80 per cent of the world's output of mica, out of which 60 per cent is produced in Bihar. Some of the important features stressed in ~~xxx~~ the Note are briefly noticed below.

**Bihar.**- The production of mica involves two operations, mining and manufacturing. In Bihar 10 big firms of mine owners hold between themselves about 80 per cent of all the mica lands. The mining operations are carried on by mechanical instruments in these mines. The small mines numbering about 150, produce about 40 per cent of the total mica in the province and no machinery is used in these mines. The manufacturing operations are carried on by mine owners as well as independent dealers, in factories. Here again, the 10 mining firms are in virtual control, owning about 60 per cent of the bigger factories.

About 500,000 people are estimated as depending on this industry for their livelihood in Bihar. Recruitment is generally made through sirdars, by advancing money to the workers from the neighbouring industrial areas. The Bihar Labour Inquiry Committee's report gives the average monthly earnings of mica miners as Rs. 11-12-0 per month in 1938. The monthly wage-earning has now gone up to Rs. 13-6-6, on the average, an increase of 20 per cent, when the cost of living has gone above 300 per cent. On the manufacturing side, wage-rates which were Rs. 8-4-0 per month in 1938 have now increased to Rs. 13-12-0 per month.

The mica factories are excluded from the operation of the Factories Act, on the ground that no mechanical power is used. The conditions as regards hours of work, employment of children, sanitation and hygiene are therefore unregulated. Rigidity in wage rates has accentuated, of late, the evil of the employment of child ~~xxxx~~ labour. Dearness allowance is given by a few employers only, generally by those whose basic wage rates are low. Very few employers give grain concessions. Even in those cases where they are given, the prices charged are comparatively high, and the quality of grain is poor. In the mining areas, water supply is very inadequate, and this causes great hardship to the workers. No effort has been made by the Government to apply the recommendations made by the Bihar Labour Inquiry Committee for safeguarding the interests of labourers in the mica mines and factories.

The note also points out that, as a result of some of the measures taken by the Government during the war and earlier to control the production of mica, the smaller mineowners and manufacturers have been badly hit, with the result that several thousands of their employees have been thrown out of employment.

**Gudur (South India).**- In Gudur District in South India, there are about 100 mica mines, employing about 30,000 workers. These workers, who are mostly cultivators from the surrounding districts go back home during the harvest season so that for about three months during the year labour shortage is acutely felt. Two categories of workers are engaged underground, those who drill holes into the hill, and those who blast. The average wage for the first category, is 10 as. per day, and for the second, 12 as. ~~per day~~ Among surface workers, cutters are paid 10 to 12 as. per day, and sorters, 12 to 14 as. per day. A fourth of the

total number of workers are paid through contractors, and ~~the~~ it is found that the wages directly paid are generally 12<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> per cent higher than the wages paid through contractors. There is no dearness allowance or grain concessions. Wages are generally paid on holidays as the proprietors do not like time to be wasted on that account. Workers are often asked to work for 2 to 3 hours more <sup>daily</sup> than the normal eight hours, for which no overtime payment is made. The time required to bring back workers from the pithead is neither reckoned nor compensated for in any way. Thus the miners work for 54 or 60 hours on average per week. Children are widely employed in the mines. In most of the mines there are no steps, but only ladders are provided, and this leads to accidents. As there are no proper water supply arrangements for workers, they have to drink the impure water in the mines themselves.

In the mica splitting factories, the Factory Act is not applied. There is no regular payment of wages. The factory areas are insanitary. A large majority of workers employed herein are women.

Housing arrangements which are provided only by a small number of the employers are completely inadequate.

(The Trade Union Record, September, 1944 ).

Factory Labour in Travancore State  
during 1942-43.+

Administration of Labour Laws.- According to the administration report of the Department of Industries, Government of Travancore, for the year 1942-43, there were 215 factories on the register as against 204 during the previous year. 31 new factories were registered and 20 factories were removed from the operation of the Factories Act. 383 accidents were reported to have occurred in the factories, of which 5 were fatal, 39 serious and 339 minor. During the previous year the number of accidents was only 66. Consequent on the advancement of the Indian Standard Time by one hour, all factories felt the difficulty of employing women from 7 A.M. to 5 P.M. as required by the Factories Act. Government has therefore granted a general exemption permitting women workers to work between 8 A.M. to 6 P.M. The desirability of declaring certain industrial establishments such as coir factories, cashew factories, etc., wherein power is not used, as factories under section 5 of the Act was being considered. (The review in the Labour Gazette does not indicate the number of workers in factories).

The ~~the~~ list of acts and omissions in respect of which fines could be imposed on an employee under the Payment of Wages Act, as also the list of persons empowered to impose fines, and the list of persons responsible for making payments were obtained from all factories and the managers were asked to fix wage periods and state the purposes for which the fund raised by means of fines could be utilized. Instructions were also given to the managers as to how registers should be maintained and the manner in which the provisions of the Act should be observed.

During the year under report, 17 cases of fatal accidents and 14 cases resulting in permanent or temporary disablement were reported under the Workmen's Compensation Act. Compensation amounting to Rs. 2,971 was sanctioned in respect of 11 cases of fatal accidents during the year.

There were 39 registered trade unions in the State. Most of the employers were generally sympathetic towards the labourers. Many employers were reported to be agreeable to consult and discuss with unions matters affecting labour.

The Travancore Maternity Benefit Act was passed during the year under report. It prohibits the employment of women in factories, other than seasonal ones, during the four weeks immediately following the day of confinement, and imposes a liability on the employer to pay maternity benefit at the rate of approximately 8 as. a day for the actual days of absence for the period immediately preceding confinement, not exceeding 3 weeks, and for the four weeks immediately following confinement.

Labour Disputes.- There were 3 labour disputes during the year. Wage increases, enhancement of dearness allowance, distribution of rice by the factory, etc., were some of the demands of the workers. One of the disputes was settled by mutual agreement; another was referred to arbitration and the third was settled on certain suggestions by the Labour Commissioner after discussions with the management and labour representatives. The general rise in the cost of living due to war conditions resulted in persistent demand for increasing wages and dearness allowance. Most of the employers suitably enhanced the rates of dearness allowance. With the willing co-operation of the employers it was possible, states the report, to keep the conditions of labour in a satisfactory state.

Industrial Relations.- With a view to maintain amicable relationship between employers and labour, an Industries Relations Committee and an Industrial Peace Committee were functioning during the year in certain industries. As the work of these committees was proving useful, there was a move on the part of the employers and workers for organising Industrial Relations Committees on a voluntary basis in the State.

(Indian Labour Gazette, November, 1944).

Bombay Millowners' Criticism of Bombay Draft  
Industrial Disputes Amendment Bill.

Reference was made at page 1 of our report for September 1944, to the Draft Industrial Disputes Amendment Bill gazetted by the Government of Bombay for eliciting public opinion. The committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, in a note criticising the proposed amendments points out that the success of the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act in Bombay City and Island was, in a very large measure, due to the very close co-operation which the Government and the Government Labour officer had received from the Association. The Association had always adopted a very generous attitude in the interpretation and working of the Act, and the Committee felt that before proposing vital amendments in the operative provisions of the Act, Government should have taken into its confidence representatives of the Association as it had done on the previous occasions. Though the amendments had already been published, the Committee still felt that the objects which Government had in view in proposing these amendments could be achieved by joint discussions without bringing forward the proposed amendments.

Referring to the proposal to empower Labour Officers to convene meetings of the employees within mill premises, it is stated that there had been no provocation for an amendment of this character from mills in Bombay City and Island, and that no case had been made out for its introduction. The Committee was aware of the fact that certain Government Officers had been empowered by Statute to enter private premises under certain circumstances, but the need for such powers did not arise in the case of the Government Labour Officer ~~through~~ the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, ~~where~~ the Act, which was yet in the experimental stage, was being worked with the ~~in~~ closest co-operation of the employers. Objection is also raised against the provision regarding the putting up of notices of such meetings in accordance with the directions of the Labour Officers. The matter has been taken up ~~intext~~ with the Government.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during October, 1944). ✓

Report on the Working of the Tea Districts  
Emigrant Labour Act for the year ending  
September, 1943. +

The latest report on the working of the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932, which deals with the year ending ~~September~~ September 1943, gives the following details regarding the labourers in the tea gardens in Assam:

The labour population in the tea gardens rose from 1,155,147 in 1941-42 to 1,175,431 in 1942-43. This was made up of 598,655 adults and 576,776 children.

**Recruitment.**- Recruiting prospects were satisfactory throughout the year. ~~As~~ against 13,000 persons in the previous year, 59,224 were recruited during the year under review from Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, the United Provinces, the Central Provinces and Madras, all controlled emigration areas. The increase in recruitment was mainly due to the employment of the Indian Tea Association labour on the defence projects in Assam.

**Earnings.**- The average monthly cash earnings of men, women and children settled on tea gardens in the Assam Valley were Rs. 8-10-4, Rs. 6-15-4 and Rs. 5-4-2 respectively, as compared with Rs. 8-11-5, Rs. 7-2-10 and Rs. 5-4-4 in the previous year. The corresponding figures for the Surma Valley were Rs. 7-4-3, ~~Rxxxx~~ Rs. 5-7-2 and Rs. 3-8-6, as against Rs. 6-15-0, Rs. 5-7-1 and Rs. 2-11-0. Free grazing of cattle, supply of firewood, free housing and medical attendance, maternity benefits, etc. are among the concessions mentioned in the report, besides some special concessions given to labourers to meet war conditions. It is also stated that the tea industry was granted a fixed quota of all commodities imported by Government ~~import~~ Agents of the Province, and the Circles of the Branch Associations of the Indian Tea Association were made responsible for taking it over and distributing it fairly among all participating concerns.

**Education and Health.**- There were 457 tea garden schools with 19,786 pupils on the rolls, against 555 schools with 19,031 pupils in

the previous year. The report further mentions an increase in sickness incidence which the industry had to face during the year. This is stated to be due to the arrival of nearly 30,000 refugees from Burma, who had travelled on foot over an unhealthy region, the poor physical state of some of the emigrants and the malnutrition of labour due to shortage of fresh food.

(The Hindustan Times, 24-12-1944, ~~xxx~~  
and The Vanguard, 23-12-1944 ). ✓

## ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

### Proposal to Open Institute of Jute Technology+

With a view to train up the personnel available in India for the higher supervisory posts in jute mills, the Indian Jute Mills Association has been examining the possibilities of establishing an Institute of Jute Technology. It has been proposed to set up a special sub-committee to go into the whole question.

(Bulletin issued by the Indian Central Jute Committee, November, 1944 ).,

### Scientific Consultative Committee Set up.

According to a press note of the Government of India, dated 25-12-1944 Government has constituted a scientific consultative committee with the following personnel, under the chairmanship of the Member for Planning and Development: Non-officials—Sir C.V. Raman, Sir Jnan Ghosh, Prof. Meghnad Saha, Dr. Nazir Ahmad and Col. Sir Ramnath Chopra; and officials—The Master-General of Ordnance, the Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research and the Agricultural Commissioner to the Government of India, the Director-General of the Indian Medical Service, the Director, Geological Survey, and the Director, Scientific and Industrial Research. The functions of the committee will be to advise the Government on all general questions of policy relating to research throughout India and on any special matters relating to research which may be specifically referred to it.

(The Statesman, dated 24-12-1944).,

### Industrial Board for Jodhpur State.

The Government of Jodhpur State has ordered the constitution of an Industrial Board, consisting of the Chief Minister, Finance Minister and the Development Minister, to examine and recommend applications for concessions and facilities by people desirous of establishing industries in the State. The concessions include monopoly rights, exemption from customs duty on machinery, building materials, stores, raw materials and fuel, sites for factories at cheap rates and the cheap supply of electricity and water.

(The Times of India, 6-12-1944).,

Nizam's Government Acquires Singareni Collieries.

Mr. Ghulam Mohammed, Finance Member of the Nizam's Executive Council, at a Press Conference, gave details of the Nizam Government's acquisition of shares and debentures of the Singareni Collieries Company, Limited, held by the Hyderabad Deccan Company, together with rights and concessions held for mining coal and other minerals within Hyderabad State. The purchase price was Rs. 110 million.

The transaction, among other things, gives the Nizam's Government control over 88 1/2 per cent of the total shares of the Singareni Collieries Company. The net quantity of coal available from the area under lease with the Singareni Collieries is estimated at 1,000 million tons. Since obtaining the lease, only 33 millions of tons had been extracted, leaving a balance of about 967 million tons.

(The Hindu, dated 3-12-1944).

EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING.

Special Training Courses in Fisheries to be Started in Bengal and Madras.

The Government of India is understood to have sanctioned Rs. 31,500 and Rs. 20,000 to the Governments of Bengal and Madras respectively for the training of 20 students in each of the provinces in inland and marine fisheries. The training courses are likely to be put into operation in the middle of January, 1945. The course will be for six months at the first instance, and will be open to students from all provinces. The question of continuing the course after six months is under consideration.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 29-12-1944).



MIGRATION.

Working Conditions in Ceylon: Annual Report of  
the Controller of Labour, 1943 \* +

The Administration Report of the Controller of Labour, Ceylon, for 1943, consists, as usual, of two parts: the first dealing with the conditions of labour in the Island in general, and the second, exclusively with Indian immigrant labour. The main features of the report are briefly noticed below.

Part I - General.

Labour Legislation: (a) The Draft Industrial Disputes (Conciliation) Ordinance.- The draft of a new Industrial Disputes (Conciliation) Ordinance to replace the existing Ordinance was prepared in 1941 and considered by the Executive Committee. Certain amendments to the draft were suggested and were receiving consideration. At the end of the year the position was being examined in relation to post-war conditions.

(b) Wages Boards Ordinance Amended.- The Wages Boards Ordinance (No. 27 of 1941) was amended by Ordinance No. 40 of 1943. The Wages Boards Regulations, 1943, were also brought into operation during the year.

(c) Amendments to Workmen's Compensation Ordinance.- Certain amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance (Chapter 117) were approved by the Executive Committee, and the Legal Secretary was requested to have the necessary draft Bill to amend the Ordinance prepared.

(d) Amendments to Trade Unions Ordinance.- Certain amendments to the Trade Unions Ordinance were approved by the Executive Committee and the Legal Secretary was requested to have the necessary draft Bill prepared. Further amendments to the Ordinance have been under consideration.

Application of I.L. Conventions.- An annual report is furnished to the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the application in Ceylon of the International Labour Conventions ratified by Great Britain. During the year steps were taken for the application of Conventions Nos. 50 and 64 by the adoption of the necessary legislation.

Workmen's Compensation Statistics.- 7,000 accidents were reported to the Commissioner of Workmen's Compensation during the ~~year~~ year as against 6,892 in 1942. Of these, 151 were fatal as against 109 in 1942. The returns furnished by employers showed that Rs. 269,431.75 was paid out during the year as claims in respect of 5,972 cases, as against Rs. 202,588.95 paid out in respect of 5,917 cases in 1942. 61 inquiries were held by the three Commissioners during the year. Proceedings were taken in 170 cases, during the year and liability was admitted by the employers and compensation deposited with the Commissioner in 89 cases. Compensation deposited with the Commissioner was Rs. 123,878.69 as

\* Administration Report of the Controller of Labour for 1943. (A.E. Christoffelsz, Esq., C.C.S.), November, 1944. Printed on the Orders of Government. Printed at the Ceylon Government Press, Colombo. To be purchased at the Government Record Office, Colombo; price 95cents  
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against Rs. 113,671.20 in 1942. Of the 973 agreements registered during the year, 289 were in respect of permanent disablement, 683 in respect of temporary disablement, and 1 in respect of commutation of half monthly payments due for the period of temporary disablement. The total amount of compensation paid in respect of the 284 cases of permanent disablement was Rs. 108,172.58. No claim for compensation in respect of any industrial disease was received in the course of the year.

The Commissioner continued to investigate and assist cases brought to his notice where civilian employees of the Fighting Services received injuries arising out of, and in the course of, their employment. 28 cases were dealt with through the appropriate Service authorities and the close connection maintained between the Commissioner and the respective Service authorities has considerably assisted injured workmen and the dependants of deceased workmen.

Trade Unions.- 42 trade unions applied for registration during the year, and of these 29 were registered, as against 20 registered in 1942. The total number of trade unions that have been registered in Ceylon during the nine years since 1935 when the Trade Unions Ordinance was adopted is 144. At the end of 1942 the number of unions in operation was 78. The registration of 34 was cancelled and two unions were amalgamated during 1943. The number of unions in operation at the end of the year was therefore 72. Annual returns were due only from 43 unions as the rest were registered during the course of the year. 9 unions failed to send in their returns and notice of cancellation of registration was issued in all these cases.

Referring to ~~union~~ union workers, the report points out that although some of the unions have been in existence for a number of years, sufficient attention has not been paid to the education of workers in the management of their own affairs. The existence and activities of most of the unions largely depend on the work carried out by officers who are outsiders and not workers in the industry or occupation with which the unions are connected. This is inevitable at present as the workers do not possess the necessary ability to organize themselves or to place their grievances before their employers at conferences and enter into negotiations with them. Another defect which has been noticed in the work carried out by trade unions is that when disputes arise sufficient inquiry does not seem to be made into the workers' allegations. Instances have occurred where trade unions have intervened ~~in~~ in disputes where the grounds for intervention were hardly adequate. It is therefore suggested that unions would be well advised to investigate each case carefully before it is taken up. Such action would lead to better co-operation between employers and unions and increase the confidence of employers in the representations made by unions.

Industrial Disputes.- During the year, 31 cases of strikes in trade or industry other than on estates were reported as against 14 cases during the previous year. The root cause of strikes in most cases was the demand for increased wages to meet the rising cost of living occasioned by war conditions. The officers in charge of different areas dealt with these cases as expeditiously as possible with a view to settlement. As a result of the widespread shortage of labour due to the war, workers were in a more favourable position to negotiate ~~in~~ with employers and press, with considerable success in many instances, for increase in wages and dearness allowance to meet the higher cost of living.

A special development during the year that was reported from several industries in Colombo and certain estates too was the slowing ~~in~~

down of work, a number of employees failing to do the normal quota of work allotted to them, in order to express their dissatisfaction. Steps were therefore taken to prepare Defence Regulations to deal with the situation and to afford greater security of employment to the workers. The order in question was not ready for promulgation by the end of the year. A scheme for the payment of piece rates was brought into force in the estates, but was dropped after a trial period of 3 months as it received no support from the working planter.

Essential Services (Avoidance of Strikes and Lock-outs) Order, 1942.-

In the original order, the term "workman" was not clearly defined and it was amended during the year to mean any person employed in any capacity whatsoever or to render or perform any service, work, or labour in essential services. On 7-12-1943, it was further amended to read "any person employed in any capacity whatsoever to render or perform any service, work or labour in any essential services and includes, for the purpose of any proceedings under this order in relation to a trade dispute, any workman ~~is~~ discharged from his employment during that trade dispute". The original Order had also provided for inquiries being made into disputes in essential services by a District Judge or by a special tribunal appointed by the Governor. Where a dispute had to be referred to a special tribunal ~~and~~ appointment had to be made in each particular case. The order was amended during the year to permit of a special tribunal being appointed to hear all disputes arising in a district, besides those for hearing particular disputes.

Safety of Workers in Mines and Factories.-

According to the reports received from the various revenue officers, who are entrusted with certain powers in regard to the operation in their districts of the Mines and Machinery Protection Ordinance, there were at the beginning of the year 2,036 factories in the Island. During the year 56 factories were registered and 30 were closed down, leaving at the end of the year 2,062 factories duly licensed. Six factories reported unsafe. 13 accidents were reported in factories during 1943, as against 22 in 1942. As a result of these accidents, one person was killed and 12 persons were injured.

~~The total number of mines~~ Mines were supervised by the Inspector

of Mines. At the beginning of 1943, there were 493 registered mines. 403 new mines were registered during the year and 696 were closed down. The total number of mines at the end of the year was 200. 411 mines were inspected during the year. Eight serious accidents were reported in which 3 persons were killed and 6 injured. The Factories Ordinance (No. 45 of 1942) was passed by the State Council on 1-10-1942, and when it is proclaimed it will replace the Mines and Machinery Ordinance so far ~~the~~ as the latter related to factories.

Employment.-

The insistent demand for labour showed an upward trend during the year. There was an acute shortage of labour for the essential requirements, and the equitable distribution of the available labour resources among the various competing needs was not satisfactorily settled. This led to undesirable competition with resultant disorganisation of labour standards. A scheme was put forward for the proper utilisation of the available manpower, but further headway was not made owing to the fear of imposing certain limited, though inevitable, restrictions on the freedom of the movement of labour. The shortage on rubber and tea estates continued during the year with the continuance of the ban on emigration imposed by the Government of India. The general shortage was mitigated to some extent by the introduction of labour units from outside the Island. There was a steady demand for the services of all types of labour at the close of the year.

With a view to studying post-war employment problems, a register of wartime employees, both under the military and under the civil administration, was opened during the year. Wartime employees, including mobilised personnel other than unskilled labourers, are being registered and classified according to occupation. Total figures have also been obtained with regard to unskilled labourers. Due consideration was also being paid to the question of the rehabilitation and resettlement of disabled members of the forces and civilians who sustained war injuries.

Employment of Indigenous Labour.- At the end of 1943 the number of ~~non-Indian~~ non-Indian labourers employed on the estates was 125,866, of which 47,169 were resident on the estates.

Working of the Colombo Employment Exchange.- 1,127 cases of orders for workers were registered at the Colombo Employment Exchange during the year. The total number of orders registered during the seven years of its existence was 7,711. Of those registered in 1943, 914 were from Government departments and 213 from other employers. The total number of unemployed registered was 4,405, consisting of 73 professional and technical men, 1,380 clerical workers, 1,100 skilled workers, 608 semi-skilled workers and 1,244 unskilled workers. The number placed in employment was 4,170, which brings the total number of placings by the Exchange so far to 30,112.

Administration of the Wages Boards Ordinance.- The amending Ordinance No. 40 of 1943 was brought into operation on 29-10-1943. The amendments include provisions for regulating the composition and proceedings of Wages Boards and provide for authorised deductions under the Ordinance being permitted to exceed 50 per cent but not 75 per cent of the wages due, in the case of a worker in any trade specified by the Minister by notification published in the Gazette. Under the Ordinance the employer is obliged to maintain and produce for inspection by prescribed officers of the Labour Department records of all wages paid to workers employed by him, of all deductions from wages and the dates on which such wages were paid. Notifications of the Minister's intention to apply the Ordinance to the tea growing and manufacturing trade and the rubber growing and manufacturing trade were published in 1942. Similar notifications in respect of the coconut, engineering, plumbago, and printing trades were published during the year.

Certain regulations approved by the State Council and ratified by the Governor were gazetted on 3-12-1943. These regulations were framed to give effect to permissible deductions from wages, to prescribe forms and the manner in which the representatives of employers and workers may be chosen and to regulate the procedure of meetings of Wages Boards. A regulation authorising deductions on account of voluntary contributions to the funds of any approved savings group was published in the Gazette of 27-8-1943.

Administration of the Shops Ordinance.- This Ordinance, which has been in operation since 1941 together with the Closing Orders made thereunder, has given better working conditions to shop assistants in the ~~three~~ three municipal towns of Colombo, Kandy and Galle. During the year the majority of the shop assistants, if not all, were actually in enjoyment of the benefits provided for by the Ordinance. The lack of an adequate inspectorate, however, stood in the way of the enforcement of the health provisions of the Ordinance. Proposals for amendments to the Ordinance and the Regulations were considered by the Executive Committee and the Legal Draftsman was requested to frame an amending Ordinance and Regulations. These amendments will facilitate the working of the Ordinance and the detection of infringements. Nearly 1,500

shops in Colombo were inspected for the first time during the year. There were 90 cases of prosecutions of which 77 resulted in convictions for infringement of the provisions of the Ordinance. Fines imposed during the year amounted to Rs. 1,295.

Maternity Benefits.— Inspection of establishments like shops, mines, factories and estates to which the Maternity Benefit Ordinance, No. 32 of 1939, applies, showed that its provisions were becoming more widely known among both employers and workers, and that ~~the~~ in the majority of cases, the benefits under the Ordinance were being paid and the other provisions of the law complied with.

## Part II. Indian Immigrant Labour.

Migration Statistics.— The restrictions imposed by the ban on emigration continued throughout the year to apply to all unskilled labourers who had left Ceylon for India prior to 1-9-1942, but the relaxation of the ban with effect from that date by the Central Government of India resulted in the normal flow of labour between the two countries. The first six months of the year under review witnessed a large returning flow of labour from Ceylon to India, the total at the end of June, 1943, being approximately 39,600, as against despatches for the same period of 18,833. This was counterbalanced in the latter half of the year, returns steadily declining while despatches increased. During the last six months 25,920 labourers were despatched in comparison with approximately 19,900 returned. The mean Indian labour population on estates in 1943 was about the same as the mean Indian labour population in the previous year, namely 673,000. The population at the beginning of 1943 was 680,487 (203,824 men, 197,833 women, and 278,830 children). It fell in the middle of the year to 665,435 (199,393 men, 193,747 women and 272,295 children), but ~~later~~ rose again to 671,991 (200,356 men, 195,863 women, and 275,772 children) at the end of the year. The estate records, therefore, show a net decrease of Indian labour population of 8,496—1.2 per cent of the total Indian labour population at the beginning of the year—during 1943.

Wages.— The following basic minimum wages which came into operation from 1-5-1942, remained in force during the year:

	Up-country Cents.	Mid-country Cents.	Low-country Cents.
Men .. .. .	57	55	53
Women .. ..	46	44	43
Children ..	35	34	33

In addition, a dearness allowance varying with the cost of living index was payable. The above rates of wages were paid on the understanding that rice of good quality would be supplied to the estates labourers in specified quantities at specified rates. But in view of the rationing of foodstuffs the requisite quantity of rice could not be issued, and the actual cost of rice and substitute foods was used in the calculation of the dearness allowance. ✓

Rules under Reciprocity (Amendment)  
Act, 1943. †

The Government of India, on 1-12-1944, has gazetted the Reciprocity (South Africa) Rules, 1944, and the Reciprocity (South Africa) (Local Franchise) Rules, 1944, under the Reciprocity (Amendment) Act, 1943, (vide page 25 of our report for 18 August, 1943) imposing certain restrictions on the entry into British India, trade and voting rights of persons not being of Indian origin who are domiciled in the Union of South Africa.

Government has also gazetted under the same Act the Reciprocity (Natal and Transvaal) Rules, 1944, imposing certain restrictions on the acquisition of immoveable property and occupation of land and premises in British India by persons not being of Indian origin who are domiciled in the provinces of Natal or Transvaal of the Union.

(Notification Nos. F.170-2/43-O.S.(4), (5) and  
(6) dated 1-12-1944, the Gazette of India,  
Extraordinary, dated 1-12-1944, pages  
1527-1530). †

Labour Conditions in Mauritius: Royal  
Commission's Findings. †

Much light on the conditions of Indian estate labourers in Mauritius is thrown by the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry appointed by the British Government to inquire into the disturbances that occurred in the island on 27-9-1943 involving loss of life and injuring to certain sugar estate labourers as a result of police firing. Some of the more important findings and recommendations of the Commission are summarised in below. (The bulk of the island's population of less than half a million are Indians who are employed in sugar plantations.)

According to the report the labourers in the island are poor, ignorant and of a low physical standard. Most of them are illiterate and not sufficiently enlightened to understand the aims and principles of trade unionism, with the result that all but two of the 17 agricultural labourers' industrial associations which were established under the Industrial Associations' Ordinance have become defunct, and even of the surviving two one is not a genuine industrial association as conceived by the legislator. The workmen had never been properly organised into industrial associations, the result being that a wide gap has arisen between them and their employers. During the last decade, a change has taken place in the attitude of labourers, and certain employers have found it difficult to reconcile themselves to this change. Some of them fail to appreciate the labourers' claim to a higher standard of living, their new sense of non-economic values and their rising demand for leisure and better conditions of employment and still continue to believe in cheap labour of low standard as being more profitable to employ.

Housing and sanitary conditions, water supply, hospital accommodation and treatment have remained, in some cases, much the same as they

were in 1937 when an earlier commission of inquiry into unrest among sugar estate labour drew attention to these evils. Frequent contacts have not been maintained by the employers with the men and, when made, ~~have~~ have not always been sympathetic. Insistence on legal rights, sometimes with intimidation in view, has been the line frequently followed. Unjustified abuse has not been unknown. Some employers have not displayed that interest in the general welfare and in the personal problems of their labourers which might have been expected of them.

However, the Commission ~~believes~~ believes that enough goodwill exists in responsible quarters, including employers and workmen for arriving at a better understanding. Although the vast majority of the workmen are ignorant and easily misled, they are shrewd enough to know their own interests. Also, there is a growing public opinion which, in the ~~interest~~ interests of the social peace of the island as a whole, insists on the creation and maintenance of such industrial conditions as will avoid the periodic recurrence of industrial disputes.

Recommendations: Conciliation Machinery.- The Commission recommended that the machinery of collective bargaining as set by the Industrial Associations Ordinance, 1938, with slight modifications in the light of experience gained, might be set up once again to deal with labour disputes. But more direct representation should be given to labour, and this will require the careful selection and arduous training of a certain number of workmen so that there may be a greater guarantee that any agreement reached will be fulfilled. The formation of regional industrial committees and a central committee of workmen's representatives is also recommended, along with the establishment of conciliation boards and an arbitration tribunal to which, in the event of conciliation failing, the parties could, by agreement, and with the approval of the Governor, refer their dispute. In special circumstances the Governor shall have the power to order the parties to submit their dispute to the arbitration tribunal for decision. Any award by the arbitration tribunal would be final and binding on both the parties.

Wages Board.- The Commission points out that the monthly paid labourer should normally enjoy the following advantages over the daily paid labourer: (a) housing; (b) medical attention; (c) animal sheds, fodder and fuel; (d) payment of usual salary on estate holidays; (e) land for cultivation; and (f) annual gratuity. But these amenities are not being provided by all the employers. The real wages are considered unduly low and it is this economic grievance that, in the opinion of the Commission, has given rise to so much dissatisfaction among labour. The Commission has, therefore, recommended the creation of a wages board on which employers and workers should be represented, which would sit in perpetual session and to which representations could be made by labourers, employers and the Director of Labour.

Reorganisation of Labour Department.- The Commission also suggests the reorganisation of the Labour Department, which should be relieved of the responsibility to administer the Poor Law. Labour inspectors, who should pass a suitable examination before appointment, should reside at a ~~more~~ convenient centre in the area for which they are responsible. Consideration might also be given to the appointment of a woman inspector to deal with the problems of women workers. The establishment of a central statistical bureau, which would be responsible for the collation and interpretation of statistical information collected by various departments is strongly recommended.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-12-1944 and The Statesman, dated 15-12-1944).

✓  
AGRICULTURE.

Compulsory Redemption of Mortgages in  
Bharatpur State.

With a view to giving relief to indebted cultivators who have mortgaged their holdings, a measure entitled "the Compulsory Redemption of Mortgages of Agricultural Land Act" has been enacted in the Bharatpur State in December 1944.

Provision for restoring Mortgaged Lands to Cultivators.- Within one year of the promulgation of this law, all mortgages of agricultural land in Bharatpur State will be redeemed. The Government will ~~be~~ pay off all mortgages. After investigation by the Dewan and the Council of Ministers, the amount due on all mortgages will be settled according to the principles of the Act and the creditors will be paid cash on their restoring the lands to the mortgagors. Cases not settled will be referred to special courts. Even if a case is not decided, the mortgagor will be put in possession on the expiry of the year, and the creditor will be paid by the Government after the court decides the amount. All mortgages 30 years old are extinguished. On mortgages of shorter duration proportionate amount will be paid.

Provision for Recovery of Advances.- The cultivators will cultivate their lands and pay only rupees seven per cent for 25 years with the annual land revenue. This will satisfy both the principal and the interest. If the land revenue is suspended in any year, the instalment due under mortgage will also be suspended.

Steps to prevent Re-emergence of the evil in future.- Private mortgage of agricultural land has been declared illegal. Sale or mortgage of land by civil court decree has been prohibited. It has been made compulsory for the State Bank to advance money on all legitimate mortgages in future.

(The Leader, dated 14-12-1944)✓

Assam Land Settlement Policy.

At a Conference held at Shillong on 16-12-1944, under the presidency of Sir M. Suddulla, the Premier of Assam, to discuss the land settlement policy of the province, it was agreed that the province should adopt a planned settlement system. It was also decided to settle the land with those immigrants who had entered the province before January 1, 1938. Thirty per cent of the waste land would be reserved for the people of the province and the rest distributed among the landless, both indigenous and immigrant.

(The Hindustan Times, 20-12-1944)✓



Improving Sind Agriculture.

A plan to develop the agriculture of Sind was prepared by Mr. Roger Thomas in the short period during which he was Minister for Agriculture and Post-War Development in the province.

The main features of the plan are: a large composite experimental farm in each district, an intensive drive to popularize the use of sulphate of ammonia and green manures, large scale demonstrations by the Agriculture Department with tractors and disc harrows, training facilities for tractor drivers, import of large numbers of tractors to meet the expected demand from cultivators, extension of fruit and vegetable culture, formation of agricultural associations at every taluka headquarters and expansion of the Agricultural College at Sakrand to meet the prospective demand to staff the Department of Agriculture. Each composite agricultural farm should have separate sections for cattle breeding and dairying with renowned breeds of cattle, and also sections for fruit and vegetable nurseries, multiplication of improved seeds, demonstration plots, field experiments for all crops and for poultry, sheep and goats.

(The Vanguard, dated 11-12-1944).

Government of India to set up Price Stabilisation Committee.

It is understood that the Government of India have decided to appoint a Price Stabilisation Committee to study agricultural prices and suggest measures for establishing prices in the post-war period at a level suitable to both growers and consumers. It is further learnt that Sir V.T. Krishnamachariar has been selected President of the new Committee.

(The Times of India, 13-12-1944 and the Hindustan Times, 21-12-1944).

Jute Purchasing Panel to be set up in Calcutta.

According to a press communiqué dated 5-12-1944 issued by the Government of India, it has been decided to set up at once in Calcutta a jute purchasing panel which will be charged with the duty of buying on behalf of the Central Government raw jute to an extent which will support the jute market at a figure not below a guaranteed minimum prices.

(The Hindustan Times, 7-12-1944).

Problems of Agriculture: Government  
of India to set up Committee of  
Inquiry.

At a meeting of the Southern India Chamber of Commerce held at Madras on 23-12-1944, Sir Jogendra Singh, Member for Education, Health and Lands, Government of India, revealed that the Government proposed to appoint shortly a committee under the chairmanship of Sir V.T. Krishnamachari to inquire into the question of fixing minimum prices for agricultural produce and granting subsidies to farmers, and other allied problems. He also stated that Government was contemplating the establishment of research committees on a number of commodities.

(~~The Statesman, 25-12-1944~~).

5th Conference of the Indian Society of  
Agricultural Economics, Naini Tal (U.P.),  
26-12-1944 to 28-12-1944.

The fifth session of the Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics was held at Naini Tal, U.P., on 26, 27 and 28-12-1944. The session was inaugurated by Mr. L.K. Elmhirst, Agricultural Adviser to the Government of Bengal.

Presiding over the Conference, Sir Manilal B. Nanavati stated that planning in India should be on a sociological basis covering the whole man and every aspect of his life, and should also keep in view the needs and possibilities of the different regions. According to him, Indian agriculture needs, as the first essential, a vast scheme for re-organising Indian agrarian economy by reconstituting holdings on the basis of peasant proprietorship. The cultivator must be pulled out of the vast tangled web of land tenures and tenancies, and adequate measures taken to set him on his own. He was fully convinced that peasant proprietorship, wisely managed, could give India returns in no way inferior to those obtainable from large-sized farms worked on a joint-stock basis. He regretted that the Government of India was unwilling to face the vital issue, namely, defective land system. Other measures suggested by Sir Manilal were, the setting up of a Department of Agriculture at the Centre, which should take a full view of all the problems directly or indirectly having a bearing on agriculture; the creation of a network of research organisations under the Centre's guidance for regular collection of precise data; ~~on all the aspects of the economy;~~ and a rural census which would give a complete idea of the strong and weak points in the social structure of India's rural ~~society~~ society. He concluded that what India needed was a comprehensive plan which would first go to the foundations of India's economic and social structure analysing the root causes of the various evils and providing an adequate organisation for their removal.

Stabilisation of prices, rural labour and post-war agricultural planning were among the main subjects discussed at the conference.

(The Times of India, 27-12-1944 and  
The Leader, dated 29-12-1944). +

24

COOPERATION AND COTTAGE INDUSTRIES.

18th Provincial Cooperative Conference, Bombay,  
11-11-1944 and 12-11-1944.

A number of resolutions pertaining to the growth and development of the cooperative movement in Bombay were adopted by the Provincial Co-operative Conference held at Bombay on the 11th and 12th November, 1944, under the presidentship of Sir T. Vijayaraghavacharya.

Sir John Colville, the Governor of Bombay, inaugurating the Conference referred to the rapid development of cooperative marketing during recent years, and added that it appeared likely that, before long, there will be in the Province a network of co-operative purchase and sale organisations, functioning at district and taluka headquarters and all important marketing centres. He also announced that the Government had under consideration a proposal of the Registrar, which, if sanctioned, would mean that rural societies and central banks would be relieved of all the expenditure over the supervision of rural societies, and the Government would spend an additional Rs. 150,000 over that important item of work.

The Co-operative Movement and Post-war Plans.— The Conference emphasized that the ~~co-operative movement~~ movement should be an integral part of the development plan for the country and hoped that the recommendations made by the Committee appointed by the Bombay Provincial Co-operative Institute to formulate a post-war plan of co-operative development for the province of Bombay would receive due consideration of the Government.

Co-operation and Consolidation of Holdings.— The conference also resolved that with a view to facilitate an essential agricultural reform, consolidation of holdings should be encouraged through co-operative organisations. In order that a recalcitrant minority may not hinder the carrying out of the reform, the conference recommended that legislation should be enacted that when two-thirds of the holders or holders holding two-thirds of the area agree to the making of a consolidation scheme, the remaining holders should be compelled to participate in it.

Co-operative Farming.— Another resolution adopted by the conference recommends that Government should take early steps to introduce co-operative farming in areas where the Land Development Act, 1942, is applied and also in other selected areas with all Government assistance that would be necessary ~~to make them a success~~ by providing, among other measures: (1) ~~financing~~ finance for improvement of land and where necessary, for cultivation; (2) improved implements, seeds, manures, fertilisers, etc., at concession rates; (3) facilities for development of irrigation, prevention of soil erosion, eradication of weeds, etc.; (4) pumping plants for irrigation; (5) facilities for organised marketing; and (6) expert staff for advice, guidance and supervision.

Other resolutions passed by the conference urged the organization of co-operative milk supply societies on Government initiative and with Government aid, of co-operative consumers' wholesale societies for the province and, wherever possible, for the districts, and the extension of co-operative insurance to cover risks of fire and other branches of general insurance.

Housing.Better Housing in Calcutta: City Improvement Trust's 5-Year Plan.

The Calcutta Improvement Trust has recently approved a five year ~~plan~~ scheme costing more than Rs. 30 millions for constructing and remodelling some roads in the city of Calcutta. The programme includes the building of 86 small houses and four blocks of flats for workers and the clearance and development of two workers' areas. It is stated that if these housing proposals prove a success, more of them would be included in future programmes.

A conference of officials and non-officials sponsored by the Government of Bengal with a view to discussing means of improving ~~the~~ housing conditions in Calcutta is being held in the city early in January 1945.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-12-1944 and the Hindu, dated 19-12-1944). ✓

New Quarters for Factory Labourers in Cawnpore.

According to the Vanguard dated 22-12-1944 the Cawnpore Improvement Trust is investing about Rs. 5 millions for constructing 2,500 quarters to accommodate factory labourers in the city. The Trust is reported to be of opinion that the management of the quarters should be entrusted to a co-operative society, as also the responsibility to provide any other amenities required for the labourers. The labour interests concerned are being consulted in regard to the scheme. ✓

(The Vanguard, 22-12-1944). ✓

Housing Shortage in Bombay City: 200,000 living on Pavements.

Addressing a meeting of the Retired Parsi Officers Society at Bombay, Mr. N.V. Modak, City Engineer, Bombay Municipality, drew attention to the acute shortage of housing in the city. The factories and industrial establishments which had come into existence in the city recently, had contributed an additional population of 2 million and about 200,000 people lived on the footpaths and pavements. "It is only Providence that has saved us from an epidemic", he added.

The deplorable conditions under which Bombay's workers are housed are also emphasized in a letter in the 'Indian Social Reformer' by Mr. Kanji Desarkadas, Labour Officer, Sassoon Mills, Bombay. Describing the conditions in the 'living quarters' recently built on the municipal grounds at Worli, he says: The biggest 'rooms' are from 8'X 6'X 5 1/2'

~~each~~  
high, the small 'rooms' about 4'X 3'X 4' high. In the bigger 'rooms' about 8 to 9 workers and their families are living, in the small 'rooms' 3 to 4. The ~~fan~~ hats are made of mats, brown paper, old torn tarpaulin and torn gunny bags. There are no sanitary arrangements, i.e. no latrines, no wash-places, no water facilities. The workers have to walk about 1½ furlongs to the municipal tap to fetch water for their requirements. The open space outside the rooms is used as latrines. The place stinks; the women and children are suffering from eye-sore and skin diseases.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27-12-1944  
The Indian Social Reformer, 25-11-44).

ORGANISATION, CONGRESSES, ETC.

Employers' Organisations.

✓ 26th Annual Meeting of Associated Chambers of Commerce, Calcutta, 14-12-1944.

The 26th Annual ~~General~~ Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India was held at Calcutta on 14-12-1944, Mr. M.W. Mealing presiding. The meeting was formally opened by the Viceroy, Lord Wavell.

Presidential Address.- ~~In~~ his presidential address, Mr. <sup>Mealing</sup>~~Wavell~~ referred to the political situation in India and expressed the Europeans' sympathy with Indian demands. He emphasised that an India, contented, wisely administered, progressing in education and in its standard of living, earning and holding a great place in the comity of nations, can be a great factor for future world peace.

Post-war Problems.- Alluding to post-war reconstruction, Mr. Mealing said ~~that~~ the British commercial community would be happy to offer such co-operation as ~~it~~ might be possible in post-war planning. He said that the extent and speed of national planning depended on many factors, ~~among them, education and transport,~~ <sup>notably</sup> but one of the principal factors to be considered in ~~connection~~ connexion with the future of the country, as related to economic peace and prosperity, ~~the relative standards of living and the urge to greater industrialization~~ was the question of population. He suggested that the prospect of ~~India's~~ India's population reaching 500 million within the next two or three decades, ~~according to an estimate,~~ should not be regarded with equanimity from any point of view at all. Increased industrialization and improved agriculture might be a palliative. But in due course ~~that~~ limit must be reached when the effects of overpopulation would become inevitable unless education could check the increase ~~in the mean time.~~

Food Position.- Mr. Mealing said that one of the principal factors in the inflationary trend was ~~the~~ <sup>the</sup> food situation in 1943. He expressed satisfaction at the manner in which the food and inflation problems had been tackled, and said that the difficult problems of price ~~fixation,~~ fair both to grower and consumer, and of quality had yet to be faced. Far greater supervision is necessary if the consumer is to get fair quality free from extraneous matter in the rationed foodstuffs which he has no alternative but to accept.

Mr. Mealing also referred to the transport and coal problems in the country, and to the problem of India's sterling balances. About the last, he hoped that when the time came to negotiate the ~~basis~~ basis of settlement, India's representatives would be guided by the real long-term interest of the country apart from all political considerations so that the manner of liquidation would be beneficial to India itself.

Viceroy's Address.- The Viceroy in his opening address reviewed the progress of the war, the political situation in the country and the main economic problems facing the country; the salient features of the address are noticed below:

Financial Position.-The Viceroy appreciated the tribute paid to the ~~Government for the measures taken to check inflation,~~ and declared that the strictest watch is necessary to hold off the danger, and that the continued co-operation of the commercial community is essential.

To support the war and all the war projects, more and more money has had to be poured into the financial channels. If all the residue of that money ~~xxxxxxx~~, after it has done its war work, could be brought back into its parent stream by its investment in Government loans, no harm would be done. Unfortunately a considerable proportion of it seeps away out of the proper channels. The overflow of money raises the price-level, also often with disastrous results. To prevent this, controls have been adopted but these are never entirely satisfactory. Small savings is also being encouraged to drain excess money. After emphasising the part played by commodity controls, the Viceroy declared that the Government is trying its best to increase the supply of consumer goods available to the trade and to the public. Generally, the ~~situation~~ report on India's financial front during 1944 is that she has not only held her own, but has gained some ground in the matter of price control.

**Food Problem.-** The Viceroy agreed with the President that the ~~complaints about the~~ quality of grains supplied to deficit provinces have often been well-founded and that the matter required the attention of both the Central and Provincial Governments. These defects of quality have sometimes been aggravated by inadequate storage arrangements. He said that he was trying to have both these defects remedied. Some progress has been made, but there is much more still to be done. During the critical period of 1943, provincial Governments had to concentrate mainly on food grains. They are now trying to improve the supply and distribution of milk, fish, meat, eggs, poultry and other perishable goods. He drew the attention of civilians to the example set by the ~~army in growing of~~ producing its food requirements. The food problem is by no means solved and will be in the country for some years after the war. But there are grounds for far greater confidence than a year ago; and with the cooperation of the public, he hoped that all will be well. Bengal is in a much happier position, convalescent at least if not wholly recovered; and at present the country's anxieties are more in the south ~~India~~ of India. Now that imports of wheat are arriving at a steady rate and in satisfactory quantity, it is rice shortage that is the main trouble. He hoped therefore that Provincial Governments will do their best to persuade all their people who eat wheat and rice, to eat wheat only. So that as much rice as possible may be made available to these who eat rice only.

**Railway Development.-** A comprehensive programme to improve the capacity of the railways is in hand. Large numbers of broad and metre gauge locomotives have been ordered, and many have been ~~planned both~~ received. Very large orders have been placed both in India and abroad for wagons. The entire capacity of India for fabricating railway ~~material~~ material is fully employed. Nearly 20,000 miles of new telephone and telegraph line have been added to the Railway net-work, and radio-communication between Headquarters and Divisions has been introduced. Additional running staffs have been trained and in the railway workshops, maintenance has been given the highest priority, to the exclusion where necessary of war work.

**Coal Position.-** The coal position has been a considerable headache to the Government of India throughout the past year. Now the outlook is less black than it was. ~~yes~~ Production throughout 1944, though below the target, has been greater, month by month, than the corresponding figures for 1943. A considerable amount of machinery for open-cut working has been obtained. It is doubtful if the mining industry will ever be stable or contented until a real effort is made to establish a permanent labour force in good conditions. The suspension of the ban on women working under ground—which the Government of India sanctioned temporarily and with extreme reluctance—was ~~xxxxxxx~~

necessitated mainly by the tendency of the labour to migrate. The miner has a hard and sometimes a dangerous life, and the counter-attractions of surface work in which his wife could take part and earn a wage were too much for him. "If we are to produce all the coal we need for industrial development after the war, it must be worth a man's while to become a whole-time miner, even after the ban on women working below ground has been re-imposed". There should be a real improvement during the early months of 1945.

**Economic Development.**- Dealing with the relative importance of agriculture and industry, he deprecated the tendency to stress industrial advance at the ~~expense~~ expense of agriculture. Industrial ~~expansion~~ expansion should not, and must not, in India, be accomplished at the expense of agriculture, which is still the employment of about three-quarters of the ever-rising population. It is essential that in the country's post-war organization the Indian farmer should be assured of prices for his produce that will both improve his own standard of living and will encourage him to produce the additional food needed for the proper nutrition of the existing population and of its normal growth.

The financing of progress such as India must ~~make~~ make is a very complex problem. No financial jugglery can produce for a nation in the long run greater wealth than that with which it has been endowed by nature in resources of minerals and such like, or which the skill, enterprise and hard work of its population have earned. It is the business of a nation's financial advisers to see that its wealth is fully mobilised, wisely ~~used and so distributed as~~ used and so distributed as to benefit the greatest possible number of the population. They cannot create additional permanent wealth; though they can by a bold financial policy make for a limited period overdrafts on the annual income of the Government to finance projects which will eventually increase the national wealth. By their policy of taxation the Government can prevent the profits of industry becoming concentrated in the hands of the few and from being used for luxury rather than to finance further progress. The ~~immediate~~ immediate difficulty in planning is to estimate what sums are likely to be available in the period after the war. There is a natural tendency on the part of Provinces to seek information from the Centre on the amount they may expect to be allotted to them from Central Revenues; and an equally natural reluctance on the part of the Centre to commit itself to definite figures when there are so many uncertain and incalculable factors. The Centre will do what it can to give guidance to the Provinces; but for the immediate future, India's system of planning must be to see what she requires for each of her many needs; for improvements in agriculture, for developments in industry, for the betterment of health, for the advance of education, for the increase of communications, and so on.

This is the method on which the Government is working. There is already a plan for education, a plan for roads, and shortly there will be a plan for public health, when the Bore Committee reports. There are many hydroelectric and irrigation projects in hand. Once the total bill has been settled, the Government can begin to allot priorities, and make a long-term blue-print for Indian progress.

**Technical Training.**- The Viceroy pointed out that one direction in which it is possible to make progress at once, is in training the ~~in~~ many technicians and experts India will require—in farming, in engineering, in electricity, in chemistry, in fisheries, in building, and so forth. He was aware how woefully short India is not only in



persons trained in the applied sciences but in institutions and facilities for training them. He hoped that India will apply ~~its~~<sup>her</sup> abilities and energies towards these practical branches which will be of such value to her.

One uncertain factor in the finance of post-war planning is, the scale of post-war taxation. India may be a poor country, but he did not believe she is unbearably bowed down at the present by war taxation. He hoped that "when the war against Japan is over, India will decide to declare war—relentless, unremitting war, with the whole nation united—against the savage enemies of peace: poverty, disease, dirt, ignorance". If so, she will have to maintain a war-scale of taxation.

Sterling Balances.— The Viceroy was confident that the entire debt would be honoured. But that did not mean that India will at once, after the war, receive a payment of so many hundred millions in cash. She could not spend such a sum in the international market if she did. The manner of payment of international debts incurred during the war will require much discussion and negotiation. He was sure that in these negotiations, the value and magnitude of India's contribution to the Allied war effort will be recognized; that her needs will be considered; and that the manner of liquidation will be arranged to meet her planned development.

Political Dead-lock.— Dealing lastly with the political dead-lock, the Viceroy did not believe that there are now real differences in principle between India and Britain, or that the communal problem, difficult though it is, is insoluble. But also he did not believe that India could solve her problems by mutual recriminations and by harping on past grievances and mistakes. The best hope lay in working together, without trying to lay down detailed conditions or to decide everything before beginning work. He declared that the major surgical operation involved in Pakistan was not essential. After the past successive failures, he did not think the British Government would come forward once more to solve India's political problem. It has to be solved by India herself; ~~the~~ in this connection, he expressed satisfaction at the move now initiated by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru to form a Conciliation Committee to bring about an agreed solution among Indian parties.

Resolutions.— A summary of the more important resolutions adopted at the meeting is given below:

1) War Risks Insurance.— The ~~resolution~~ resolution on war risks insurance urged that having regard to the continued improvement in the war situation and in view of the substantial amounts standing to the credit of the funds under the schemes for the present, ~~not~~ no further premia be collected in respect of the War Risks (Goods) Insurance scheme and that the payment of premia towards the War Risks (Factories) Insurance scheme cease after 31-3-1945, but that the Government continue to provide cover against war ~~x~~ risks under the schemes and that the position of the two funds be reviewed before the end of the year 1945.

2) Compensation to Victims of Careless Driving by Military Drivers.— One resolution stressed the need of introducing adequate measures to enable the public to recover compensation for damage caused by military ~~the~~ drivers in the course of their duty. The Government was urged to provide the funds required to satisfy any judgment of a civil court obtained against the driver of a Government vehicle, if on duty at the time of the accident.

3) Post-war Trade ~~Control~~ Policy.— One ~~resolution~~ resolution demanded a revision of the present tax system so as to enable the Government's ~~the~~ reconstruction plans to be put into effect without harming the country's industrial structure.

4) Post-war Trade Controls. - While appreciating the necessity for exercising control in time of war over various commodities in order to ensure their most equitable distribution, having regard to the amount of these at the nation's ~~in~~ disposal, a resolution urged that, where there is frequent overlapping and publication by different Ordinances and/or any other war-time emergency legislation, steps should be taken by the Government to ensure that these do not react to the detriment of the normal long-standing legitimate channels of trade. The Association urged on the Government the necessity for an assurance that, as circumstances permit, prompt action will be taken to free trade from unnecessarily irksome control, thus avoiding the danger of unduly prejudicing a return to normal trade in the country.

5) Food Situation. - The last resolution dealt with the food policy of the Government of India and urged the Government not merely to think of the food problem in terms of dealing with the present situation, but ~~should~~ to evolve without delay a longrange policy, which would take into account the requirements of the people both in respect of cereals and protective foods, set targets for production, take steps to see that these targets were realized and, most important of all, to see that the increased production actually went into consumption and thus helped to raise the physical standard of the vast majority of the people in India.

(The Statesman, 15 and 16-12-1944).

12th Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay, 18-12-1944.

The 12th Annual General Meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Bombay on 18-12-1944 under the chairmanship of Sir Homi Mody, president of the Federation. Sir Homi in his address dealt with, inter alia, post-war development plans, state control and protection of industries, control measures and labour legislation.

State Control of Industries. - Referring to the various plans for the post-war economic development of India and the role of the State in the direction of industries, Sir Homi struck a note of warning saying that admiration ~~of~~ for the heroic achievements of Russia must not hustle one into an unquestioning acceptance of State control and regimentation of the economic life of the country. But, at the same time, unregulated capitalism was as much to be avoided as economic regimentation of the type which sought to supplant individual initiative and enterprise by the machinery of the State. Industrial expansion of the country could become an accomplished fact only if the organizing powers of Government were employed as an aid and a corrective to private enterprise, and not for the purpose of an ever-riding control.

Control Measures. - Sir Homi felt that some of the control measures imposed by the Government of India during wartime would be useful if incorporated as a permanent feature of the country's economy. Such controls would be of particular value in the immediate post-war years, when, in the general enthusiasm for expansion, hastily conceived ventures might be embarked upon or enterprises set up at inflated capital costs.

In this connection he welcomed the announcement recently made by Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Member for Planning and Development, Government of India, on the possibility of setting up a permanent Tariff Board, which would deal not only with protection to industries, but ~~in~~ also with problems of industrial development, investment, licensing of factories and the like, in the post-war period. If properly constituted, the Board was likely to be of great help in the solution of the many problems that would confront Government in implementing its policy of an ordered development of industry.

Labour Legislation.- Defining the Federation's attitude towards ~~questioner~~ social security, he said that it had always supported the concept of a better social order and demonstrated its readiness to move with the times. All that it had pressed for was that proper regard must be paid to the special conditions of Indian industry, and that concentration on the conditions of life of a very small section of the population ~~making~~ without any consideration for the general standard of living of the masses could not be regarded as fair and rational. Turning to recent measures of labour legislation, he expressed the opinion that Government was not well advised in introducing the Bill providing holidays with pay for industrial workers (vide page 1 of our report for April, 1944), when many employers themselves had adopted schemes on a more liberal scale than laid down in the Bill. Referring to the proposed legislation on sickness insurance, he said that employers were willing to shoulder their share of the cost involved, as soon as a satisfactory scheme, providing for its equitable distribution between the State, the employers and the workers had been worked out. But the Central Government ~~seemed still undecided~~ about it and the Provincial Governments were opposed to contributing anything to a scheme which would benefit only a particular section of the population.

Sir Homi welcomed the decision of the 26th session of the International Labour Conference to hold an Asiatic Regional Conference and pointed out that it was time such a Conference was held and a Charter drawn up more in keeping with Asiatic conditions, and lending itself more readily to implementation than programmes based on the industrial conditions of Western nations.

Other speakers like Sir Ness Wadia and Mr. Devakaran Nanjee, president of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, also referred to conditions of Indian labour and urged that the many security and welfare measures which Government was proposing for labour could not be given effect to if labour did not respond with a corresponding efficiency in its output.

Office Bearers for 1945.- Sir Homi Mody was unanimously re-elected ~~president of the Federation~~ for 1945 and Sir Henry Richardson, Sir Robert Menzies and Dewan Bahadur C.S. Rathnasabapathy Mudaliar were elected as vice-presidents.

(Summarised from a copy of the speech forwarded to this Office, and the Hindustan Times dated, 19-12-1944). + +

Workers' Organisations.

Progress of Trade Unions in Bengal during  
Year ending 31-3-1943.\*

Number of Unions.- According to the annual report of the Government of Bengal on the registration of trade unions in the province during the year ending 31-3-1943, 80 unions were registered during the year and the certificates of 81 unions were cancelled for failure to submit annual returns. (There were only 31 registered unions at the close of the year 1932-33.) The number, <sup>of unions</sup> has increased steadily, except for a slight fall in 1939-40, to 229 (including a federation) at the end of March 1943. Of the 229 unions, returns were received from only 146 unions, comprising 141 organisations of employees and 5 organisations of employers or businessmen, with a membership of 221,436 and 199 respectively.

Number of Workers.- As compared with the previous year, there was, on the whole, an increase of about 31 per cent in the membership of the unions. The increase was highest among seamen (from 42,442 to 56,151), followed in order by employees in railways (including railway workshops) and other transport excluding tramways (from 66,768 to 77,951), docks and port trusts (from 12,616 to 20,482), municipalities (from 7,770 to 13,630), textile mills (from 15,828 to 20,307), engineering works (from 4,047 to 7,350), tramways (from 1,828 to 4,048) and printing presses (from 1,408 to 2,067). The number of members in unions in miscellaneous industries increased from 15,475 to 19,649. The increase in the total number was 168,182 to 221,635. There was also a marked increase in the number of female members, which rose from 1,690 ~~to~~ at the beginning of the year to 4,340 at its close, ~~the~~ a large majority of whom was employed in municipalities.

Funds.- The total opening balance of the unions was Rs.403,261-5-4, the income was Rs. 968,696-2-1 and the closing balance, Rs.565,955-9-7.5 i.e. an increase of about 40 per cent over the opening balance. No political fund was maintained by any union.

There were no appeals during the year under section 11 of the Act against any decision of the Registrar.

(Indian Labour Gazette, November, 1944 ).\*+\*

The All-India Ministerial Officials'  
Conference, Nagpur, 25-12-1944..

A meeting of the All-India Ministerial Officials' Conference was held at Nagpur on 25-12-1944, Mr. M.B. Laghate, Superintendent of Publicity, Government of Central Provinces and Berar, Presiding.

Speaking about the scale of pay of lower grade Government servants, Mr. Laghate in his presidential address pointed out that the demand for a reasonable and adequate allowance, as also increment in their pay to meet the present abnormally high cost of living, when the prices of necessaries of life had risen from hundred to four hundred per cent, had so far produced very little result. He suggested a uniform allowance

of Rs. 40 per month to all Government servants irrespective of grade and pay, to meet the present needs and thought this was quite a reasonable and modest demand. He also requested the Government to consider the advisability of giving some advance increments to those who were getting Rs. 250 and below. The Madras Government, he ~~said~~, had already appointed a mixed committee of officials and non-officials to go into the question of the inadequacy of the existing scales of pay of its employees, as it considered that the conditions under the post-war period might not change appreciably. Referring to the pension scheme of the Government, he said that the demand for its replacement by a suitable provident fund scheme had been made since several years. The need for this measure was being keenly felt because of the premature deaths that were taking place amongst Government servants before the completion of service. And it was found that they could hardly make any provision for their families from the small pay they received while in service. Mr. Laghate expressed the hope that the Government of India and the Provincial Governments would modify their present orders so as to ensure early confirmation of present officiating and temporary hands in their charge. He also urged that an equitable percentage of the higher grade posts in the services should be thrown open to qualified and competent members of the lower grade cadre.

Resolutions. - The Conference passed a resolution requesting the Government to increase the dearness allowance of the ministerial service. The Conference viewed with ~~great~~ great apprehension the existing orders of the Government regarding reservation of vacancies for candidates with approved war service and called upon the Government to modify the orders and ~~confirm temporary hands~~. Other resolutions urged revision of scales of pay and the introduction of a contributory provident fund scheme instead of the existing pension scheme.

(Amrita Bazar Patrika, 28-12-1944  
and The Times of India, dated  
29-12-1944).

19th Session of All-India Postal and R.M.S.  
Conference, Bombay, 25 and 26-12-1944.

was

The 19th session of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Conference held in Bombay on 25 and 26-12-1944. The Hon. Raja Bahadur Govindlal S. Motilal, Member, Council of State, presided.

A ~~request~~ resolution passed at the Conference urged Government to take effective and adequate steps to give the employees in the subordinate service of the post office and R.M.S. certain uniform scales of pay, with a special pay of Rs. 30 for town inspectors and signallers, with retrospective effect from March, 1942. The conference also demanded compensatory allowance at certain sliding scales according to the population of towns and peculiar conditions of localities.

In the event of Government not conceding the demands of the conference, the General Secretary of the All-India Postal and R.M.S. Union was to issue a referendum to ascertain the views of the branches of the Union and to call a special meeting of the executive Council to decide a further line of action.

(The Times of India, 28-12-1944).

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Second Annual Conference of the Indian  
Federation of Labour, Jamshedpur,  
24 and 25-12-1944.

The second annual Conference of the Indian Federation of Labour was held at Jamshedpur on 24 and 25-12-1944 under the chairmanship of Miss Maniben Kara, president of the Federation.

Presidential Address.- A call to the Indian Federation of Labour to pay attention to post-war problems affecting the working class and prevail upon the Government to give adequate representation to labour in the machinery set up, and to be set up, for considering post-war problems, was made by Miss Maniben Kara in the course of her presidential address. She urged that post-war development must be so planned as to ensure employment of a kind for which the worker had trained, at a place not far removed from his ordinary place of residence and at a wage which would allow him and his family a fair standard of living. Referring to the low standard of wages she said that during war years, there had been a distinct fall in the real wages of Indian workers. Dearness allowances granted to them never kept pace with the rise in the cost of living. On the cessation of hostilities, she said, advantage will be taken by employers of the large scale unemployment and efforts will be made by them to cut down wages and allowances. The Federation therefore had to take steps in time to secure a minimum basic wage in all trades and industries and adequate wage standards all over the country.

Mr. M.N. Roy's Address.- Mr. M.N. Roy, general secretary of the Federation, speaking on trade unions said that trade unionism in India, from the outset, had to work for the subversion of the existing social order, to be able to secure for Indian workers even a partial amelioration of their conditions of living. He felt that trade union activity to be fully effective should be supplemented by political activity aimed at achieving complete social freedom.

Resolutions.- The Conference adopted a resolution criticising the Government of India's labour policy and stating that the Government had no definite and accepted labour policy. A few progressive steps had been taken during the war years. But as these steps had been taken to meet the emergency situation created by the war and not in pursuance of a conscientiously accepted labour policy it was ~~xxx~~ feared that they may be revoked at the end of the war. Such gains secured by the workers during the war could be made permanent and the workers could be assured of an ever-growing share in the growing national income only if Government accepted an enlightened and liberal labour policy and declared its determination to secure its acceptance through rapid and resolute action. The labour policy to be accepted by Government should declare Government's determination to secure to workers all over the country, in the Indian States as well as in British India, the following: (1) A minimum living wage with eight working hours a day; (2) full employment and compensation for involuntary unemployment; (3) provisions for holidays with pay, old-age pensions, sickness insurance, maternity benefits, provident funds, decent housing, sanitation, medical aid, free and compulsory primary education, technical education, etc.; (4) facilities for collective bargaining and negotiation through recognition of trade unions; (5) growing share in profits and conduct of trade and industry; and (6) adequate representation in local legislatures, local bodies and other government and semi-government committees and organisations.

By another resolution the Conference criticised the Government's policy regarding post-war development and pointed out that all plans, ~~xxxxx~~

~~which~~ so far published on behalf of Government were based on social status and benefited only a small minority of the population at the cost of the vast majority. It therefore urged the necessity for a closer association of labour interests in post-war ~~and~~ planning, ~~the~~ both of the Central and the Provincial Governments. The Conference also endorsed a resolution approving ~~the~~ acceptance ~~fixing~~ by the Federation of the Government of India's grant of Rs. 13,000 per month as being entirely consistent with ~~the~~ anti-Fascist principles of the Federation and welfare of the working-class.

Committee on Labour Legislation.- A special Committee of five members was constituted by the Conference to examine all the existing labour laws in India and those brought up from time to time and to make the necessary recommendations to the government.

Membership.- According to the annual report presented at the Conference, the total membership of the Federation was 631,054 and the number of unions affiliated to the Federation was 211.

(The Hindustan Times, 26 and 27-12-1944 and the Vanguard 25 and 28-12-1944) ✓

Miscellaneous.

Conference of National Council of Women in India, Nagpur, 1 to 5-12-1944.

Several resolutions concerning the welfare of women and children have been passed at the ninth biennial conference of the National Council of Women in India, held at Nagpur from 1 to 5-12-1944. Mrs. Naneklal Premchand presided.

By one resolution the Council demanded immediate imposition of a ban on the employment of women underground in coalmines, as the experience of the past one year of their employment had shown that the measure was not only reactionary but futile, the coal situation having worsened during the period. The resolution urged the co-operation of other women's organizations in demanding the setting up of a commission to inquire into the conditions in mines and how they affected women. It also urged the government to institute effective welfare schemes for women and children in coalmines.

By another resolution the Council set forth a scheme for giving special maternity benefits to women workers. Other resolutions demanded the formation of committees in every province to initiate ways and means to increase the supply and distribution ~~of~~ of food, enactment of legislative ~~measures~~ measures to eliminate beggary and the establishment of homes and institutions for the rehabilitation of women and children destitutes in famine-stricken areas. The Council also urged the Government to enforce and strengthen the existing legislation against child marriages, and to encourage women teachers by raising the scale of their salaries.

(The Statesman, 6-12-1944). ✓

Kasturba National Memorial Fund: Scheme for  
UPLIFT OF VILLAGES WOMEN AND CHILDREN .

A sum of Rs. 8 million has been collected by non-official agencies in India for the Kasturba National Memorial Fund, a fund in memory of the late Mrs. Kasturba Gandhi, wife of Mahatma Gandhi. The objects of the fund, which are confined to the women and children, (male children over seven years not included) in rural areas in India, are:

(1) Conduct and promotion of such charitable activities as would conduce to the general welfare of the condition of the poor and needy women and children; (2) Establishment and management of hospitals and charitable dispensaries, maternity homes, child welfare centres and institutions of similar nature such as ante-natal and post-natal clinics, convalescent houses and sanatoria, leper ~~and~~ colonies, etc., and homes for women and children in the rural areas; (3) Provision of sanitary facilities and preventive measures for safeguarding health; (4) Encouragement of primary education, training in handicrafts, cottage industries and other useful crafts and arts; and (5) Training of women for carrying out any of these activities. Assistance will be given from the fund by way of grants and contributions to any existing institutions which have been carrying out in the rural areas of India, work falling within all or any of the objects.

The fund will be administered by a Board of Trustees of which Mahatma Gandhi is the Chairman and Mr. A.V. Thakkar the Secretary.

(The Hindustan Times, dated  
1-12-1944).+

Advisory Committee on Population Problems  
appointed by Government of India.

According to a press note of the Government of India dated 4-12-1944, a small expert committee has been appointed to examine and advise the Government on the available data relating to the growth of population in India. It is pointed out that, as the tabulation of census figures in the 1941 Census was curtailed, life tables and other census material which normally provide a basis for ~~making~~ a forecast of future population growth are not available. The committee consists of Mr. W.H. Yeatts, Census Commissioner (1941 Census)-Chairman; Sir Theodore Gregory, Economic Adviser to the Government of India; Prof. P.C. Mahalanobis, Director, Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta; Prof. K.B. Madhava, Head of the Department of Mathematical Economics and Statistics in the Mysore University; and Rao Bahadur Dr. K.C.K.E. Raja, Secretary to the Health Survey and Development Committee.

(The Statesman, 5-12-1944).+



Congress Plan for training 100,000 Social Workers. \*

A body of social workers whose strength is expected to exceed 100,000 is now in the course of formation under the auspices of the Indian National Congress. These workers will organise and conduct social and economic uplift work in the 700,000 odd villages of India.

For organising these workers a central agency known as the Samiti is being formed, and institutions are to be set up in the provinces to train ~~them~~ them and control their work later on in the villages.

Course and Curriculum.- The workers will be selected from all communities and will have nothing directly to do with politics. The training will be ~~for~~ for a period of four years, and selected candidates will receive scholarships for the duration. The minimum educational qualification for enlistment as a village worker has been fixed as the matriculation standard. After enlistment, candidates will be given further education according to a curriculum which includes agriculture, weaving, animal husbandry, ~~husbandry~~ husbandry, sanitation, health, village industries, etc. They will get this training not only in the institutions to be set up in the provinces, but also in the villages where the training will be ~~practical~~ practical. Only those candidates will be accepted who have made service the ~~note~~ note of their life.

Duties of Workers and pay.- Workers, after training, will be posted in villages to ~~assist~~ assist the villagers and help to start village industries and organise other activities calculated to make the villages prosperous. They will be paid, from the time they are posted in villages, a remuneration not exceeding Rs. 100 per mensem. This amount will, however, be gradually reduced as the candidate starts earning in the village. Eventually, a worker is expected to become not only self-supporting but also increase considerably his income.

(The Times of India, 12-12-1944)..

Marriage Reforms in Bharatpur State.

The Bharatpur State in a Gazette Extraordinary issued in the first half of the December 1944 publishes two important legislative measures relating to marriage of Hindu widowers and acceptance of dowry in marriages. One of these lays down that no Hindu widower above the age of 50 years shall be entitled to marry a girl below the age of 25. The other prescribes imprisonment which may extend to two years or a fine up to Rs. 1,000 or both for the acceptance of dowry in connection with the marriage of a Hindu.

(The Hindu, 20-12-1944)..

PUBLIC HEALTH.

Hospitals in Coalfields: Central Government's Scheme.

The Government of India has, it is understood, as a coalmine welfare measure, decided to open a central hospital and three feeder hospitals in each of the two important coalfield areas, namely, Jharia and Raniganj. These hospitals will be maintained under the Health Boards at Dhanbad and Asansol, the Central Government contributing a good share of all the expenses out of the coalmines Welfare Cess Fund.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-12-1944).

Council of Physical Education and Recreation formed in U.P.

A Council of Physical Education and Recreation for the United Provinces was formed at an informal meeting of officials and non-officials held at Government House, Lucknow, on 7-12-1944, Sir Maurice Bisset, the Governor, presiding. The Council aims at investigating and giving advice to Government on matters relating to the maintenance and improvement of the physical well-being of the people of the province by means of exercises, recreation and ~~health~~ diet. Financial support to the council was assured by the Governor on behalf of the Government. An executive committee of the council has been formed with the Educational Adviser to the Government as chairman.

(The Leader, dated 9-12-1944).

The U.P. Provincialisation of Hospitals Bill, 1944.

The U.P. Government has on 21-12-1944 gazetted the U.P. Provincialisation of Hospitals Bill, 1944, to provide for the transfer of the ownership, administration and control of certain non-Government hospitals in the Province to the Provincial Government. The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out: "It is, in the opinion of Government, urgently necessary to improve the medical facilities in the Province, but improvements are rendered difficult by reason of the fact that the finances of the district boards which are primarily responsible for medical relief in a district are very limited. The Government therefore consider that the position would be more satisfactory if the district boards were relieved of the responsibility of, and expenditure on, maintaining such hospitals and such hospitals were taken over and maintained out of Provincial funds. These conditions may also apply to certain hospitals maintained by private trusts and municipal boards."

(The U.P. Gazette, dated 23-12-1944, Part VII, page 24).

Increased Incidence of Malaria in Assam and Bengal.

Dr. G.C. Ramsay, Principal, Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene in India, who recently toured many tea, coffee, rubber and cardamom estates and other industrial concerns in various parts of India to study the malaria position, in an interview to the 'Statesman' in Calcutta, drew attention to the great increase of malaria in India. Reviewing the situation, he said that there had been a general increase in the incidence of malaria, particularly in Assam and Bengal. In these two provinces epidemic conditions had been prevailing in areas where little or no anti-malaria activities had been carried out. Tea, rubber, coffee and cardamom estates in South India presented a different picture. Here, owing to the adoption of excellent anti-malaria measures, there had been little or no appreciable rise in the incidence of the disease.

Among the possible reasons for this rise in the incidence of malaria, Dr. Ramsay mentions, the introduction of new strains of malaria parasites particularly in Assam and Bengal by Allied troops from abroad, evacuees from Burma and labourers moving into northern India from the other provinces; the reduction in the number of domestic animals in Assam and Bengal which has forced malaria parasites to feed on human beings; the malnutrition to which the people have been subjected; and the inability of the authorities to obtain the necessary larvicides and insecticides as well as the drugs for treatment.

In these circumstances, according to Dr. Ramsay, anti-larval, anti-mosquito and all other possible measures are now more necessary than ever before to prevent malaria.

(The Statesman, 6-12-1944).

21st All-India Medical Conference, Cawnpore  
26, 27 and 28-12-1944.

The 21st session of the All-India Medical Conference was held at Cawnpore on 26, 27 and 28-12-1944. Dr. Jivraj N. Mehta presided.

Dr. Mehta's Presidential Address. - In his presidential address, Dr. Mehta drew attention to the paucity of medical relief in India, especially in the rural areas, where there is hardly one qualified medical practitioner to every 30,000 of the population. He emphasized the importance of preventive or precautionary treatment and urged closer attention in schools and colleges to physical training and formation of proper habits of life. For the country as a whole preventive measures of collective application must be used to eliminate malaria, smallpox, cholera, plague, etc. Referring to the public health service in India, Dr. Mehta urged that the public opinion of the country must be mobilised to press upon the Government the need to adopt immediate steps for organising an adequate and efficient public health and medical service as soon as possible. In order to attract more doctors to the villages, he suggested higher grades of pay to the medical practitioners recruited to serve in rural areas. Such village doctors should pass through a specially organised course of training in village sanitation and public health. Dr. Mehta also referred to the gravity of the food problem in India, the need for an adequate Indian drug industry, the inadequacy of medical facilities and the poor diet in jails, and to the failure of the



EDUCATION.

Educational Scheme for Madras: Sub-Committee's Decisions.

The Education Sub-Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction Committee of the Government of Madras, at its meeting held at Madras ~~early~~ in December 1944, considered in detail the report on Educational Post-War Reconstruction in the Province prepared by Sir Meverel Statham, Director of Public Instruction, Government of Madras. Below are noticed some of the more important decisions of the Sub-Committee.

Compulsory Education.- It was agreed that compulsory education for both boys and girls of all communities should be introduced throughout the province, in the first place, from standards I to V, to be extended by stages to the VI, VII and VIII standards. Welfare Officers invested with legal powers should be appointed to implement compulsory attendance. Free mid-day meal should be provided for poor children.

Pre-Primary and Secondary Education.- It was agreed that no special steps ~~need~~ be taken in regard to pre-primary education. Where creches are in existence, e.g., in factories, provision should be made for proper instruction and supervision. A special enquiry should be held on the physically and mentally handicapped children in the Province before a programme of advancement is drawn up.

In regard to secondary education it was agreed that in the scheme ~~of expansion of boys' schools~~ it should be ensured that backward areas should be provided with the same facilities as forward areas. All educational institutions, especially secondary schools, would be supplied with equipments for visual instruction, such as projectors and films, and increased use should be made of the radio and bread-casting for general educational purposes.

Women's Education.- ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ Special provision should be made for elementary schools for girls in all areas in which co-education was not fully possible and the number of secondary schools for girls should be increased, as also Arts and Training Colleges for women.

Greater stress should be laid on physical education and medical inspection.

Teachers' salary to be raised.- The Committee agreed that one of the major post-war educational reforms should be the improvement of teachers' salaries; that every effort should be made to introduce the minimum scales suggested in the report of the Central Advisory Board of Education; that a minimum salary of Rs. 20 should be laid down for any class of teacher under any management; and that the cost of the enhanced scales should, in the case of aided and local-body schools, be borne by the Government to the extent the management could not be made to share it. Increased scales of pay have also been agreed upon for higher grade teachers, teaching staff in colleges and also administrative staff in the Education Department.

Employment of Ex-Service Men.- The Committee also resolved that in all ~~grades~~ of institutions preference should be given to the returning soldier in the matter of employment, e.g., as teachers, physical instructors, instructors in ~~some~~ technical subjects, pre-veccational instructors in higher elementary schools, etc — whenever he is suitably qualified though not technically qualified under the rules; that special starting salaries, within the scales then existing, should be offered to the soldiers, where necessary; and that returning soldiers who were

desire of obtaining employment in educational and allied institutions, but could not obtain it without special training, should be given every facility for being trained, completely free of cost, in agricultural, industrial, technical and teachers' training institutions and should be given a guarantee of preferential treatment in regard to employment.

(The Hindu, dated 9-12-1944).

Post-war Education Committee in U.P.

A Committee of experts appointed by the U.P. Governor to discuss the post-war development schemes of the Education Department, met in the second week of December, 1944, at Lucknow. Dr. Pannalal, Adviser to the Governor, presided.

The meeting was of opinion that compulsory education should be introduced in selected areas till the whole province was covered. It thought that it should be possible to achieve the desired results in about 10 years, if the scheme worked successfully. Compulsion was to be applied to children between the ages of 5 and 13 years. The meeting also noted with approval the government's proposal to add a large number of girls' high schools throughout the Province, and as regards the education of depressed classes, it was decided that there should be no separate schools and that full facilities should be given to the members of the depressed classes to read in the ordinary state schools, and liberal assistance by way of stipends should be afforded to them.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-12-1944).

Compulsory Education Drive in Bombay.

A compulsory education drive to make the public of Bombay realise their duty of sending their children to school, was launched in the city by the Municipal Schools Committee on 1-12-1944. About 3000 teachers were to scour round the streets and lanes of Bombay for 15 days propagating this drive.

Mr. Nagindas T. Master, Mayor of Bombay, inaugurating the drive said that the popularisation of compulsory education was the chief concern of the Corporation and suggested that the meetings should be followed by frequent visits to the parents of children in order to persuade them to give their children the benefit of compulsory education.

(The National Call, 3-12-1944).

Penicillin Control Board Appointed.

~~The Government of India has recently constituted a board to direct and regulate the distribution of penicillin in the country. The board consists of five members with the Director General of Indian Medical Services as Chairman.~~

~~(The Bombay Chronicle, 15-12-1944).~~

All-India Council of Technical Education to be Constituted.

It is understood that an All-India Council of Technical Education is being formed by the Government of India. The Provincial Governments have been invited to send representatives to this Council which is expected to commence functioning early in 1945. The Council is expected to undertake a survey of the country with a view to ascertaining the requirements of different areas so far as technical schools and institutions are concerned. It is learnt that several important Indian States have expressed their willingness to co-operate with the scheme.

(The Hindu, dated 30-12-1944).†

SOCIAL POLICY IN WAR TIME.

Wages.

Principles for grant of Compensation for Involuntary Unemployment: Criticisms of E.P.F.U.C.+

As a result of the discussions on the subject of compensation for involuntary unemployment of industrial workers due to the shortage of coal and raw materials or changes in lines of production, at the Tripartite Labour Conference held in September 1943 (vide pages 6-10 of our report for August, 1943), the Government of India has formulated certain principles for the grant of compensation which are noticed below. It is learnt that these principles have already been circulated to Provincial Governments and also brought to the notice of certain individual States. (The action taken by the Government of Madras in this regard was referred to at page 43 of our report for September, 1944).

Kinds of Employment Covered.- The proposals related only to short term unemployment during the period of the war due to shortage of coal or raw materials or changes in lines of production of which adequate notice cannot be given. They do not cover closures of factories or of departments due to special Government orders ~~of~~ and also closures of which adequate notice is given under standing orders. All industries should be covered whether engaged on war industry or otherwise.

Rates of Benefits and Duration.- The benefits which should be on a scale lower than the ordinary rate of pay may be fixed in either of two ways :- (i) Either 75 per cent of the ordinary rate of pay for the first fortnight of unemployment and 50 per cent of the ordinary rate of pay for the second fortnight of unemployment with possibly a flat rate of benefit for persons drawing lower levels of incomes, or (ii) a flat rate which would be about 75 per cent of the average of lower range of wage rates in the undertaking. The duration of benefit should be one month allowing for a waiting period of seven days (payment however should be made from the first day of unemployment provided it lasts longer than the waiting period). This ~~next~~ ~~of~~ ~~benefits~~ will ~~be~~ not qualify a worker for bonuses determined by reference to earnings over any period. The cost of benefits will be admitted as revenue expenditure for income-tax and Excess Profit Tax purposes.

Conditions of Payment.- To qualify for benefit a worker must be present at a muster roll once a day at his usual place of employment or, with the permission of the employer, at any other place. A worker will be ineligible for benefit if he unreasonably refuses to accept any work that is offered to him even if it were of a different sort in his usual factory, or, provided it is in the same locality, in another department of the same undertaking or in another industry altogether. Any dispute, whether an objection to transfer was reasonable or not will be decided by the Government. For the transfer of labour from one industry to another, use will be made of the employment exchanges in respect of unskilled and semi-skilled personnel and of the unskilled labour supply committee in respect of unskilled labour.

Employer's Liability.- The liability to pay the benefit will be on the employer. The employer will not be entitled to discharge during the benefit period, any worker who has been in continuous employment with him or in the same industry in that locality for a period of not less than three months.



Disputes on questions of payment may be referred to the adjudicator under Rule 81-A of the Defence of India Rules.

Criticisms of B.P.T.U.C.- The Bombay Provincial Trade Union Congress at a meeting held at Bombay on 23-10-1944 adopted several resolutions criticising the principles referred to above . The following are some of the points raised:

- I. The proposals should apply to all factories or departments irrespective of the fact whether the closure is due to special Government orders or not. Also, there is no justification for not giving compensation for closures of which notice has been given.
- II. The period of compensation should not be limited and payment should be made during the whole period of enforced idleness.
- III. The rates should be raised substantially and be based on the total earnings of the workers, including dearness allowance, and not only on the basic wages or pay.
- IV. The provision prescribing a waiting period should be deleted.
- V. The clause disqualifying workers receiving unemployment benefit for securing bonuses determined by reference to earnings over any period should be dropped.
- VI. The condition regarding attendance at roll calls every day is unnecessary. The work offered should generally be one to which the worker is accustomed.
- VII. Payments should be made with retrospective effect.

(The Trade Union Record, October, 1944 ).

Bonus for Bombay Cotton Mill Operatives For 1944.

The General Body of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recommended an annual bonus to operatives of member mills equivalent to one-sixth of their total earnings during 1944. The bonus will be calculated on earnings exclusive of dearness allowance.

(Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association, Bombay, during October, 1944 ).

Increased pay for Indian Armed Forces.

Further increase in pay for members of the Indian armed forces was announced by the Government of India in a press note issued on 14-12-1944.

Officers.- According to the press note all officers who have completed three or more years of service will receive increased pay at following rates with effect from 3-9-1944: Officers of the rank of major to brigadier, inclusive, in the army and of equivalent rank in the Royal Indian Navy and Indian Air Force, on completion of war service totalling three years—Rs. 69, four years—Rs. 92, five years—Rs. 115 and six years—Rs. 138. Officers of the rank of captain and below in the army and of equivalent rank in the Royal Indian Navy and Indian

Air Force, on completion of war service totalling three years—Rs. 51, four years—Rs. 68, five years—Rs. 85 and six years—Rs. 102. Viceroy's Commissioned Officers, on completion of war service totalling three years—Rs. 10, four years—Rs. 13, five years—Rs. 16 and six years—Rs. 19.

Other Ranks.— As regards ratings and other ranks and enrolled non-combatants, whose war service increments will be effective as for others, from 3-9-1944, the Government of India has decided that they will receive half of the war service increments in cash with their normal emoluments, and the remaining half will be deferred and paid to the individual concerned on promotion to Indian or Viceroy's commissioned rank, or on transfer to the reserve, discharge or demobilization.

Their rates of increment will be:— Indian other ranks of and above the rank of havildar in the army and equivalent ranks in the Royal Indian Navy and Indian Air Force on completion of war service totalling three years—Rs. 6, four years—Rs. 8, five years—Rs. 10 and six years—Rs. 12. Indian other ranks below the rank of havildar or equivalent, on completion of war service totalling three years—Rs. 4, four years—Rs. 6, five years—Rs. 8 and six years—Rs. 10. Non-combatants enrolled, on completion of war service totalling three years—Rs. 2-8, and four years—Rs. 3-8, five years—Rs. 4-8 and six years—Rs. 6.

War service for the grant of these increments will be reckoned from ~~3-9-1939~~ 3-9-1939. In addition to this, it is stated, Government is having under consideration the question of the grant of a ~~special~~ special Japanese campaign pay for the Indian Forces.

(The Statesman, 15-12-1944)..

Committee to Inquire into Grievances of  
Bombay Lower Grade Postal Staff.

The Committee of Inquiry appointed by the Government of India to inquire into the grievances of the lower-paid postal staff in Bombay City and Poona (vide page 34 of our report for November 1944), has been expanded by the inclusion of Mr. V.G. Dalvi, a Representative of the postal Unions, and its terms of reference have been announced. It will examine the demands of the Postmen's Union and the Post Office Lower Grade Staff Unions of Bombay and Poona with special reference to: (1) the pay, allowances and conditions of service of the staff concerned; (2) the increase in the cost of living for the staff since the outbreak of the war; (3) any evidence available to show the total income requirements of a family in order to maintain itself on a reasonable standard taking into account the local prices, house rent and present conditions of living; (4) the extent to which the staff are now indebted; (5) the ~~aff~~ effect of the war in increasing employment in the families and dependents of the staff; and (6) the effect of the war in regard to accelerated promotion for the staff and other members of their families.

~~It~~ The inquiry will be limited to the postmen and lower grade staff principally of Bombay and Poona, but the Committee may indicate to what extent its findings are of general application.

(The Hindustan Times, 11-12-1944).

Postal Workers in Madras and U.P.  
demand inquiry.

The lower grade postal staff in the United Provinces and in Madras Presidency are demanding the appointment of Inquiry Committees for considering their demands relating to an increase in dearness allowance and an increase in ~~ix~~ salaries.

According to a letter of the Secretary of the U.P. Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union (including R.M.S.) published in the Leader, 22-12-1944, a notice under sec. 15 of the Trade Dispute Act has already been served on the Postmaster-General, U.P., and the Labour Member of the Government of India, on November 25, on behalf of the U.P. Provincial Postmen and Lower Grade Staff Union, to the effect that if no inquiry committee or conciliation committee is appointed by the Government within 14 days of the receipt of the said notice, the members of the Union shall go on strike within a month from the date the notices are received by them.

The Madras Presidency Postmen's and Lower Grade Staff's Union at a general meeting held at Madras on 23-12-1944 passed a resolution deciding to submit an application under the Trade Disputes Act to the Government of India to appoint a Court of Inquiry for settling the dispute relating to dearness allowance, abolition of the new scales and the raising of the basic scales and pensionary benefits.

(The Leader, dated 22-12-1944 and the Bombay Chronicle, 26-12-1944)..

Standard Rates fixed for Unskilled Labour  
in Sind.

A meeting of the Sind Provincial Labour Supply Committee (vide page 26 of our report for June 1944) was held recently under the chairmanship of Mr. S. Ridley, Chief Secretary to the Sind Government. The Committee recommended that except for heavy work tasks requiring special piece rates, the standard rate for an adult male unskilled worker should be Re. 1-8 per day, for 8½ hours work in the day time, under conditions where the workman expects to be employed for one whole month of 26 ~~working~~ working days; and that work done in excess of 8½ hours should be paid over time pro rata per hour. The committee decided that the standard rate should be made compulsory and should apply to the whole of Sind.

The Committee considered that the available supply of local labour was inadequate to meet the urgent requirements of defence works. To meet these urgent demands, it recommended the setting up of a labour supply depot at Karachi, which should receive imported labour from Gorakhpur or any other area from which it can be had.

(The Hindu, 26-12-1944 and The Statesman, 27-12-1944) J.

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Industrial Disputes.

Adjudication of Industrial Disputes: New  
Sub-Rules under D.I.R. 81 A.

The following sub-rules under Rule 81 A of the Defence of India Rules have been gazetted by the Government of India on 30-12-1944: (In rule 81A of the Defence of India Rules, after sub-rule (1), the following sub-rules shall be inserted, namely:-

"(1A) Where a trade dispute referred for adjudication under clause (c) of sub-rule (1) has arisen only in a particular undertaking or group of undertakings, the Central Government may include in the adjudication proceedings any other undertaking either on its own initiative or on an application received in this behalf, whether a trade dispute exists at the time in that undertaking or not, provided that the Central Government is satisfied;

(a) that the undertaking to be so included is engaged in the same line of industry or business as the undertaking or the group of undertakings in which trade dispute referred for adjudication has arisen; and

(b) that the inclusion of the undertaking in the adjudication proceedings will not materially delay the award; and

(c) that the issues involved in the trade dispute referred for adjudication have already given rise, or are such as, in the circumstances, may reasonably be expected to give rise, to a similar dispute in the undertaking to be so included.

(1B) Where an undertaking has been included in adjudication proceedings under sub-rule (1A) the provisions of this rule and of any order or award made thereunder shall (save as may be expressly provided to the contrary in any such order or award) apply to and in relation to such undertaking as they apply to and in relation to any undertaking or group of undertakings in which the trade dispute referred for adjudication has arisen".

(Notification No. 5-DC (87)/44, dated 30-12-1944, the Gazette of India, dated 30-12-1944, Part I, Sec.1, page. 1666 ). ✓

Employment.

Control of Advertisement for Technical  
Personnel in Bombay.

In exercise of powers conferred by the National Service (Technical Personnel) Rules, 1940 (vide page 34 of our report for June, 1940), the Chairman of the National Service Labour Tribunal, Bombay, has on 11-11-1944 notified an order for controlling the issue and publication of advertisements for certain specified classes of technical personnel. In a statement explaining the object of the order it is pointed out: "Being attracted by higher emoluments, technical personnel employed on war work often apply for vacancies advertised in newspapers and periodicals. After selection, the Tribunal refuses permission to leave employment, by either malingering or absconding and war work suffers. It has, therefore, become necessary to control the issue of advertisements for technical personnel".

The order is to the effect that no advertisement for technical

Employment.

A.R.P. in Bengal to be disbanded..

According to a press note of the Government of Bengal issued on 18-12-1944, the Government has decided to disband the A.R.P. and other civil defence organizations throughout Bengal, except in parts of East Bengal and certain other areas, including the Calcutta industrial area.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-12-1944)..

Compensation for War Injuries.

The War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Amendment Ordinance, 1944.

The Government of India has on 18-12-1944 promulgated the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Amendment Ordinance, 1944, to amend the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act, 1943 (vide page 32 of our report for August, 1943). Under this Ordinance the scheme for giving compensation to workers sustaining war injuries has been extended to all Presidency and Administered Areas and to French establishments in India. ~~It has been found that the amount of premium received from small employers is less than even the cost of issuing a policy.~~ The amending Ordinance, therefore, exempts all employers whose wage bill is less than Rs. 1,500 per quarter from liabilities under the War Injuries (Compensation Insurance) Act. The workers of such employers will, however, receive compensation from the General Insurance Fund.

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated 18-12-1944, pages 1555-56 and the Hindustan Times, dated 19-12-1944)..

Control Measures.

The Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1944.

The Government of India, on 13-12-1944, promulgated the Hoarding and Profiteering Prevention (Second Amendment) Ordinance, 1944 (Ordinance No. LIII of 1944) under which if an article is sold at an unreasonable price, the dealer, producer, manager, or any other person in charge of the shop shall, in addition to the salesman, be liable to prosecution unless it is proved that care had been taken to prevent profiteering. ~~It is also provided that in assessing the cost of production of a limited article only those prices of component parts or raw materials as conform to the provisions of the Ordinance will be taken into account.~~ Summary trials will be given to cases and fines in any amount may be imposed for contravention of the provisions of the Ordinance. ~~The Controller-General of Civil Supplies, Government of India, has been given the power to prohibit sales with a view to effecting better distribution of existing stocks.~~

(The Gazette of India, Extraordinary, dated 13-12-1944, pages 1545-1548 and the Statesman, dated 14-12-1944)..

Personnel of certain specified classes shall be issued or published by any industrial undertaking in any newspaper or periodical except through the approval of the Manager, Employment Exchange, Bombay. Also, no candidate selected in consequence of any approved advertisement shall be placed in employment if he is employed in any industrial undertaking, training establishment, or office or department under the Crown, without the approval of the Chairman of the Tribunal.

The classes specified are 21 in number and include: aircraft mechanics, blacksmiths, boiler makers, carpenters, chemical assistants, draughtsmen, electricians, fitters, machinists, moulders, plumbers, turners and welders.

The control will apply not only to advertisements published by private industrial undertakings, but also to those issued by Departments of the provincial as well as the Central Government. The Tribunal may make suggestions regarding variations in the terms and conditions of service offered by the advertisers and will, inter alia, take the following factors into consideration: (1) Whether the technical personnel can be secured without the proposed advertisement, for example, from men on the registers of the Employment Exchanges at Bombay and Ahmedabad; (2) Whether the technical personnel required are needed by other undertakings for work of greater national importance; and (3) Whether the terms offered are likely to upset the labour employed in other industries.

(The Times of India, 23-11-1944).

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Food.

Government Monopoly in Procurement of  
Food Grains: Mr. Somerset Butler's  
Report.

A report advocating Government monopoly in regard to procurement of food grains has recently been submitted to the Government of India by Mr. Somerset Butler, Special Officer, Department of Food, Government of India. The report points out that the monopoly procurement measures adopted by the Government in various parts of the country have met with considerable success and that both officials and non-officials are generally agreed on its efficacy. One aspect of the scheme which is stressed to be of great importance is the fact that prices can be, and are being, fixed and maintained at one level for the whole crop year. At this point he says: "To be able to achieve, by monopoly procurement, control in deficit areas, sufficient to institute fixed prices at predetermined levels and be confident of maintaining these prices must, in my view, be the final and decisive argument against all those opposed to Government monopolies". Mr. Butler suggests that sufficient progress has been made in food control in India to warrant consideration of the question as to whether the control should not, either in its present or some modified form, be used on a long-term basis as a means of stabilizing the economy of the country from the food and agrarian points of view.

He points out that where procurement is under Government monopoly, responsibility must be taken for distribution even in rural areas. The arrangements for rural distribution vary in different parts. In most of these areas, where the monopoly is on the basis of an assessment and requirement of individual surpluses, cards are being issued to all those families who do not produce grain or have not received it legitimately or services rendered. Travancore and Kolhapur and the Deccan States have gone further. There, a ration card is issued to the head of every family in the State, regardless of whether he is a producer or has other private but legitimate means of access to grain. Those with adequate private resources have their cards cancelled. Those with resources sufficient for a part of the year have their cards cancelled for that part of the year. Mr. Butler thinks that this is the soundest method of distribution, particularly if it is backed by a statutory rationing order, and suggests that rural rationing on these lines should be the order wherever monopoly procurement is in force.

Among Mr. Butler's recommendations are: (1) Great attention should be paid to the cultivator being allowed to retain from his produce, grain sufficient for his needs. One of the most vital aspects of monopoly procurement is to assure the cultivator that his interests as well as those of his dependents and of his village are protected; (2) There should be greater co-ordination between adjoining States and provinces in the fixing of procurement prices than there is at present. Apart from other considerations, this would serve as an effective check against smuggling. The Central Government should soon be taking a more direct interest in specific price fixation as against fixation of statutory maximum prices. (3) Under Government monopoly, the activities of the wholesale trade should be confined to acting as Government Agents for the purpose of handling; (4) The importance of adequate inspection organisations is emphasised, and it is stated that until a proper inspectorate is set up under every food control administration, the difficulties which

are continually cropping up over quality, deterioration, loss of grain, etc., will continue. It is recommended that an Inspection Directorate be set up in the Food Department in order that there should be direction and expert advice from the Centre; and (5) There should be a specific branch in each food grain administrative agency to deal with bribery and corruption.

(The Hindustan Times, 4-12-1944).+

Panel of Scientists for Manufacture of Processed Foods.

To utilize the scientific talent of the country in the manufacture of processed food, the Food Department of the Government of India is shortly establishing a panel of distinguished scientists under the chairmanship of Sir S.S. Bhatnagar. It has also been decided to set up a fully equipped laboratory at the service of the Food Department where samples would be kept and tests performed under the supervision of trained personnel. The laboratory is expected to be ready during the course of the current month, and will be under the supervision of Dr. B.C. Guha who is at present touring U.S.A. to acquaint himself with recent developments in dehydration.

(The Hindustan Times, 17-12-1944).†



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Post-War Reconstruction.

First Meeting of Policy Committee on Shipping,  
Bombay, 7-12-1944.

Exploratory discussions relating to the post-war shipping policy of the Government of India took place at the first meeting of the Policy Committee on Shipping, held in Bombay on 7-12-1944.

The basis of the discussions was a memorandum circulated among the members of the Committee, indicating in broad outline the approach made to the problem by the Commerce Department. The memorandum inter alia declared that the Government of India is pledged to a policy of assisting in the development of an Indian mercantile marine, and that the acquisition of an adequate share in the world's carrying trade should be the aim of India's post-war shipping policy. For a country of its size, the length of its coastline and its strategic position athwart one of the world's main sea routes, according to the memorandum, India possesses a distressingly small number of deep-sea ships which, at the outbreak of the war, stood at no more than 30, with less than 150,000 gross tonnage. India's weakness in this respect has long been recognised, and the Government of India is pledged to a policy of assisting in the development of an Indian mercantile marine. So far, however, the action taken to implement this undertaking has been limited to the establishment of the "Dufferin" for the training of executive officers, the provision of special facilities for the training of marine engineers and to using Government's good offices to promote a settlement between the Indian and British companies operating on the coast with regard to the division of the available trade between them.

The vulnerability of India's position has been revealed by the stress of war-time conditions, but by no circumstances more glaringly than by her inability to find adequate shipping from her own resources to provide for the transport of the food supplies required by her. The rectification of this state of affairs should be one of the immediate post-war objectives, not only ~~as~~ for commercial reasons but also because the development of the Royal Indian Navy necessarily implies the concurrent development of the merchant navy.

The acquisition of an adequate share in the world's carrying trade should be the aim of India's post-war shipping policy, and to this end steps should be taken to secure for Indian shipping:- (i) An increased share of the coastal trade, including trade with Ceylon and Burma (The present share is estimated at between 20-30 per cent). (ii) A substantial share in the near trades, ~~as~~ e.g., the Persian Gulf, East Africa, Malaya and the Dutch East Indies. (iii) A fair share in the eastern trades, especially those trades of which Japanese shipping will have been dispossessed. (iv) A ~~fair~~ share also in the trade between India, on the one hand, and the U.K., ~~the Continent of~~ Europe and North America on the other.

In order to give the maximum relief to the railways, a number of steps have been taken to ensure the fullest utilisation of country-craft and to prevent wasteful competition between country-craft and steamers. As India may have to look to all forms of transport to sustain her economy in the post-war era, the continued development of country-craft will have to be considered. Co-ordination of steamer and country-craft services is an essential part of this development, subject to due regard being paid to the different needs served by steamers and country-craft.

Presiding over the meeting, the Hon. Sir M. Azizul Haque, Commerce Member, Government of India, hoped that the discussions would lead to the enunciation of a definite post-war shipping policy. In his opinion, the whole question would have to be considered from the point of view of the future Government of the country. While he did not minimise the importance of the country-craft, for which sufficient talent was available, he thought that the importance of modern steamships could not be minimised and the country had yet to create the necessary talent for building those ships. He feared that India would have to seek foreign assistance if she was not able to develop the technical talent to build and man ships in the post-war period. On the question of international commitments, the Commerce Member indicated that India was not committed to any international agreement, but had only expressed her readiness to co-operate.

The members of the Committee expressed general agreement with the memorandum presented by the Department, but emphasised that Indian shipping in the post-war period must carry a good share of the maritime trade of India.

Mr. Walchand Hirachand observed that the new vision of national shipping was a courageous step in the right direction, but emphasised that the national mercantile marine must be owned and run by Indians. He also suggested that, as a first step in the development of an Indian mercantile marine, Indian shipping should be assured of the whole of the carriage of coastal trade; at least 66 per cent of the carriage of trade with adjacent countries; not less than 50 per cent of the carriage of India's overseas trade, such as the trades with the U.K., Europe, America and other ports of the world; and not less than 33 per cent of the carriage of the trades in the East, including the freights carried by the Axis in the event of the same passing into the hands of the Allies after the war.

Sir C.P. Ramaswami Aiyar, Dewan of Travancore, said that India must be guided by a spirit of international or commonwealth co-operation in building up her national shipping, but at the same time, she must insist that her coastline, her commercial possibilities and her past history should be in a proportion allotted to India from the point of the mercantile marine of the future. He welcomed the importance given to country-craft in the memorandum and offered co-operation on behalf of the Travancore and Cochin States.

Mr. S.M. Mukerjee, who represented Baroda State, suggested that inland river transport should also be encouraged. He emphasised the need for giving facilities for shipbuilding, and pleaded that the future policy should be based on zonal agreements.

(The Times of India, 9-12-1944).

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Monetary Assistance for Rehabilitation  
of Cotton Textile Industry - Bombay  
Millowners' Memorandum to Government of  
India.

The Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association in a memorandum submitted to the Government of India recently, made, inter alia, the following suggestions in regard to monetary assistance and concessions for the rehabilitation of the cotton textile industry in the post-war period:

(1) The expenditure to be incurred in organising the industry in the post-war years should be allowed as an expenditure and adjusted in the last Excess Profits Tax assessment, if such conversion took place within a specified, reasonable, period after the termination of the war or the removal of the Excess Profits Tax, whichever was later.

(2) Mills had to defer until the end of the war certain repairs and renewals, which, though already over-due, could not be undertaken as it would have involved curtailment of production resulting from stoppage of machinery. In this connection, it was suggested that where an industry had set aside a special sum for repairs and renewals, that sum should be allowed as deduction for the purposes of the Excess Profits Tax, even though it had not been utilised, on the understanding that if the whole amount was not ~~not~~ utilised within a reasonable period after the ~~war~~ termination of the war, the amount left over could be regarded as income in the last year of the Excess Profits Tax and assessed as such.

(3) ~~The~~ transition of the industry from war to peace might involve the scrapping of buildings, plant and machinery which had been provided as part of the war effort. The law already provided relief in respect of any loss incurred, but it was pointed out that relief should not be confined to cases where the equipment was actually scrapped, but should also cover any loss of value in cases where equipment might continue in use.

It was also suggested that the Excess Profits Tax assessed on mills at the close of the war should be subject to reassessment in case of any loss incurred as a result of a fall in the price of textile goods or otherwise.

(Excerpt from the Proceedings of the  
Committee of the Millowners' Association,  
Bombay, during October, 1944 ).

Location of Industry in India:  
Economic Adviser's Memorandum.

A memorandum on the location of industry in India has been prepared in order to serve as a basis of discussion by the Policy Committee on Post-War Planning, by the Economic Adviser to the Government of India. Some of the main points in the memorandum are noticed below:

Uneven Distribution of Industry.- The economy of the country, it says, is already heavily unbalanced as a result of its excessive dependence on agriculture, and the disadvantages arising from this fact are further aggravated by the uneven distribution of industry. If India were highly industrialised, this excessive concentration of industry would not have perhaps been such a serious matter, but when the total number of factory workers is less than one per cent of the total population, the concentration of 52 per cent of this number in two provinces reduces the share of other provinces to an insignificant figure as compared with their population. The wide disparity in the standards of living in different parts of India is at least partly due to the differences in the degree of industrial development.

In recent years, however, points out the memorandum, as a result of various factors there has been a gradual dispersal of industries to new centres. According to the memorandum, there has been a pronounced tendency for new enterprises to be attracted to Indian States owing partly to various inducements offered by the States' Governments, and partly to the relatively low level of rents and wages there. The possibility of escaping the incidence of high taxation in British India is an additional inducement. If the increase in factory employment can be taken as an index of industrial expansion, nearly 33 per cent of the total expansion between 1921 and 1939 took place in the States, particularly Hyderabad, Mysore, Baroda, Kashmir and Central India States.

Two-fold Objective.- The memorandum enunciates a two-fold objective of national policy: A planned development of industrial towns and a more even distribution of industry as between regions in order to secure the balanced development of the country as a whole. During the last two decades the population of most of the industrial towns in India has increased considerably and the memorandum states that if India's industrialisation is to be accompanied by a further concentration in such towns, the benefits resulting from industrialisation will be largely nullified by the tremendous social cost which the nation will incur in the form of slums, disease, congestion, accidents and a general deterioration of mental and physical health. Direct state control may also be necessary to prevent an excessive concentration of industry and population.

With regard to the second objective, the memorandum makes it clear that, while the State may not assume powers for determining where individual industries are to be located, direct measures should be taken for encouraging the industrial progress of backward areas e.g. the development of internal communications and power resources, the creation of suitable financial institutions for mobilising the capital resources in such areas and special assistance to the particular industries suited to such areas.

The memorandum pleads for a proper co-ordination between house-building and road-building, on the one hand, and industrial development on the other. While it depreciates the further growth of some of the existing towns, the memorandum makes out a plan for increased organisation of the population through a planned dispersal of industrial activity, on the ground that it will be impracticable to provide many of the

modern services and amenities on an efficient scale except in towns of optimum size.

(The Times of India, 19-12-1944).

The All India States Conference on Education,  
Medical Relief and Post-war Reconstruction,  
Delhi, 7 to 9-12-1944.

An All India States Conference on education, medical relief and post-war reconstruction was inaugurated at Delhi by the Nawab of Bhopal on 7-12-1944; the Conference ended on 9-12-1944.

Five of the resolutions adopted by the Conference related to educational development. These urged the State Governments to make a good proportion of their revenues available for financing educational reform schemes; endorsed the general basis of and the principles underlying the Sargent scheme and suggested the formulation of a plan on similar comprehensive lines for Indian States with provision for the training of teachers, the raising of their status and salaries, the construction of suitable school buildings, the establishment of an efficient school medical service and the provision of expanded facilities for secondary, adult, vocational and higher education; recommended a State-wide campaign for adult education; suggested the adoption of co-operative measures to be organised on a regional basis to realize the common objective of educational progress; and recommended to the State Governments to aim at doubling the school-going population in five years.

The resolutions relating to public health and medical relief recommended the organisation of a net-work of dispensaries, each within a radius of 5 to 10 miles, with a sufficient number of doctors and trained midwives; and establishment of TB clinics and hospitals for infectious and venereal diseases; the opening of training centres for sanitary inspectors, nurses, midwives, compounders and health visitors; the establishment of medical colleges and a medical research institute in a central place; the setting up of a public health department in each State; and the establishment of maternity homes and child welfare centres.

The last resolution recommended to the Chamber of Princes to appoint a committee of experts to formulate proposals on medical relief and to examine the possibilities of developing indigenous systems of medicine.

(The Statesman, dated 10-12-1944).

Scientific and Technical Personnel for  
Post-War Development Plans: Government  
of India's Training Scheme.

The Government of India, it is understood, is drawing up schemes for the training abroad of a large number of persons in scientific and technical subjects for carrying out its various post-war development plans. Government proposes, it is learnt, to send about 700 students to the United Kingdom and the United States of America for advanced studies in scientific subjects combined with some practical training. Their expenses will be shared equally between the Central Government and the Provincial Governments concerned. Another proposal is to take steps for giving technical training of a higher order than that given at present to 'Bevin Boys' in British and American factories to persons who, being engineering graduates, have already had experience of factory work for about three years. The subjects in which they will be trained are designing and setting up of plants and machines and administration of factories.

It is expected that similar consideration will also be given to the question of training the necessary staff for economic and social uplift work in the rural areas.

(The Hindustan Times, 13-12-1944).

Indian Scientific Office to be Opened in  
Washington.

Sir Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar, Chairman of the Indian Scientists Delegation now touring the United States, (vide pages 64-65 of our report for October, 1944), disclosed in the course of a statement issued at Washington on 15-12-1944 that India intended to open in Washington a central scientific office with the purpose of exchanging students and reports on scientific matters between the two countries. He said the delegation would contact many industrial, agricultural and other scientific groups and learn their methods of organization and operation, thus laying the foundation for exchange of information between the United States and India.

(The Hindustan Times, 18-12-1944).

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Princes and Post-War Plans: Resignation  
of Standing Committee of Chamber of Princes..

Differences between the Political Department of the Government of India and the Princely Order led to the resignation, en bloc, of the Standing Committee of the Chamber of Princes on 3-12-1944, and to the adjournment sine die of a two-day ~~was~~ sitting of the Chamber of Princes. The main points of difference as revealed by the text of a communication from the Viceroy to the Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, were related to: treaty rights; joint services to improve the standard of administration in the smaller Indian States; protection of the rulers of Indian States from baseless agitations against individual States directed from British India and from scurrilous attacks in the British Indian press; the attachment scheme, i.e. a scheme to merge smaller Indian States with neighbouring states or to co-operatively group them; a Court of Arbitration for the interpretation of treaties and agreements; ~~India's~~ India's industrial policy; and post-war reconstruction. While willing to co-operate in all-India schemes of post-war development, the Princes emphasize the need for the States "to make up the existing great leeway in respect of industrial development" and to be fully associated in the formulation of the plans for post-war reconstruction.

A resolution which was to have been moved at the adjourned session of the Chamber of Princes urges (a) the fullest possible collaboration with the Central Government in regard to such plans and policies for post-war development which affects the States and in the formulation and implementing of which they have been adequately associated, such collaboration, however, not implying complete uniformity of all details, or the administration of these plans in the States' territories without their agreement by any outside agencies; (b) the adoption, by the States, of effective measures for raising the standards of living of their peoples, with particular attention to the improvement of the conditions of ex-soldiers and their families; the labour population; the agricultural classes and the backward classes; and (c) the grant, by His Excellency the Crown Representative, to the States, of all possible facilities for the development of their own industries and resources as requested by the Chancellor and other representatives of the States.

(The Statesman, dated 5-12-1944 and  
The Hindustan Times, 8-12-1944 and  
9-12-1944 ).

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✓ Import of Capital Goods: Central  
Government's Scheme for Registration  
of Orders. †

The arrangements made by the Government of India for the registration of post-war requirements of capital goods are explained in a press note issued on 22-12-1944.

The press note points out that the Government is anxious to render all possible assistance in enabling Indian industry to obtain its requirements of capital goods for post-war rehabilitation and expansion and that, at the end of the war being in sight, industrialists should lose no time in booking their orders. With this end in view, it has been declared that firms who have placed or intend to place orders for post-war requirements of capital goods from overseas should be called upon to register their orders with the Government. Orders for goods which are expected to be shipped before 1-7-1945 need not be registered; for such goods import licences should be applied for in the ordinary way. All orders for capital goods which are likely to be shipped after that date should, however, be registered, except that it is not necessary to register orders for machine tools of an estimated f.o.b. value of less than Rs. 10,000, and for other capital goods of an estimated value of less than Rs. 25,000.

The Chief controller of Imports has been appointed as the authority to whom applications for registration should be addressed. He will work under the direction of a committee composed of representatives of the Commerce, Supply, Industries and Civil Supplies and Planning and Development departments; representatives of other departments of Government will be co-opted to the committee as and when necessary. Import licences for capital goods falling within the scope of the registration scheme, will be granted only when orders have been registered with the Chief Controller of Imports and have been accepted by the suppliers. When import licences have been granted, Government will afford assistance in procurement and shipment of the goods, where necessary and possible.

Government, however, expects that foreign exchange other than currencies of the sterling area countries will continue to be scarce for some time and it will be necessary to ensure that the available foreign exchange resources are utilized to the best advantage of the country. U.S.A. dollars, Canadian dollars and Swiss francs are likely to be in particularly short supply. Applicants who desire to purchase capital goods from outside the sterling area should, therefore, explain in their applications the necessity and urgency of doing so in order to enable Government to assign the necessary priority for exchange.

(The Hindustan Times, 23-12-1944). †

Rs. 10 Million Agricultural Plan for Sind.

It is learnt that a five-year plan for the expansion of agriculture in Sind at a cost of Rs. 10,000,000 is being examined by Mr. Roger Thomas, Adviser for Agriculture and Post-war Development, Government of India. Mr. Roger Thomas has also undertaken plans for the immediate development of 100,000 acres of waste land by means of tractors which have been ordered by the Government.

(The Statesman, 16-12-1944). †



Sub-Committee on Labour Welfare  
appointed by Madras Government.

The Government of Madras has constituted a Sub-Committee under the General Committee on Post-War Reconstruction for considering questions relating to labour welfare and setting up standards of improvement in labour conditions.

(The Hindu, 23-12-1944)..

Government of India to set up Institute  
of Economic Research.

Inaugurating the 27th session of the Indian Economic Conference in Delhi on 30-12-1944, Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member, Government of India, announced that the Government were thinking of establishing in Delhi a National Institute of Economic Research. It would be an autonomous body, non-official in its composition and management, but having at its disposal funds provided by the government which would be utilized for carrying out systematic, scientific and impartial research surveys into various problems connected with the task of planning and economic development in India. Sir Ardeshir Dalal also announced that he proposed to have, in addition to the large Consultative Committee of Economists which is already functioning at present, a small subcommittee of non-official economists who would meet more frequently—perhaps, once a month—and give him their advice.

(The Statesman, 31-12-1944)..

Transport Board for Bengal: Government's  
Proposal.

Sir Nazimuddin, the Chief Minister of Bengal, has proposed the formation of an autonomous transport board which would control, manage and carry on the administration of tramways, buses and other forms of transport that might come into existence hereafter in Calcutta and the adjoining municipalities and industrial areas. The idea behind the constitution of a transport board is said to be the nationalization of public utility concerns like the Calcutta Tramways Company. The Calcutta Corporation has been assured of adequate representation on the board of protection of its interests in the tramways undertaking. The Corporation has agreed to the proposal with certain conditions and without prejudice to its rights to acquire the entire tramways undertaking belonging to the Calcutta Tramways Company Ltd. and to run it with the help of an agent from January 1, 1945.

(The Statesman, 24-12-1944)..

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Sir Ardeshir Dalal on Government's  
Future Industrial Policy.

Sir Ardeshir Dalal, Planning and Development Member, Government of India, has been touring the more important Indian provinces explaining the main lines of the Government of India's industrial development policy and having discussions with officials and non-officials. He has visited five provinces so far—the United Provinces, the Punjab, Bombay, Bengal and Bihar, the last two in the second half of December 1944.

Five-Year Development Plan.— His discussions with officials have been mainly to help the provincial Governments to lay the foundations of planning for the future and to formulate a definite five-year development plan as the first stage. After meeting its own requirements, the Central Government has indicated that it would be prepared to help the different provinces out of its surplus revenues for the first effective post-war five-year period, roughly on the basis of population. But before any plan is done it expects the provinces to mobilize their own resources to the fullest extent possible. The U.P. and Bombay Governments have already submitted their plans and those provinces who have not are expected to do so by the middle of January 1945. So far as the Indian States are concerned, there are outstanding constitutional and financial issues to be settled, but the States themselves are very keen to come into line with the Government of India.

Rapid Industrialisation.— In his discussions with non-officials, Sir Ardeshir explained the Government's anxiety for the ordered transition of the country from war economy to peace economy and for the economic uplift and well-being of the people. He said it was the definite policy of the Government to industrialise the country at a rapid pace. The Government was, however, anxious to reduce the profit motive of private industries to the barest minimum thus raising the status of labour.

Government Control of Industries.— In general, Sir Ardeshir said, the Government would exercise greater control over industries in the future, but in view of the large industrialisation of the country proposed in the post-war period the scope for private initiative and enterprise would not be restricted, but might even be enlarged. Industries like munitions and ordnance factories would always be owned by the Government. Some industries which were needed in national interest, but which industrialists were not ready to take up because they were not sufficiently remunerative and would have to be owned by the Government. There might be other industries of great importance beyond the scope of private industrialists which also might be owned by the Government. Future public utility industries, like electric supply, tramways and telephones, might be wholly or partially nationalized. Rigid control would have to be exercised over basic industries, particularly those controlling scarce natural resources or tending to be monopolistic.

Permanent Tariff Board.— Sir Ardeshir Dalal also indicated that it was the intention of the Government to appoint a permanent tariff board for the grant of protection to industries on a liberal basis. It was also proposed to manufacture machinery for various industries within India so as to avoid dependence on foreign countries for industrial equipment.

Among the other steps the Government of India contemplate are, the setting up of organisations in the United Kingdom and the United States of America as liaison between the Indian industrialists and the foreign manufacturers of machinery; sending Indians abroad for foreign training

and the expansion of the existing educational and technical institutions; strengthening of the Geological survey to develop and protect India's mineral wealth; the appointment of a committee to consider the question of establishing a central high-grade technological institute; and the establishment of an all-India agricultural college and medical centre.

(The Statesman, dated 25-12-1944 and  
The Anantabazar Patrika, 21-12-1944 ).

Some of the more important publications received in this Office during the month of December, 1944

Insurance

Social Insurance Planning in India, by A.N. Agarwala, M.A.  
East End Publishers, e/82, Allengunj, Allahabad. Price Rs.5-12-0,  
or 10s.

Education, Congresses, etc.

Fifteenth Annual Report, 1944, of the Employers' Federation of  
India, Bombay. 1944.

Reconstruction

Plans for a Better Bengal. Progress of Post-War Reconstruction  
Planning in Bengal from 1-1-1944 to 31-10-1944. Issued by the  
Post-War Reconstruction Committee, Government of Bengal, Calcutta.