

The
E. B. Ry. Labour Review.

An Organ of the E. B. Ry. Indian Employees' Association.

VOL. III.

SEPTEMBER, 1929.

NO. V

Honour the Standard Bearers.

Honour to those whose words or deeds
Thus help us in our daily needs :
And by their over-flow
Raise us from what is low.

Dream Healthy Dreams.

Sickness Insurance in Italy.

An Act of January 10, 1929, introduces in Italy, compulsory sickness insurance for seamen and airmen. Up till the present, "The Ministry of Labour Gazette" says, no general health insurance system has been established in Italy, and seamen have been protected by those sections of the Commercial Code, which provide that in the event of sickness or injury during a voyage a seaman is entitled to his wages and to medical attention at the expense of the ship.

The new Act makes sickness insurance compulsory for all persons employed in civil, maritime, and aerial undertakings (exclusive of those employed in the administrative services of such undertakings) and represented by the National Fascist Confederation of Seamen and Airmen. Persons of foreign nationality are covered by the scheme, in so far as the legislation of the States to which they belong guarantees equivalent protection to Italian workers. The insured

person is entitled either to free medical treatment and to his wages in accordance with the relevant sections of the Commercial Code (which are now extended to cover airmen) or to free medical treatment and a daily allowance in all causes of illness not involving the application of the provision of the code.

In the event of the insured person's death, a month's wages is paid to his widow or children. Maternity benefit is payable in respect of women covered by the new Act. The dependents of persons insured under the Act will be entitled to medical and maternity benefits either gratuitously or subject to an increased contribution by the insured

person. Voluntary insurance is permitted under certain conditions for persons whom the obligation to insure has ceased. The insurance funds are provided by contributions paid by employers, to cover the cost of the fulfilment of their obligations under relevant sections of the Commercial Code, and by contributions paid jointly by employers and employed persons to cover the new benefits provided by the Act; the latter contributions must not exceed 4 per cent of the insured person's wage. The administration of the Act is entrusted to an incorporated institution known as the Sickness Insurance and Social Welfare Fund for Seamen and airmen (Reprinted from Liberty Sept. 28)

Peep Into Parlour.

Visit of a Railway Board Member :— Mr. Hayman, Member Ry. Board visited Calcutta on the 14th June, last and it is understood held conference with the Agents of both E. B. & E. I. Rys on some Establishment matters. The Conferences were confidential. But it is believed that visit of the Member-in-charge of Labour & Establishment has some bearings on the questions of revising the scale of pay of low-paid staff i. e. of those who draw salary upto Rs. 50/-. Let us hope that the discussion will not end in nothing !

Judicious Selections :—We congratulate Mr. H. P. Sircar on his promotion to higher grade and transfer to Majerhat. He is to be succeeded by Mr. L. M. Banerjee, Station

Master, Bogra. These selections are no doubt judicious and we admire the Administration for the same. How do we wish that such a course to be the guiding principle in the case of all other employees serving in this Railway.

A Popular Physician Preyed :—The news that the services of Dr. K. Mukherjee, who served the Railway for a period of five years have been dispensed with, has given us a rude shock. We not being in the confidence of the Chief Medical Officer, cannot tell asto why the services of this very popular and eminent doctor, who by his proper diagnosis and remedial treatment to the diseases carved out a name for himself amongst his numerous patients of all rank

file. The discontent that was pulsating the mind of the employees serving this Ry. in Calcutta was completely removed by Dr. Mukherjee in course of a very short time after the assumption of duties from Dr. Kirty, who became very unpopular by his mis-handling of the case of Ry. public. Dr. Mukherjee behaved with all alike. Same rumour tells us that the Chief Medical Officer brought in a relative of his to fill up a vacancy. It is alleged that Dr. Mukherjee petitioned to the Agent against this supersession which resulted in his discharge. We do not as a rule put any credence to such "rumour;" but it is also a fact that occasionally such "rumour" brings into light all the relative facts in true colours! Or what else led to the discharge of Dr. Mukherjee pray? If we remember aright, Sir George Rainy in course of his discussion with the deputationists of the Railwaymen's Federation expressed his disapproval of this sort of meaningless 'victimisation' to the employees who serve the Administration for a reasonable period with commendable success. We wonder if this is not a concrete case to substantiate our contention that "victimisation is always hanging on the heads of the employees like a Democle's sword." We therefore draw the attention of our Agent to the case of Dr. Mukherjee. It is universally prayed that the Agent be pleased to hold an enquiry and intervene in this matter. We await the result with anxious suspense. If necessary we shall deal with this again.

Educational Allowances to Ry. Employees' Children :—There is a persistent rumour in the Anglo-Indian circle that the Ry. Board is working out the details of a comprehensive scheme for giving regular

monthly allowances to all employees of the Ry. in the adjustment of their children. Hitherto this benefit has been given to a limited extent to the Europeans and the Anglo-Indians only. The proposed scheme it is believed, aims at the idea of extending the benefit to all Ry. Employees irrespective of caste, creed or colour i. e. the much neglected Indian establishment not excluded. If the rumour is true, we feel sure, that in drawing up the scheme the Railway Board will give no cause for complaint of "Racial Discrimination" as at present. It needs little imagination to convince that the poorly-paid Indian Employees are more hard put to it in giving adequate and proper education to their children than the other favoured communities viz, Europeans and Anglo-Indians. We congratulate the Railway Board on their belated prudence. May Heaven guide them aright.

Denial of Pecuniary Benefit :—It has been represented to us that the Clerks in Agent's Office do not get the benefit of Rule 45 (b) of the Fundamental Rules when any of them is required to carry on the works of a fellow clerk during his absence on leave for over a period of two months.

The rule that empowers the authorities to grant extra allowances to the clerks who are enjoined to work in addition to their own is no doubt discretionary but that is no reason why the rule should not be made operative in the case of the hard-worked poor clerks only. We have reason to believe that when the question of granting extra allowances to the superior officers creeps in under similar circumstances, the sanction is at once and readily given. But why this differential treatment pray? The time of the clerk is equally valuable when compared

with their high officers. They deserve remuneration for their labour.

We earnestly hope that the present Agent, who has already proved himself a sympathetic officer, will kindly look into the matter personally and remove the grievances of the ill-paid clerks.

In the Welfare Domain :—We draw the attention of the Welfare Committees concerned to the following points for early remedy :—

- a). The staff on station duty at Ranaghat have no Urinal to use. It is time that this disadvantage should be removed forthwith. It is reported that one or two men were punished for using the water closet attached to the waiting room of 1st & 2nd Class passengers. We agree to the punishment but will this punishment remove the evil until the root cause of the evil is removed? Is the station committee blind to the needs of so many station staff and does it think that men on duty need have no call of nature? Is it too expensive and difficult a problem for the authorities to provide a water closet for the station subordinate staff.
- b). How long will the Naihati staff suffer from scarcity of good drinking water? For the last three years they have moved heaven & earth to have their grievances remedied, but to no effect. The inconveniences of the men can easily be imagined than described when some 20 or 30 men & women scramble at a water tap—a matter of daily occurrence. We request the

Welfare Committee concerned to take up the matter in their earnest so that more taps are provided there without further delay.

Literary Recreation Through Indian Institute at Saidpur :—We are in possession of copies of all correspondences that passed between the Siliguri staff and the Officers concerned on the supply of books for which they are required to pay compulsory subscription-deduction being made through salary bill. The staff do not refuse to pay the subscription provided they are given the benefit in lieu. But since last seven months they are paying the subscription without any return for the same. They appealed to the higher authorities to either stop such deduction or afford them the facilities to receive the books from the Institute. Without going into the details we suggest the following course for the consideration of the Agent which will go a good deal towards the simplifications of the matter.

The President of the Station Committee might be permitted to issue weekly permits to the Institute authorities to allow them to send out the Institute clerk to the Siliguri line with books for distributions amongst the staff for their benefit. This will be more simplified if the President of the Institute, who is naturally a Gazetted Officer is empowered to issue such weekly permits to the Institute clerk for the purpose. However, something like the above suggestions should be done for the literary recreation of the employees which is an indispensable necessity after hours' drudgery. We feel sure the Agent, who is the President of the Institute will make

some suitable arrangements that will ensure the payment of subscription.

Civility Costs Nothing But Ruys Everything :—We have received a long complaint against Mr. H. D. Sen the Head Clerk of the office of the Executive Engineer Saidpur, who, it is alleged, is playing a very dangerous game with the under clerks. He' it is reported, behaves with the other clerks quite unnaturally which can not be said to be quite in keeping with the good traditions of his predecessors. To crown this, he is sometimes found to act in the way which is calculated to prejudice the mind of the superior officers against the clerks. We do not, however like to comment on the activities of Mr. Sen adversely till we hear from him in reply. But we like to point out to him the fact that a superior clerk must always make a review of his own past career as are ordinary clerk and deal sympathetically with the under clerks which is the key to the successful workings of their respective duties. Need we tell him to remember that "An Enemy may be subdued more by kindness than by cruelty,"

Favouritism runs amock :—

a) Mr. P. H. Hoon, a graduate brother of Mr. Hoon Asstt : Controller of Stores was first taken in as a Sub-store keeper on Rs. 150/-per month (the maximum of sub store keeper is Rs. 110-10-150/-) superseding the claims of more than a dozen of Senior & efficient hands serving at different depots which include a few equally-merited graduates of experiences) on the plea of his having an exceptionally brilliant educational career. After two years the self-same man was promoted to a

grade of Rs 200/-per month and was has topped the other seniors in service again. A man who superseded all his fellow workers twice in the course of two years counting from the date of first appointment must be a specially merited superman working miracle in the department but as far our information goes we are unwilling to believe that there are not workers in the department who are in any way less capable than Mr. Hoon (Jr). Why this perceptible distinction? Is it justice?

- b) Mr. C. J. Up-john was an apprentice Depot Store Keeper on Rs 150/-per mensem. But the service possibly fell short of his expectation and he resigned. After a few years' a special post to the value of Rs 250/-per month was created for him which he hold for about a year. Later on he was permanently appointed on Rs 150/-as Sub Store Keeper and a year after he was promoted to the post of Depot Store Keeper class II on Rs 200/-per month superseding several senior sub Store keepers. Hardly a year has passed since his last elevation when he was again given a further lift to the rank of Depot Store Keeper Class 1 (superseding of course one Depot Store keeper, class II on the maximum of his grade and two Depot Store keeper class II, who are in the service for about four years.) Is it fair play?
- c) Babu Ram Chandra Chatterjee, son of the Chief clerk of the Controller of Stores, Calcutta was at first taken in

as a temporary clerk on Rs. 29/- in the Hyderabad Dept. in 1925. Six months later he was transferred to the Saidpur Depot and confirmed on Rs. 65/-. As a result of appeals sent in by the senior hands of this office his starting pay was reduced to Rs. 45/-. In 1927 he was promoted to Rs. 50/- and then in 1928 to Rs. 55/- in usual course. Again in the same year he was given an accelerated promotion to Rs. 65/- having superseded the claims of too many men in the department. But curiously enough in July 29 he has been made a Ward Keeper on Rs. 85/- topping the claims of about a dozen of senior hands including experienced Assistant Ward Keepers already drawing the maximum pay of Rs. 80/- in grade "C" with necessary educational qualification. Quite a number of appeals have been made to the authorities but all of them have gone a-begging. Is it the recognition of efficiency of which we hear so much?

Will the new Agent kindly intervene and over-rule all the irregularities?

A Queer Conception of Duty :—Mr. C. B. Sahai, Ticket Collector at Parbatipur has forwarded a copy of his report submitted to the District Traffic Superintendent on 27.7.29, under letter No. C/45 the important points of which are as follows :—

a) "That at about 9 hrs of date I was collecting tickets at the gate all on a sudden Mr. Anwar Hussain, Asstt : Crew Officers put his hands into all of my uniform pockets (coat) without

and pulled out all I had on me while on the open platform crowded with travelling public and passengers."

- b) "That I can cite the following gentlemen (Messrs H. P. Haugl, Store Clerk, A. K. Chakravorty, Booking Clerk, R. C. Hahler, Signaller, J. C. Naug, Guard and P. Biswas N. I. C.) as eye-witnesses."
- c) "That I do not know any such incidents or rules in the annals of Rys and not to speak of my term of service that any officer beginning from the Agent down to any subordinates has ever searched the person of any employees likewise or has he got any authority to do so to that effect."

"That I take a serious exception to it as a personal insult and humiliation and I reported the matter immediately to the station master and Assistant Station master on duty and lodged an information to the Govt. Ry. Police Thana as well.

- c) "That considering the gravity of the situation I can not but approach you to kindly take up immediately or to permit me to proceed against him through the Court for redress against his wilful insultation of my personal right and hurling gross insult and humiliation on me thereby."

A similar case was reported by us in our July issue of last year where the victim was the Station Master of Garia, who was siliarily insulted by the crew staff and on

his remonstrance he was discharged! But what is the result of this course of intimidation causing a blot on the personal liberty of the victim? What part of efficiency is maintained by taking recourse to such a vile step? If such a step was necessary Mr. Sahai ought to have been challenged by the Asstt. Crew Officer allowing him to bring out all the belongings from his pocket. But this bit of courtesy, we presume was no match for an aptitude leading to the path of being a 'cheap champion' of the Ry. Administration.

We feel that the Department concerned should allow the person aggrieved to take recourse to legal action against the Asstt Crew Officer for his alleged offence. It is also required to be distinctly understood as to whether this sort of license could be indulged in by the Departmental Heads with impunity. We draw pointed attention of the Agent to this thought-provoking practice which if allowed to run without check will bring havoc upon the dutiful and loyal employees in the Department concerned.

Moral Character of Ry. Staff:—Mr. Justice Dwarka Nath Mitter, presiding at the High Court Criminal Sessions sentenced Akhoy Kumar Das, a Ticket Collector on the E. B. Ry. to three and two years rigorous imprisonment on charges of abduction & enticement. Das's offence related to a Hindu married girl. His Lordship also remarked:—

"You have also abused the confidence reposed in you by the girl's family and I consider you to be a danger and a menace to society. I think I ought to pass a severe sentence on you so that

it might deter evil-minded persons in future."

This case, we feel, will be an eye opener to the Administration, who are duty bound to see that the staff, especially those who are enjoined to deal with the passenger-public, are recruited from approved respectable family. The existence of moral wrecks like Akhoy does not only bring stain upon the entire Department but contaminates the rest of the staff. Administration also pay premium for the misbehaviours of the villains who become terrors to the travelling public—chiefly the ladies.

This reminds us of similar case in which one Mr. Hodson, a guard in the Katihar District kidnapped a widow relative of an Assistant Station Master who was eventually rescued from a locked room in the house of Mr. Hodson. But the action of Mr. Hodson was overlooked by the Administration which we are constrained to say paved the way of Akhoy to do an act of the present nature.

Yet another case of abominable nature like this was heard from Teestamukhghat where the Transhipment Inspector, it is alleged, entered into the house of a Trains Clerk at night while he was away on duty. No action, we were informed, was taken on this case too on the presumption that the case was a private matter and hence not within the competence of the Administration to deal with.

We hope the Administration will take a note of these facts and act according to our suggestion.

Hardship of Goods Staff at Budge Budge.
 describe the miserable condition of the Goods staff at Budge Budge Railway station. They have no quarters to live in, and no resting place after hard work. The authorities know this, yet seem not to know. They never feel for these wretched works. The various inconveniences and misfortunes of these men may be summed up as follows :—

No quarters have been provided by the Railway. No quarters are available for hire at Budge Budge and this fact is well known to the authorities.

In consequence the workers have to live at Calcutta or any of the suburban stations and have to travel from there to Budge Budge to attend their duties ; thus time taken in the journey twice a day is a curtailment of their resting hours.

They have to pay from their own pockets the fares for these journeys which amounts to five rupees per month which means a curtailment of their wages ; consequently the hardships of poor workers on a pay of Rs. 20/- or 22/- per mensem know no bounds.

The Goods staff have to work there from sunrise to sunset and consequently have

to pass the whole day without any shade they fail to satisfy their superiors because for want of proper rest and relaxation they get fatigued sooner than they should ordinarily be. Thus it results in loss of efficiency to work.

If through misfortune any one is transferred to the Budge Budge Goods staff, he has seldom the chance of being transferred to any other stations as no one likes to exchange his place with one at Budge Budge. Budge Budge is looked upon as a penal station.

We beg to invite the attention of the Traffic Manager and Agent, to the stern reality of the facts mentioned above. We beg them to feel for these poor workers and earnestly request them to make necessary arrangements for housing the staff at Budge Budge and result in the consequent improvement of efficiency of the railway working there. It is also requested that until adequate housing arrangements are made it may be ruled that the staff at Budge Budge be transferred to any other station after their one year's service at this station and while posted at Budge Budge they be given a card pass from the suburban station they would have to come to attend their daily work.

Pulsation in Labour Life.

Our own Activities.

E. B. Railway Indian Employees Association.

Eighth Annual Conference.

The eighth Annual Conference of the E. B. Ry. Indian Employees Association was held at the Mansion Institute under the presidency of Mr. I. B. Sen, Bar-at-law on Saturday and Sunday the 17th & 18th August, 1929. There were large number of delegates, distinguished visitors and members.

Distinguished Visitors.

The following notables were present in the Conference :—

1. Mr. P. H. Maffin, Agent E. B. Ry.
2. Miss Jyotirmayee Ganguli, M. A.
3. Mr. S. C. Roy, M. A.
4. Dr. Hassan Suharawardy, Chief Medical Officer, E. B. Ry.
5. Dr. P. C. Dutt, District Medical Officer, E. B. Ry.
6. Rai Bahadur S. N. Banerjee.

Welcome Address.

Mr. J. K. Chatterjee, Chairman of the Reception Committee, after welcoming the Agent and other officials, delivered an address in course of which he dwelt on the need of a general increase of pay, free quarters, security of service etc. etc. He also suggested the formation of an **ADVISORY BOARD COMMITTEE** to collaborate in matters affecting the conditions of the staff in general.

Presidential Speech.

Mr. Sen next dwelt on the insecurity of service of the Indian Employees of the E. B. Ry. and reminded the authorities that they were out of touch with their employees whose allegiance was jeopardised seriously by that insecurity.

The Agent's Speech.

M. P. H. Maffin, Agent of the Railway spoke on the utility of co-operation between the Employees and the Employers which is the key-stone of success.

Resolutions.

The following resolutions were passed in the Conference :—

Resolution No. 1 :—That this Conference draws the attention of the Authorities to Resolution No. 1 1928 Conference on the question of Insecurity of Service, resolution No. 3 of 1927 Conference on the question of Insufficient and Insanitary Housing Accommodation for Employees and Resolution No. 6 of 1928 Conference on the question of Assessment of House Rent.

Moved from Chair
&
Carried Unanimously.

Resolution (No. 3) That this Conference respectfully but firmly protests against the spirit underlying the Agents' Notification No. 295 dated 21st February, 1929, regarding grant of financial assistance to Railway Employees for education of their children and points out that the Notification merely removes the glaring impropriety in expression bluntly indicating the presence of Racial Discrimination in the matter but in fact accentuates the injustice in a worse spirit and with still more injurious effect upon what meagre opportunity existed in a few cases for the education of the children of Indian Employees; the grant which is now being allowed under the Notification applies only to European educational institutions in existence in the province and is wholly inapplicable to the Indian Institutions and Indian ways of life.

That this Conference renews its demand in this connection made in previous years (vide Resolution No. 4 of 1927 Conference and Resolution No. 3 of 1928 Conference) and regrets that so important a problem has been sought to be disposed of in a spirit which cannot remove the keen sense of injustice done to Indian Employees on purely racial grounds on a matter which vitally affects the welfare of the next generation.

Moved by :—Mr. K. P. Banerjee of Cal.
 Seconded by :—Mr. J. K. Chatterjee of Cal.
 Carried :—Unanimously.

Resolution No. 3 :—That this Conference urges upon the Government of India the necessity of tackling the complicated problem of minimum living wage as a sub-

ject requiring immediate attention which should no longer be put off on any ground whatever.

Moved from the Chair.
 Carried Unanimously.

Resolution No. 4 :—That this Conference urges upon the Administration the desirability of encouraging the Association as a Registered Trade Union in all legitimate activities of the Association and prays :—

- (1) That the Railway Board may reconsider its decision not to grant special passes in connection with transaction of the Union Business or to attend Union Meetings.
- (2) That facilities be granted for recovery of subscription to the Death Benefit Fund of the Association from members through their salary bills.
- (3) That get-passes be granted to approved Collectors of the Association to facilitate collection of subscriptions from members of the Association employed in the Railway Workshops.

And this Conference requests the men of the Workshops to organise different parties of Workshop employees to help collection in co-operation with the approved paid Agents to whom get-passes may be granted.

Moved by :—Pasupati Chakravorty of Saidpur.
 Seconded by :—P. K. Gupta of Kauchrapara. Carried Unanimously.

Resolution No. 5 :—That this Conference approves of the steps already taken by the

Central Council towards the reception of a Deputation from the Association by the Agent and the Conference appreciate the courtesy of the Agent Mr. Mallin who has promised to receive the Deputation after having studied the questions already placed before his predecessor in Office. This Conference approves of the selection of the personnel of the suggested Deputation and recommends the following persons to be included.

- (1) Mr. Narendra Nath Chatterji.
- (2) „ P. K. Gupta.
- (3) „ Mohommed Ibrahim.
- (4) „ Bhupesh Chandra Bose.
- (5) T. N. Das.
- (6) Ram Naresh Panday.

That this Conference requests the representatives of the various departments and sections to send to the central Council at an early date their statements and suggestions with details in support thereof and directs the Central Council to sift and then to include such of them as the Council thinks it proper to include in an additional memorandum to be placed before the Agent at an early date.

Moved by :—Mr. T. N. Das of Lakhmi-kantapur.

Seconded by :—Mr. D. C. Bhattacharji of Lalmonirhat.

Supported by :—Mr. Sewdahin Singh of Ranaghat

Mr. N. C. Sarkar of Paksey.

„ N. N. Chatterji of Cal.

(Carried Unanimously.)

Resolution No. 6 :—That this Conference requests the Railway Board to admit

all members of the railway staff who are allowed to P. T. Institute benefits.

Moved by :—Mr. D. C. Bhattacharji of Cal.

Seconded by :—Mr. N. N. Roy of Goalundo.

Supported by :— „, Dewdhar Singh of Ranaghat.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 7 :—That this Conference respectfully draws the attention of the Agent to the delay in payment of monthly salary which in several instances (in the case of line staff) is effected as late as the 28th or 29th of the succeeding month and the Conference urges that efforts should be made to finish all payments within some fixed dates every month not later than the 15th of the succeeding month and if the 15th of any month happens to be a holiday then on the last open day before the 15th.

Moved by :—Mr. J. N. Gupta of Cal.

Seconded by :— „, N. K. Banerji of Dacca.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 8 :—That (1) this Conference recommends that on Foreign Railways passes of the same class and for the same distance should be granted Railway Employees as on the Home Line. This Conference also recommends that upon payment of the difference in fare, the pass holders for other than Mail Trains on Foreign Railways should be allowed the privilege of travelling by Mail Trains in the same class.

Moved from the Chair.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 9 :—That this Conference respectfully requests the Agent to allow an attendant in family passes in the same classes over the Home Line when the employees himself does not accompany the family. This practice is in force on other Railways.

Moved by—Mr. N. C. Sarcar of Paksey.
Seconded by—Mr. N. C. Dutt of Ishurdi.
(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 10 :—That this Conference protests against the existing Racial Discrimination amongst the Indian and Anglo-Indian and European apprentices attached to the Loco Workshops in respect of appointments as Improver on Rs. 80/- whereas the Anglo-Indian and Europeans are appointed to next higher grade as Journeyman on Rs. 150/- and requests the Agent for early removal of this difference.

Moved by :—Mr. S. D. Banerjee of Berhampur.
Seconded by :— „ K. P. Das of Saidpur.

Resolution No. 11 :—That this Conference urges upon the Government of India the desirability of introducing Schemes of Insurance against sickness or some suitable alternative as a necessary corollary to the undoubted right of every person to be supported when incapacitated from work temporarily by illness.

Moved from the Chair.
(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 12 :—That this Conference draws the attention of the Administra-

tion to the Grievances of the Crews Staff on the following amongst other questions :

- (1) Determination of status and fixing of head-quarters.
- (2) Arbitrary selection of Crew In-charges.
- (3) Complaints about salary and fixed daily allowances.
- (4) Want of proper housing accommodation.
- (5) Want of proper Running Room arrangements.
- (6) Too long hours of work.
- (7) Complaints about duty passes, and servant passes (T.T.I.)
- (8) Discharge of Crewmen on insufficient grounds.
- (9) Too scanty provision for relief and too much strictness as to necessary leave of absence.

Moved by—Mr. J. K. Chatterji of Cal.
Seconded by—Mr. K. P. Banerji of „
Supported by— „ K. C. Chakravorty of Saidpur.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 13 :—That this Conference recommends that the appointment of Personal Officer to the Agent in charge of establishment should be made from the Audit Department in preference to other departments, the former by its function being more familiar with interpretation of rules and likely to be more free from departmental bias.

Moved by—Mr. S. C. Mukherji of Cal.
Seconded by—Mr. T. N. Das of Lakhmi-kantapur.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 14: That this Conference respectfully draws the attention of the Agent to the salary of Rs. 80/a month fixed for typists whatever may be the duration of their service and the Conference submits that there is no special reason why a typist should be kept on Rs. 80/a month indefinitely without any opportunity offered to him as a typist to improve his financial prospect in Railway service after a long period of satisfactory service.

Moved by—Mr. P. C. Halder of Calcutta.

Seconded by—Mr. A. C. Misra of „

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 15 :—That this Conference views with alarm the impending re-organisation of Head Quarters Offices and the Divisional Offices in a way involving reduction of clerical and peons staff and requests the Agent to arrange matters so that no member of the staff is discharged but such of the staff as may be found to be surplus are gradually absorbed in natural vacancies.

Moved by—Mr. A. T. Banerji of Saidpur

Seconded by—Mr. T. N. Das of Lakhmikanthapur.

(Carried Unanimously).

RESOLUTION NO. 16 :—That this Conference urges upon the Administration the immediate necessity for permanent accommodation for relieving staff at important centres.

Moved from the Chair.

(Carried Unanimously).

Resolution No. 17: That a Committee be constituted on the following terms to be appointed to enquire into conditions of labour, health, efficiency and standard of living and the relations between employer and employee in respect of workshop employees of this Railway and to collect data other information in respect thereof for presentation before the Whitley Commission through proper representations to be selected by the Central Council, so advised or required.

(1) Mr. P. K. Gupta of Kanchrapara

(2) „ Kenaram Das of Saidpur.

(3) „ K. P. Banerji of Calcutta.

(4) „ J. K. Chatterji of Calcutta.

Moved from the Chair.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 18 :—That this Conference resolves that the attention of the Agent may again be drawn to the question of the granting Sunday Allowances and the revision of scale of pay of Indian Loco Running Staff.

Moved by—Mohammed Ibrahim of Lalmonirhat.

Seconded by—Mr. J. N. Dey of Lalmonirhat.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 19 :—That this Conference protests against the C. E's letter No. E/23/10 P.H dated 17-12-28, debarring the inferior staff of the Engineering Department posted in Assam District from the "Bad

Climate, or Compensatory Allowance" and this conference respectfully urges on the Agent, to extend this privilege to all concerned in terms of the Railway Board's letter No. 2860 P, dated 6.3.20.

Moved by—Mr. C. C. Chatterjee of Lalmonirhat.

Seconded by—S. N. Chowdhury of Bogra.
(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 20:—That in consideration of the arbitrary orders which make the position of the Drivers worse than that of the blackest criminal in as much as they are prosecuted without any notice to them or to their immediate superiors and even before they return to their Head Quarters this Conference requests the Agent to treat them as other Railway Employees involved in such cases.

Moved by—Mohammed Ibrahim of Lalmonirhat.

Seconded by—Mr. J. N. Dey of Lalmonirhat.

(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 21 :—That this Conference reaffirms Resolution No. 8 of Dacca Conference of 1928 for raising a Reserve Fund of Rupees One Lakh and requests the formation of small Sub-Committees as different centres to make the collection a success.

Moved by—Mr. Mukunda Lal Sarcar of Calcutta.

Seconded by—Mr. U. N. Pathak of Cal.

Supported by— „ S. N. Roy of Chitpur.

Supported by— „ J. K. Chattarji of Cal.

Resolution No. 22: That the Conference considers it an invidious distinction that in the case of Indian Drivers it is required that they should have passed the Matriculation Examination whereas no such test is required of European or Anglo-Indian Drivers to get into class II and this Conference recommends that those Indian Drivers who have already passes the test of knowledge of English and are in receipt of English Allowance should be included in class II though they may not be Matriculates as all that is required of drivers of class II is practical knowledge of their work and competency though they are illiterate or nearly literate.

Moved from the Chair.

(Carried Unanimously).

Resolution No. 23 :—That this Conference requests the Agent to introduce into other departments the system of disposing by the Association of general and individual grievances of staff which has been adopted by the Traffic Manager for his department.

Moved from the Chair.

(Carried Unanimously).

Resolution No. 24 :—That the Central Council shall deal with the draft bye-law for Legal Defence Fund in its first sitting which has been submitted by the General Secretary.

Moved from the Chair.

(Carried Unanimously).

Resolution No. 25 :—That this Conference requests the Railway Board to give effect to the conditions of working hours of Railway Employees as decided by the Railway Standing Finance Committee.

Moved from the Chair.
(Carried Unanimously).

Resolution No. 26 :—That this Conference draws the attention of the Agent to the Memorials submitted by Ministerial Staff and Goods Clerks and other Station Clerks early a year ago,

Moved from the Chair.
(Carried Unanimously)

Resolution No. 27 :—That this Conference draws the attention of the staff to Resolution No. 16 of Kanchrapara Conference regarding the imperative duty of employees integrity and courtesy in their dealings with the public and in their relations to those in the service of the E.B. Ry.

Moved from the Chair.
(Carried Unanimously),

Resolution No :—28 ;—In view of the fact that our Journal cannot be supported by subscription only and as a bi-monthly, it cannot expect much income from advertisements, this Conference resolves to make this paper a monthly journal to increase its usefulness. All employees are requested to patronise this journal by becoming its subscribers.

Moved by—Mr. J. N. Gupta of Calcutta,
Seconded by—Mr. T. N. Das of Lakhmi-kantapur.

(Carried Unanimously).

Resolution of the 29. Resolved that the General Secretary's Report and the statement of accounts read be adopted.

Moved by—Mr. T. N. Das of Lakhmi-kantapur.

Seconded by—Mr. Ismail.

(Carried Unanimously)

RESOLUTION No. 30 :—That the following gentlemen be elected as Office Bearers of the Central Council for the year 1929-30

President Mr. I. B. Sen, Bar-at-law.

Vice	„	„	K. P. Banerji.
„	„	„	J. K. Chatterji.
„	„	„	S. N. Ghosh,
„	„	„	H. P. Das.
General Secy.	„	„	J. N. Gupta.
Jt. „	„	„	B. K. Banerji.
Treasurer	„	„	A. C. Misra.
Org. Secretary	„	„	M. L. Sirkar.
Members	„	„	U. N. Pathak of Calcutta.
„	„	„	S. Roy of Chitpur.
„	„	„	B. C. Gupta of Kanchrapara.
„	„	„	J. C. Bhattacharji of Paksry.
„	„	„	M. A. Hamid of Santahar.
„	„	„	P. Chakraborty of Saidpur
„	„	„	N. C. Das of Lalmonirhat.
„	„	„	A. T. Banerji of Dinajpur.
„	„	„	S. N. Roy of Dacca.
„	„	„	N. N. Ghosh of Agent's Office.
„	„	„	Mohammed Ibrahim of Lalmonirhat.
„	„	„	N. N. Chatterji of C.E's Office.

and that Babu H. D. Banerji be appointed as Auditor for the year 1929-30.

Proposed by Mr. T. N. Das of Lakhmi-kantapur.

Seconded by „ Ismail of Lalmonirhat.

DISCUSSION

Saidpur Branch — A General Meeting of the Siliguri Sub branch under the Saidpur branch council of the Association was held on the 30-6-29 with Mr. Vincent, Station Master in the chair in which the following resolutions were passed

- a. Resolved that the following delegates of this station will attend the Annual Conference and that the selected delegates will apply for their leave and passes required in this connection within 7th July, 29 and they should communicate with the Secretary, Saidpur branch immediately after they have submitted their leave applications —
- (1). Srijut D. N. Ghosh, Asstt. Station Master.
 - (2). Srijut A. K. Kundu, Signaller.
 - (3). „ S. C. Biswas, Parcel Clerk.
 - (4). „ D. P. Paul, Trains Examiner.
 - (5). „ S. C. Dutta, Time Keeper, Inspector of Works, Siliguri.
- b. Resolved that at least Rs. 10 be raised from this station as donation towards the Conference expenses and that the same be remitted to the Secretary, Saidpur branch, at an early date for disposal.
- c. Resolved that the Agent be moved to reconsider the sanction of Terai allowance to the staff at Siliguri, till the place has not been thoroughly improved as per Agent's suggestion.

- d. Resolved that until some adequate arrangements for the supply of pure drinking water (preferably by starting Tube Wells as suggested by the E. I. Ry Indian Employees Association) the Ry authorities be moved for kindly arranging supply of drinking water at Siliguri from Saidpur by means of a travelling tank wagon being attached daily to 197 Up Train and to be returned by 22 Down on the same day.

(Delayed Report).

Our Indian Brotherhood,

E. I. RY. LABOUR MEETING AT LILLOOAH — A crowded meeting of the Lillooah Workers was held at Lillooah maiden under the auspices of the E. I. Ry. Union. Srijuts Amarendra Nath Dutt, Satyendra Nath Mitra and Pandit Nilkanto Dass, M.L.As addressed the Meeting—

- a. Srijut Amar Nath Dutta said that it was only when the employees could not get their legitimate grievances remedied by their employees that they declare war. They have every right to protest against the bad treatment of their masters.
- b. Pandit Nilkanto Dass said that the present distinction existing between capital and labour was not in the former half of the last century. It manifested itself from the system of trade-in-slave that was carried on by a group of whitemen. He advised the workers at Lillooah to unite and strengthen the Labour Union and go

on with their fight till their legitimate grievances were remedied.

- c. Brijut Satyendra Ch. Mura wanted to know with regard to subsidiary privileges, if there existed any preferential treatment in the case of Lillooh Workmen and their supervising staff (cries yes, there exists). He then advised them to select a representative from among them to sit on the deputation that would be waiting on Sir George Rainy to lay before him the just grievance of the Lillooh Workmen for redress (LIBERTY).

G.I.P. RAILWAY WORKERS DEMANDS:—

At a recent meeting of the G.I.P. Ry. men's Union, Nagpur resolutions were passed noting that the Agent of the G.I.P. Railway had sympathetically considered the demands of the Nagpur workers as regards WATER SUPPLY ELECTRIC LIGHT CHARGES, OVER-WORKING in the FOREMAN'S OFFICE and RE-INSTATEMENT OF FOREMAN PATHAK and expressing its PROTEST AT THE NON-REDRESS OF THE MAIN DEMANDS OF THE UNION AS REGARDS VICTIMISATION AND OTHER WRONGFULLY WORKERS AND THE GRIEVANCES OF THE CABINMEN and further recording its opinion that the non-redress of the just and moderate demands will create an atmosphere of "Direct Action". The Union in the mean time, has chalked out the following programme of "Direct Action" for the next three months to give effect to their demands:—

- a. Doubling the present membership of the Union and of all the branches;
- b. Collection of a separate strike fund to

be kept apart as reserve fund for strike contingencies. Ammunition for at least 100,000.

- c. Observing every first Sunday as a "Demands Day" for the next three months (LIBERTY).

M & S. M. RAILWAYMEN'S MEETING:—A public meeting of the workers of the M & S.M. Ry of Hubli was held yesterday on Maulavi Maiden where R. Bala-sundara and Ekambaram advised the men to strengthen the Union and instructed the mill-wrights and foundry shop men to be patient and peaceful. The resolution were passed strongly protesting against the treatment meted out to them by Mr. Etkinson the foreman and the chargeman of the Mill Wright shop, specially to the leading workers working therein and further in his use of the most provocative threatening and filthy language in respect to the Union which represents a large proportion of employees. The meeting requested the Central Executive Council to forward the resolution to the Agent and that the matter be remedied immediately and save the prestige of the Administration and give peace and security to the workers at Hubli.

After the meeting was over a large procession consisting of 3000 men attended the funeral of Hanuman who lost his breath by electric shock in the workshop.

"Liberty".

M & S.M. Ry:—Commotion amongst the Workers:—There is considerable unrest in the M & S.M. Ry and specially at Hubli on account the alleged ill-treatment of workers

by the Changemen and Foremen of the Millwright shop of the Hubli Workshops. The matter was represented to the authorities by the Union and it appears no action has so far been taken. The Work Manager has not moved in the matter in spite of representations of the General Secretary about the seriousness of the situation. The two leaders who took the assault case to the Union have been transferred to other shops

as a result of which the men have stayed and refused to work under the Foreman and demanded justice. The General Secretary Mr. Srinivashu persuaded the men to go to duty on assurance of getting redress of grievances. Telegrams have been sent to Mr. Giri and the Agent. The Chief Mechanical Engineer has arrived and enquiries are proceeding. The findings are anxiously awaited. (Hubli July, 23.)

Contemporary Opinion.

A Practical Step.

A hundred workers were discharged by Rowntree & Co. of London employing about 7,000 men, on account of the introduction of labour saving appliances. Instead of adopting the usual method of sending the men adrift and leaving them to apply to the Exchange, the firm has offered to contribute £2 a week in respect of every man for 12 months to any one who will employ them at not less than 55 sh. a week. It is welcomed as an excellent opportunity for new industries to get labor at reduced rates. Will our Railways follow this excellent example? (Indian Railway Magazine).

Vitimization.

These Railway Officers are sometimes so very foolish. The Union is perpetually on

their brain. The other day Mr. Purandare, a Deputy Station Master now at Santa Cruz failed to issue the fog signals. The special Traffic Inspector got his life's opportunity. He immediately reported this as a deliberate negligence of duty. My friend Mr. Purandare will never desire to endanger the lives of innocent passengers. I wonder if the Special Traffic Inspector has any proof to characterise this small "error judgement" as "willful." He is however making a deliberate attempt to punish Mr. Purandare probably for his connection with the Union as one of its Secretaries. Supposing this thing had happened in the case of an Ishvarlal or a Nadirshaw would he had taken the same step? Would he had procured for him the same punishment? Of course not. This is the way to treat these

appeal has been forwarded to the Traffic Superintendent. Let us see if he also informs Mr. Parachute that the order will stand (A Railwayman's Diary B. B. C. I. Railwaymans.)

A Review.

Amateurism is the mark of mediocrity. Journalistic amateurism is the mark of the Beast. Having got that off my chest let me explain. Half a dozen years ago Indian Railway managements got an administrative rattle and woke up. This unusual terrestrial phenomenon occurs with irregular precision—if I may say so—at certain phases of service. A few rubbed their eyes and lo! Publicity was before their vision. No activity is like unto that of the roused lotus-eater. It is not efficient activity, nor is it intelligent activity. But it is activity of sorts or rather the negation of non activity. So the Great Ones of the Railway world sought counsel one of the other. After remarkably little travail Railway Publicity in India was born without help of nurse or doctor or maternity home. The baby was kept alive on artificial food and grew in stature without gaining in strength Railwaymen who adled figures of knew signals or smacked of law. Salesmen who displayed posters or advertised books: derelicts on the waters of failure, turned to Railway Publicity as a profitable profession. Service Magazines multiplied and the Railway Board took it upon itself to issue a monthly journal beautifully got up, well-illustrated and execrably edited. The Indian Railways Magazine performs a monthly miracle by surpassing the E. I. Railway, B. N. Railway and B. B. Railway

and ought, I suggest, to be the *deus ex machina* of Railway Magazine Publicity in India. A large and expensive imported staff contributes its labour to a monthly accumulation of trash and tinsel. With the exception of a dozen pages in the E. B. Railway Magazine, not one of the others stimulates the habit of travel among Indians, who compose I suppose, ninety-eight per cent, of Railway traffic. Fifth hand accounts of show places, sanitarium and shrines in indifferent English, on art paper with half-tone illustrations, apparently constitute in the railway mind the whole art of publicity. Shades of Fleet Street! deliver us from the best efforts of the amateur journalist. (Cablegates of Kings—LIBERTY.)

Mentality.

In the course of a leading article on the Bombay Textile situation, the "HINDUSTAN TIMES" says "what surprises us particularly in this woefully mismanaged affair is the attitude of Mr. Mody. The Communist seems to be sitting in his brain. He cannot conceive of any other reason behind the Strike. Like the "Daily Mail of London, which saw the red everywhere, Mr. Mody sees the red influence at the back of the Strike. We fancy, if the question is put to him to explain what he means by this reiterantion of Communist influence he would be hard put to it to give a sensible answer. Everything that does not suit the capitalist, has been labelled as communism and the efficient man who is unable to envisage the needs and rights of others is quite willing to vent his spleen on the devoted head of the communist."

The paper criticises that "if Mr. Mody will insist on sitting on perch and refuses to join in any attempt of ending the trouble the public will have ample justification in concluding that he is not interested in concluding the strike. The paper concludes that it will be wisdom on the part of Mr. Mody to refer the matter to arbitration.

"But who can expect it from one whose brain is dominated also as a machine. The Mill owners must remember that while they are engaged in a suicidal conflict between themselves and their workmen a third party is steadily capturing the Indian Textile Market." (-Free Press)- called from B. B. C. I. Railwayman.

Letters to the Editor.

Appreciation.

To
The Editor, E. B. Ry Labour Review.

Sir,

I shall be much obliged if you will kindly give publicity to the following in your much esteemed Journal :

The Eighth Annual Conference of the E. B. Ry Indian Employees' Association was held at the E. B. Ry Manson Institute Calcutta on the 17th & 18th Aug, 1929 under the Presidency of Mr. I. B. Sen, M.A., Bar-at-Law. There was a vast gathering. More than 200 Delegates from all class of Employees and from different centres attended the meeting. Reception accorded to the Delegates and visitors under the able chairmanship of Mr. J. K. Chatterjee and his lieutenants, Messrs U. N. Pathak and

S. C. Mukherjee and other workers was most satisfactory. The catering arrangement was conducted under the personal supervision of Mr. H. C. Day (Habul Babu), our Rly. Indian Refreshment Room Contractor which was simply excellent and praiseworthy.

The Conference was a great success for which the presence of Mr. P. H. Maffin, agent, E. B. Ry was partially responsible. The enthusiasm among the Delegates, who were employees of this Railway rose to its highest at the presence of their supreme head in this Railway. This is certainly the beginning of the reciprocal sympathy which we value most.

Yours etc,

B. K. Mukherjee.

A Delegate from Saidpur

IN NESTOR'S NOOK.

Congress for Labour.

That the policy of the INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS in relation to LABOUR is not a mere hollow declaration and pious platitude has been amply demonstrated times without number. But still there are unfortunately cries in the interested circle that the Congress is a capitalistic body at whose hands the well-being of the Indian workers are not at all safe. These vicious cries have been emphatically denounced by Mr. Jannadass Mehta in his presidential speech at the G. I. P. Railaymen's Conference. "With such a charter of liberties as contained in the famous Nehru Report", said Mr. Mehta, "there is no reason for setting up a counter-political Movement against the great INDIAN-NATIONAL CONGRESS where in the name of a "Third International" or a Dictatorship of the proletariat or any other shibboleth". The able exposition of Mr. Mehta should bring home to INDIAN LABOUR that those who seek to create a cleavage between the CONGRESS and the TRADE UNION MOVEMENT are not thereby letting down the cause of Indian Freedom. The INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS is for all alike, inspite of the fact that the process of activities sometimes vary, and must vary, according to the necessity of the exigencies and as such it is false fallacy which leads to the belief that the CONGRESS is not for the LABOURING MILLIONS which form

the majority of the INDIAN NATION. THE GREAT INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS is open for all. Let us in one voice sing aloud "BANDE-MATARAM" and thereby give a decent burial to these sinister cries of the interested people who take delight in the disruption of all that is "NATIONAL in "CHARACTER" and beneficial for the "TEEMING MILLIONS".

A Labour College in Bombay.

In connection with the starting of the above College of Bombay under the auspices of the "Prarthana Samaj we read the following in the "SUBODH PATRIKA" :—

"The subjects that will be taught will include Economics, Sociology, Trade Union Movement and Co-operative Movement. The object of the College is twofold :—

- (a) to create a general intellectual awakening among the Factory Workers.
- (b) to train capable men and women for sane labour leadership

"The lectures would be given in a very simple form, omitting as far as possible, all technical terms, so that the students who have studied English upto the Matriculation standard may avail themselves of them. If the College gets a sufficiently large number of students from the Mills, it is possible to arrange lectures to be given in the vernacular of the people.

"In addition to the regular classes that will be held in the evenings, the college will organise right types of trade Unions and Labour Clubs & arrange public lectures by eminent men on the varied problems of labour. At this stage it will not be possible for this instruction to address itself directly to the mill-hands and other factory workers but it can pick up the best and the most intelligent among them to train for their future work of organising and guiding labour. Some of the higher educated workers in the mills will be able to take advantage of this opportunity".

This Institution will be, we presume, first of its kind in India and such the organisers and the promoters must be congratulated upon for their laudable enterprise. Our experiences of the last few years have given us to believe that unless proper training is received in the art of handling labour politics in a perfectly constitutional manner, it is sheer mockery to try to lead them towards the progressive realisation of their 'CHERISHED GOAL' with success. Violence is no cure for social Envolusion nor it can bring about the desired change in the troubled atmosphere of labour's struggle for better existence. The struggle at every step and at all times must be constitutional and be cured by beneficial legislations. To democratise the Economic & Industrial systems within a few years is not an easy task. It requires time and as such we feel confident that this LABOUR COLLEGE will make the headway to achieve this end. Let this College be the guiding star to the labour sympathisers in other Provinces.

By the way, can't such a College be started in Calcutta under the auspices

of the Provincial branch of the Trade Union Congress where the budding Bengal Labour Representatives can undergo a course of training before they take to Labour Organisation? What the authorities in the Bengal Provincial Congress Committees say to this suggestion? Is not it a part of their duty to organise such a public Utility Institution?

Planters' Raj in Tea-Garden Areas.

On Civic Rights :—The following graphic instances will fully prove that the tea planters in Assam are standing menace to the Civic Rights in respect of the roads used by the people from times immemorial. No person, high or low can pass through the garden roads with his umbrella on or driving in his Car or horse through them without submitting to base insult. All prayer for redress goes unheeded or unnoticed by high Governmental Officers. Sometimes we were told by these high officials that these Whitemen are here to rule us according to their liking and as such we are duty-bound to obey to their distanes without murmur. We are once actually sermonised in this very strain by a District Head on the occasion of prize distribution ceremony. I am an eye-witness of the racial-superiority accidents as narrated below :—

- (a) Our school of learning was situated at the Head Quarters of a Tea Company in Upper Assam. One day at the close of the school-hours we having our umbrellas on proceeded to our respective homes. But low and behold in came one of the exhalted members of the Tea Garden nabobs from behind

and pushed the boy just near him, but not closing the umbrella and demanded apology. We were not at all prepared for this sort of cowardly attack and was in a fix for a while. But we mustered courage and challenged the assailant. He was by now surrounded by all the available students and had eventually to tender an apology slipped off quickly.

(b) This place again became the sight of a further planter's zoom. The General Manager of the Tea Company was very fond of "Salam" and as such any body passing through him must pay him this homage, or else he had to incur the wrath of this super-whitemen. One day two of our venerable teachers were passing by the side of this Head Planter without salaming him. He at once flew into rage and directed them to leave the road unless they pay him the above respect. My venerable teachers (all glory to them) did neither but proceeded towards their destination. This "Nabob" also understood the situation quite well and left the place without further altercation.

(c) I personally suffered from such an indignity for not agreeing to move from my place to make room for a planting nabob. It was a sports day in which I took part. Just at the close of the shows I was just standing in front of our camp when a Shahab commanded me from behind that I should make room for him and his two followers standing after me. I remonstrated and he wanted to first me down. But the other members of

my team at once called a council in which we were quite satisfied to let the Shahab to disappear from the scene altogether.

(d) My uncle was a Tea Garden Doctor and as such we had to spend our holidays with him. One morning in course of our stray stroll we had to pass through the road over which the bungalow of the Manager of that garden was standing. He at once stopped us by his chowkidar and insultingly directed us to go through a different route in which case we would require about an hour to reach our destination. We refused to change our course and challenged his authority for this. The Manager kept silence and we resumed our journey. But latterly we were informed by our uncle that his services (which were years' standing) were dispensed with for not agreeing to command us to tender apology to the Manager for our daring altercation.

Let me complete my story by telling that I am prepared to tell a few bare facts on the "slutty tortures" that I witnessed at my periodical stay with my uncle and his friends serving in the Tea Gardens. The Trade Union Congress should engage their energies towards the organisation of our Mute & Dumb Million Brethren serving under the chariot wheels of Tea planters under inhuman circumstances.

By the way, will Doctor Paranjyep and the men of his way of thinking agree to such "palatable indignities" (B. S. G.)

Relief to Un-Employed Youths.

The first dose towards the eradication of the unemployment epidemic from amongst the people of Great Britain was the introduction of a financial motion given relief to the unemployed to the extent of

Twentyfive millions sterling by Mr. Thomas on the floor of the House of Commons. A mild breeze was fanned here and there but none of the other two groups Liberals & Conservatives had the courage to challenge the motion by voting it down. In India this epidemic stands to day in a chronic stage but alas! there is no "Thomas" or "Macdonald" available here to administer the self same preliminary dose to it so that the entire unemployed India can get rid of this National-killing scourge and thus heave a sigh relief! Our benign masters are too busy with the ideas of keeping steady the lives of the "Half-starved Steel Frame" Fraternity! We should not, therefore, disturb them in their humanitarian devices! Our Industrial magnets and capitalistic aristocracies are vieing each other in the matter of increasing their respective "Bank Balances" and as such have no time to look into the interests of the lesser beings the un-employed! They should be allowed to run after "pious pursuits" a legacy to be enjoyed by their posterities! In the Society too these un-employed fraternity are looked upon as so many "Impersonated Curses". Being thus tossed at every corner what course is left to them but to organise themselves under one common flag to exert their right of self-existence

The BENGAL UNEMPLOYED YOUTH UNION has of late been formed to consolidate the scattered forces and to devise practical ways & means to eradicate this "Chronic pest" from our midst at the quickest possible speed. It is needless to maintain here that the more we become united the greater is our chance of success. Self-help in combination with a tenacious inclination to reach at the "Goal" brooks no failures, fears no frowns but runs apace towards its aimed aspiration with renewed vigour instead. We join issue with the organisers in inviting our UNEMPLOYED YOUTHS to swell its numbers by hundreds and thousands and launch a clear-cut programme of usefulness to the society in particular and the country in general.

All enquiries should be made to the Secretary Bengal Un-employed Youths

Union between D. D. V. M. & S. G. D. V. M. at 10, Malabar Road, Calcutta or Publicity Secretary at 41, Ouse Lane, Calcutta.

Epoch making Discovery Nodoubt.

Reuter gives us the following precious news which will be hailed by these, who are out to do some good to us:—

"In an address at the Conference of the London Missionary Society at Swanwick Miss B. Matheson, a member of the Economic Section of the League of Nations, who has concluded two year's examination of labour and economic conditions in India, declared that the allegations that factory and working conditions in India were appalling were exaggerated. On the contrary, while there was room for improvement, conditions in India were better than in many places here!!

She is certainly correct in her declaration about India Labour when we imagine the source of her informations on which her impression was based. Viceroy's Levee Governor's dinner table, Govt. Secretariat's faultless figures, capitalist dazzling Rolls Royce & white-washing rounds over the areas afforded sufficient data for examination of "Labour Economic conditions in India." A visit to slum dwellings, where we are huddled up like cattle, a sight at our poor dishes, white-searedly stand against the "wolf" at our unwieldy stomach (and that even once a day), a look at our firms which are barely sufficient to protect us from nudity and could never of course come within the scope of her precious economic enquiry. Now were she felt it worth while to spend a few weeks with the factory workers whose conditions were better than many places in England to taste the "happiness" which is the mi-chief mongers exaggerated as 'appalling. All glory to Miss Matheson for her consummate discovery within the course of two years. League of Nations must be congratulated upon for securing the service of so eminent a Labour Expert! But the Indian Trade Unionists must be on the guard lest this sort of impression might lead Trade Union Movement into ruin.