

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for December 1929.Contents.

	<u>Pages</u>
1. <u>General</u>	1 - 3
2. <u>Indian National Congress: 44th Session.</u> ...	4 - 11
3. <u>References to the I.L.O.</u>	12 - 16
4. <u>National Labour Legislation:</u>	
Bombay Presidency Area Emergency Security Act	17 - 22
5. <u>Conditions of Labour:</u>	
(a) Choolai Mill Dispute:	23
leave of employees	
(b) Jamshedpur Strike situation	23
(c) Board of Conciliation for B.B.& C.I.	
Railway dispute	23 - 24
(d) Labour Conditions in Indian Mines ...	25 - 32
(e) Immigrant Labour in Assam	33 - 36
(f) Labour Conditions in Central Provinces	
and Berar	37 - 38
6. <u>Industrial Organisation:</u>	
<u>Employers' Organisation.</u>	
(a) Annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of	
Commerce, Bombay	39 - 41
<u>Workers' Organisations.</u>	
(a) Madras Labour Union's Memorandum to	
Sir B.N. Mitra	42
(b) Madras Presidency Postmen's Union ...	42 - 43
(c) M.& S.M. Railway Employees' demands ...	43 - 45
(d) Trade Union Movement in the Punjab ...	46 - 47
(e) Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency ...	48
7. <u>Intellectual Workers:</u>	
All-India Teachers' Federation	49 - 52
8. <u>Economic Conditions:</u>	
(a) Protective duty for Cotton: Conference in Delhi	53 - 54
(b) Depression in India's Coal Trade ...	54 - 55
(c) Cottage Industries in Bengal	55 - 56
(d) Indian Economic Conference, Allahabad ...	56 - 58

[ILO]

C1903/13

	Pages.
9. <u>Women and Children:</u>	
Medical Relief for Women in Dhanbad Colliery Area	59 - 60
10. <u>Education:</u>	
Railway Staff College, Dehra Dun 	61
11. <u>Agriculture:</u>	
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research ...	62 - 63
12. <u>Maritime Affairs:</u>	
(a) Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay ...	64
(b) The Indian National Steamship Owners' Association 	64 - 65
(c) Indian Shipping Conference, Delhi ...	65 - 67
13. <u>Migration:</u>	
Education of Indians in South Africa ...	68 - 69

General.

Ever since the announcement by the Viceroy of the Government's intention to hold a Round Table Conference to discuss the ^{future of} Indian constitutional development, there has been great speculation in the country as to how the various political parties would react to it. The extreme wings have not concealed their apprehensions that no good will come out of the Conference. On the morning of the day on which the Viceroy was to ^{discuss the subject with} ~~meet~~ Mr. Patel, Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Motilal Nehru, Mr. Jinnah and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, an attempt was made to bomb the viceregal train, ^{thus} showing that revolutionary activities or the activities of agents-provocateurs were still continuing. The Conference between the Viceroy and the leaders, as has been pointed out elsewhere, came to nothing, and the Indian National Congress has now adopted complete independence as the political objective of India and has spurned the offer ~~of~~ the Round Table Conference.

Following the resolution adopted at the Congress, several members both of the Central and of the Provincial Legislatures have already tendered their resignations. Among these are Pandit Motilal Nehru and Mr. S. Srinivasa Iyengar. But an effort is being made by one section of the Congress Party to postpone their resignations till after the budget session of the Indian Legislative Assembly, and several of those who have already resigned are standing for re-election, thereby showing that they ~~do~~ not approve of the Congress resolution calling for the boycott of the councils.

It is in this atmosphere of shifting politics and uncertain programmes that the winter session of the Indian Legislative Assembly opened on 20-1-1930. The abstention of the Swarajist members has

altered the relative strengths of the parties in the Assembly, and Pandit Malaviya, the Leader of the Nationalist group, has now become the leader of the opposition, though the Independent Party under the leadership of Mr. Jinnah is likely to eclipse the official opposition in the exercise of actual influence and power because of its superiority in debating talents and mastery of parliamentary tactics.

In spite of the cordial ^{personal} relations between President Patel and Lord Irwin, the tug of war between the President and the Government of India still continues. The official opposition has now made it clear that if the Government benches were to encourage the Muslim members of the Assembly, who practically obey the Government whips, to bring forward a vote of censure on the Chair, they would also walk out of the House, leaving the Assembly to be filled by Government officials and their adherents of the Muslim group. It is, therefore, expected, that President Patel will continue in office till the end of the session which, it is now definitely known, has been extended up to 31st July 1930.

On account of the weakness of the Opposition, the Government are likely to have it all their own way during this session. Thus the question of the ratification or otherwise of the Geneva convention on Minimum Wages has been put off for two years when the Whitley Commission is expected to submit its report; Mr. S.N. Haji's controversial bill for the reservation of coastal traffic is to be re-circulated; and Mr. B. Das's efforts to indianise the staff of the Imperial Bank of India have met with no success in the House.

It may here be added that the withdrawal of the Swarajists from their seats in the Legislative Assembly has provided an opportunity for the liberalx politicians, some of whom are now standing for election to the seats vacated by the Swarajists. Among these are

Sir C.P. Ramaswami Iyer of Madras and Sir Chimanlal Setalvad of Bombay.

On the last day of February this year the Budget of the Government of India is likely to be presented to the House. It is going to be rather a trying season for the I.L.O. as it is understood that some of the Indian members in the House contemplate raising a discussion on the report of the Credentials Committee regarding Mr. Browne at the 13th Conference on a token cut in the contribution made by the Government of India to Geneva.

The report of the Indian Central Committee co-operating with the Simon Commission was published on ~~23rd~~ 23-12-1929, but in view of the Viceroy's affirmation of Dominion Status as the political goal of India, and the offer of the Round Table Conference, the report fell rather flat. The Report recommends a considerable measure of advance towards Dominion Status, ~~the proposals~~ including self-government in the provinces, responsible Cabinet Government in the Central Government with the reservation of defence and relations with foreign powers and the Indian States. While the main report is signed by six members, most of these have submitted notes of dissent and separate memoranda.

The Ceylon Legislative Council accepted the Donoughmore Reforms proposals by 19 votes to 17 on 12-12-1929.

The Indian National Congress: 44th Session.

The 44th Session of the Indian National Congress was held at Lahore from the 29th December 1929 to the 1st January 1930 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru (A brief account of the 43rd session of the Congress held at Calcutta under the presidentship of Pandit Motilal Nehru from 29th December 1928 to 1st January 1929 is given at pages 3-11 of the report of this Office for January, 1929).

Besides the Congress, about thirty other conferences were held at Lahore during the Congress Week, of which the following are among the more important :- Hindusthani Seva Dal, Teachers' Conference, Kirti Kisan (peasants') Conference, Social Conference, State Subjects' Conference, Library Conference, Rashtra Bhasha (Indian languages) Conference, Arya Mohila (Women's) Conference, Nava Jiwan Conference, Bhatia Conference, Indian Christian Conference, Depressed Class Conference, Political Sufferers' Conference, Hindu Conference, Students' Conference, Theistic Conference, Medical Conference, Temperance Conference, Jat Pat Torak (Anti - caste) Conference, Cow Conference, Khilafat Conference.

The 12th session of the National Liberal Federation (political association of Indian Moderates) was held at Madras on 29-12-29 under the presidentship of Sir Pheroze Sethna. [For a right appreciation of the issues confronting the Lahore Congress a brief review of the main political developments since the last Congress is necessary.]

It will be remembered that the Congress at its last session held in Calcutta had passed the following resolution defining the political goal of India and laying out the line of policy to be adopted by the country :-

"Subject to the exigencies of the political situation, this Congress will adopt the Nehru constitution if it is accepted in ~~its~~ its entirety by the British Parliament on or before the 31st December 1929; but in the event of its non-acceptance, by that date or its earlier rejection, the Congress will organise a campaign of non-violent non-co-operation by advising the country to refuse taxation and in such other manner as may be decided upon" (see page 7 of the report of this Office for January, 1929).

The resolution was tantamount to an ultimatum^{to} the Government that in the event of the Nehru Report not being accepted by the Government before 31-12-1929 the country will have recourse to mass civil disobedience. In view of the seriousness of the situation, Lord Irwin left for England towards the close of the year to hold personal consultations with the British Cabinet, and soon after his return to India, announced the decisions arrived at as the result of his conferences with the Cabinet, in a Gazette of India Extraordinary dated 31st October 1929. The main point of the announcement was that the Viceroy, speaking on behalf of His Majesty's Government, stated clearly that the natural issue of India's constitutional progress as contemplated in the declaration of 1917 is the attainment of Dominion Status. The announcement further stated ~~that it was Government's intention~~ that after the publication of the reports of the Simon Commission and the Indian Central Committee, but before the stage is reached of the Joint Parliamentary Committee, a conference should be called in which His Majesty's Government should meet representatives both of British India and of the States for the purpose of seeking the greatest possible measure of agreement for the final proposals which the Government would later on submit to

Parliament. The Leaders' Conference held at Delhi on the 1st and 2nd November 1929 to consider the Viceroy's offer of a Round Table Conference, while welcoming the announcement stated that the necessary conditions precedent to the success of the Conference were (1) that a general policy of conciliation should be adopted by the Government, (2) a general amnesty should be given to political prisoners, and (3) that in the Round Table Conference the Congress group should be accorded predominant representation. ~~The~~

[The atmosphere of good-will created by the Viceroy's announcement was strengthened by the following resolution moved by Mr. Fenner Brockway and which was passed by the House of Commons on 18-12-29:-

"This House welcomes the evidence of co-operation of Indian representatives on the question of constitutional reform in India and relies on the Government of India to encourage good will by the sympathetic conduct of its administrative and executive functions, particularly in relation to expressions of political opinion." Mr. Wedgwood Benn, the Secretary of State for India, declared in the course of his speech that the proposed Round Table Conference would meet with absolutely free hands, and referring to the tendency in Congress circles to impose conditions on the Conference, significantly declared that "the winning card was argument and the losing card non-co-operation". [In view of the hesitancy shown by Congress leaders to accept the Round Table Conference suggestion unreservedly, a conference of five leaders, namely, Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Motilal Nehru, Mr. V. J. Patel (President of the Assembly), Sir T.B.Sapru and Mr. Jinnah with the Viceroy was arranged to take place on 23-12-29. The Conference of which much was hoped ended in failure owing to fundamental dif-

^{en}ferces of opinion. The Congress leaders insisted on the immediate grant of Dominion Status as a condition precedent to Congressmen's participation in the Round Table Conference, while the Moderate leaders, Sir T.B.Sapru and Mr. Jinnah, urged that it should be left open to the participants in the Round Table Conference to ask for the grant of Dominion Status and to discuss the question with all its implications (Times of India 25-12-29). An official statement issued on 23-12-29 declared that the Viceroy stated that while the conference was designed to elicit the greatest possible measure of agreement, it was impossible for him or His Majesty's Government in any way to prejudge the action of the conference or to restrict the the liberty of Parliament. The most important issue before the Lahore session was thus whether the Congress should accept the Viceroy's offer of a Round Table Conference, or whether it should with doctrinaire insistence maintain that in the event of the Nehru Report being not accepted by Government by 31-12-29 it should act upon the resolution sponsored by Mahatma Gandhi at Calcutta and declare for complete independence.

In his presidential address, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru, whose elevation to the presidency is a testimony to the increasing strength of the youth movement in India, declared that the Nehru constitution had to be scrapped and independence had to be declared as the future goal of India as the conditions for co-operation laid down in the Calcutta Congress remained unfulfilled. Outlining the future constitution of an independent India, he declared that ~~that~~ the three major problems of ~~the~~ minorities, the Indian States, and labour and ~~the~~ peasantry, will have to be tackled in a spirit of social good will and religious toleration, and with a determination

to remove the dominance of one class by another by the acceptance of socialistic ideals. For forging effective sanctions to enforce the national will, he suggested mass civil obedience and boycott of legislatures in the political sphere complemented by boycott of British goods in the economic sphere.

The presidential address gave a true indication of the temper of the Congress and of the nature of the decisions it was finally to adopt. The following is the full text of the resolution moved by Mahatma Gandhi and adopted by the Congress with regard to the independence issue, as also with regard to the boycott of the legislatures, municipal and local bodies :- "This Congress, whilst endorsing the action of the Working Committee in connection with the manifesto signed by the party leaders, including Congressmen, in connection with the Viceregal Pronouncement of the 31st October relating to Dominion Status, and appreciating the efforts of H.E. the Viceroy towards a peaceful settlement of the national movement for Swaraj, and having considered the result of the meeting between the Viceroy and Pandit Motilal Nehru and other leaders, is of opinion that nothing is to be gained in the existing circumstances by the Congress being represented at the proposed Round Table Conference; and in pursuance of the resolution passed at the Calcutta Congress last year, this Congress now declares that "Swaraj" in the Congress creed shall mean complete independence, and therefore further declares the Nehru scheme of Dominion Status to have lapsed, and hopes all parties in the Congress will devote their exclusive attention to the attainment of complete independence, and hopes also that those who were prevented from joining the Congress or were actuated to keep away from it by whom the tentative solution of the communal problem suggested in the Nehru constitution has prevented from joining the Congress or actuated them to abstain from it, will now join or rejoin the Congress

and zealously ^{work for} ~~prosecute~~ the common goal; And as a preliminary step towards organising a campaign for independence and in order to make the Congress policy consistent with the change of creed, this ^{Congress} declares a boycott of the central and provincial legislatures and municipal and local bodies, and calls upon Congressmen to abstain from participating, directly or indirectly, in the legislatures or municipal or local bodies in future, and the present members of the Legislatures or municipal and local bodies to tender their ~~resignation~~ resignation; And this Congress ~~is~~ calls upon the nation to concentrate its attention upon the constructive programme of the Congress and authorises the All-India Congress Committee, whenever it deems fit, to launch a programme of civil disobedience, ~~including~~ including non-payment of taxes, whether in selected areas or otherwise and under such safeguards as it may consider necessary." [The resolution was keenly debated in the Working Committee and the All-India Congress Committee. In the open session of the Congress several amendments to the resolution were moved. Pandit Malaviya's amendment for postponing the making of changes in the creed of the Congress till after an All-Parties' Conference in March or April, 1930, Mr. N.C.Kelkar's amendment urging deletion of the clause in the resolution relating to boycott of legislatures, Mr. Subash Chander Bose's amendment, which went further than the original resolution in that it advocated boycott of the law courts as well, Mr. Satyamurty's amendment to omit the words indicative of non-co-operation with the proposed Round Table Conference and the boycott of legislatures, are among the more important of the 14 amendments to the resolution moved in the open congress and which were all rejected by the Congress. ^{ultimately} Mahatma Gandhi's resolution was adopted by the Congress consisting of about 1500 delegates with only a dozen delegates voting against.

Among the more important of the other resolutions passed by the Congress were the following :-

"This Congress deplores the bomb outrage perpetrated on the Viceroy's train, and reiterates its own conviction that such action is not only contrary to the creed of the Congress, but results in ~~in~~ harm being done to the national cause. It congratulates the Viceroy and Lady Irwin and their party including the poor servants on their fortunate and narrow escape." ["This Congress is of ~~the~~ opinion that the financial burdens directly or indirectly imposed on India by the foreign administration are such as a free India cannot bear and cannot be expected to bear."

"This Congress, while re-affirming the resolution passed by the Gaya Congress in 1922, records its opinion for the information of all concerned that every obligation and concession to be inherited by independent India will be strictly subject to investigation by an independent tribunal and every obligation and every concession, no matter how incurred or given, will be repudiated if it is not found by such a tribunal to be just and justifiable ."

Resolutions congratulating the East African Indians on the clear national stand they took upon the problem there, and affirming that no solution of the question that accepts communal electorates and is based upon a discriminating franchise, or imposes a disqualification on Indians holding property, can satisfy the nation; condemning the refusal of passports to return to India to Mr. Saklatwala and others living in foreign countries; opining that the time has arrived for the Ruling Princes of India to grant responsible government to their subjects; and fixing that future sessions of the Congress should be held in February or March, instead of in December

as at present, were also passed by the Congress.

The next session of the Congress will be held at Karachi. The Congress elected Dr. Syed Mahmood (Bihar), and Mr. Sri Prakash (Benares), as Secretaries, and reappointed Seth Jammalal Bajaj and Mr. Sivaprasad Gupta as Treasurers.

The close of the Congress witnessed acute differences of opinion between the various parties in the Congress. The party in power headed by Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Motilal ~~M~~ Nehru, and Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru (President) is determined on carrying on the programme as defined at Lahore, and with this purpose in view ~~has~~ in choosing the Working Committee of the Congress for the year selected only those who are in complete agreement with the Congress programme, excluding Mr. S. C. Bose, Mr. Srinivas Iyengar and others, who differ on details. ^{The principle} that the Working Committee should form a sort of Cabinet working on the principle of joint responsibility and agreement on all essential questions did not appeal to a section of the Congressmen, who under the leadership of Messrs Srinivas Iyengar, S.C. Bose, and Satyamurti walked out of the All-India Congress Committee and formed a new party inside the Congress called the Congress Democratic Party. Another party headed by Pandit Malaviya, Mr. N. C. Kelker and Dr. Moonje is opposing the council boycott programme of the Congress and has asked members of the Central Legislature to postpone resignations till the 18th January, when a common plan of action is to be decided upon. Meanwhile, in response to the Congress mandate, a good number of resignations, from both the Central and Provincial Legislatures, have already been tendered.

References to the I.L.O.

The Times of India of 9-12-29 publishes the account of an interview with Mr. G. Sethi, adviser to the workers' delegate to the 12th Session of the I.L. Conference, who returned to India on 6-12-29. Mr. Sethi, who after the conference visited England, France, Germany and Russia, in the course of the interview said that he was struck much by the progress made in Russia and was favourably impressed by the way in which the Soviet Government dealt with the problems of minorities, languages and races. According to Mr. Sethi, a noteworthy feature in the Russian workshops and factories is what is called the "wall paper", through which the workers voiced their grievances and offered suggestions for the better management of undertakings.

* * * * *

The Hindu of 16-12-29 publishes the list of persons nominated by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, to constitute the employers' delegation to the 14th Session of the Conference. The following are the names suggested :-

Delegate, Mr. Amritlal Ojha, M.L.C., (Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta); advisers, Messrs. Mukerjee (Punjab Chamber of Commerce), J.K. Mehta (Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay), Ramjidas Vaishya, (Gwalior Chamber of Commerce), and Ganganand Sinha, M.L.A., (Bihar and Orissa Chamber).

* * * * *

Special letters from the Hindu's special correspondent at Geneva appear in that paper's issues of 3-12-29 and 18-12-29.

* * * * *

The Hindu of 15-12-29 and the Pioneer of 19-12-29 publish brief accounts of the activities of the League of Nations Malaria Commission in Mysore.

* * * * *

The Pioneer of 20-12-29 publishes a leading article reviewing Lady Simon's (wife of Sir John Simon) book "Slavery", in the course of which appreciative references are made to the efforts of the League of Nations and the International Labour Office to eradicate slavery.

* * * * *

The Pioneer of 29-12-29 in a leaderette refers to the recent decision of the Governments of India, Australia and South Africa not to participate in the preliminary conference to discuss the draft conclusion for a tariff truce, and points out that the independent attitude adopted by India in this connection proves that, despite assertions to the contrary, India is not forced ^{to} subordinate her interests ^{to} ^{to} play a subsidiary role at Geneva.

* * * * *

According to the Hindu of 29-11-29 the Employees' Association of Calcutta has recommended Mr. Mukunda Lall Sircar, President of the Employees' Association, Calcutta, and Mr. Anath Bandhu Datta, General Secretary of the Calcutta Corporation Employees' Association, for nomination as delegate and adviser respectively of the workers' delegation to the 14th I. L. Conference.

* * * * *

The report of the abstract of the proceedings of the Bengal

Chamber of Commerce for November, 1929 (No.313) makes reference to the communique issued by the Government of India on 15-10-29 regarding the 14th Session of the I.L.Conference. The Chamber has recommended that Sir George Godfrey should be nominated by Government as the delegate of the employers to the conference.

* * * * *

The Indian Social Reformer in its issue of 7-12-29 publishes a paragraph about the establishment of the Open Door International at Geneva, and points out that though the Open Door International is particularly interested in the I.L. Conference and the I.L. Office, it exists for the purpose of "combating special restrictions placed on women based on sex alone, many of which have been spread to all countries through the influence of the I. L. Organisation".

* * * * *

The Servant of India of 26-12-29 publishes reviews of two books "The Problem of Industrial Relations and ~~the~~ Other Lectures" by Henry Clay, and "The New Industrial Revolution and Wages" by W. Jett Lauck (contributed by the Director of this office) in the course of which references are made to the work of the I.L.O.

* * * * *

The Labour Gazette, Bombay, in its issue of November, 1929 (Vol.IX, No. 3) publishes at pages 231 - 241 the views of ten employers' and six employees' associations on the questionnaire issued by the I.L.Office on the international regulation of hours of work of salaried employees. In the same issue, is published at pages 242 - 258 the questionnaire issued by the International Labour Office on forced labour.

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, in its issue of November and December, 1929 (Vol.VII, Nos 2 & 3), at pages 34 to 41 publishes an article by the Director of this Office entitled "Geneva and the Worker".

* * * * *

The "Progress of Education", Peena, in its (Quarterly) issue of November, 1929, (Vol.VI, No. 5) publishes at pages 2 to 9 an article by the Director of this office on "I.L.O. and Educational Bodies". The same article is published at pages 621-626 of the November, 1929 (Vo. XXXV, No. 11) issue of the "Educational Review", Madras, and in "Education", Cawnpore, at pages 413 - 419 of its October, 1929 (Vol. VIII, No. 10) issue.(Copies of these journals have been forwarded to Geneva)

* * * * *

The "Stri Dharma" at pages 515 - 521 of its September and October, 1929 (Vol.XII, Nos. 10 and 12) issue publishes an article by the Deputy Director of this office entitled "A Plea for Protective Legislation for Indian Women Workers", in which appreciative references are made to the efforts of the I.L.O. to ~~improve~~ better the conditions of women workers. (A copy of the Stri Dharma has been forwarded to Geneva).

* * * * *

The Hindu Annual for 1929 publishes an article entitled "International Labour Organisation - ~~The~~ The Work of the Indian Branch" contributed by the Director of this office. (A copy of the Annual has been forwarded to Geneva).

The Hindustan Times Congress Number (December, 1929) publishes at pages 17 and 36 an article contributed by the Director of this office under the caption "The League and Labour". (A copy of the Congress Number has been forwarded to Geneva).

Bombay Presidency Area (Emergency) Security Act.

At page 16 of the report of this office for October, 1929, reference was made to the Bombay Presidency Area (Emergency) Security Bill, with the note that a copy of the Bill when passed into law will be incorporated in a future report. (See also pages 21-27 of the report of this office for the period 15-31 July, 1929). The report of the Select Committee on the Bill was published on the 17th September 1929 and their main recommendations were (1) that the life of the Act should be limited to five years, (2) that "Presidency Area should include only the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District and (3) the addition of a new clause (clause 8) to provide for every order passed by the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate under clause 5 to be automatically reviewed by a Committee to be appointed by Government in this behalf. The Bill as amended by the Select Committee was discussed by the Council on four days, i.e., from the 1st to the 4th October 1929, and thereafter passed into law. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 19th November 1929, and was published in the Bombay Government Gazette dated 19th November. The following is the full text of the Act :-

BOMBAY ACT NO. XVII of 1929.

(First published, after having received the assent of the Governor General in the "Bombay Government Gazette" on the 19th November 1929.)

An Act for safeguarding life and property
in the Presidency Area in times of
emergency.

WHEREAS it is expedient to make provision in manner hereinafter appearing for the safeguarding of life and property in the Presidency Area in times of emergency;

And whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80A of the Government of

5 & 6 India Act has been obtained for the passing of
Geo. V, this Act;
c. 61.

It is hereby enacted as follows :-

1. This Act may be called the Presidency Area (Emergency)

Short title Security Act, 1929.

2. (1) This Act shall extend to the whole of the Presidency

Extent, commence- of Bombay and shall remain in force for
ment and duration. five years.

(2) Section 5 shall come into force on the date or dates on which a state of emergency is declared under section 4 and shall continue in force for three months from such date or dates. The rest of the Act shall come into force at once.

3. In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the

Definitions subject or context, -

"Presidency Area" means the City of Bombay and the Bombay Suburban District.

4. The Local Government, if satisfied that the public tranquillity and security of life and property in the Presidency Area

Power to declare or any part thereof are endangered, may
state of emergency. at any time, by notification in the

Bombay Government Gazette, declare that a state of emergency exists and shall set forth the reasons for such declaration in the notification.

5. Whenever the Commissioner of Police or District Magistrate exercising jurisdiction in the Presidency Area is satisfied

Power to order removal that any person within his
of turbulent character.

jurisdiction is committing or has committed or is about to commit or is assisting, abetting or inciting by words either spoken or written the commission of

(a) a non-bailable offence against any person or property, or

(b) the offence of criminal intimidation, or

(c) any offence involving a breach of the peace, so as to be a danger to or cause or be likely to cause alarm to the inhabitants of the Presidency Area or any section thereof, the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, may, subject to the control of the Local Government, by written order briefly stating his reasons therein direct such person to remove himself from the Presidency Area within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order and not to return thereto for a period (not exceeding six months) to be specified in the order without the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be.

(2) An order under sub-section (1) against any person may, unless the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, is satisfied in respect of such person that both he and his father were born in the Presidency of Bombay or that he is a member of a family which has settled in the Presidency of Bombay and is himself so settled, direct that such person shall remove himself from the Presidency of Bombay within such time and by such route as may be specified in the order and shall not return thereto for a period (not exceeding six months) to be specified in the order save with the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be.

(3) An order under sub-section (1) shall be served personally on

the person against whom it is directed in such manner as the authority making the order thinks fit.

6. (1) Before making an order under section 5 the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall

Procedure to ^{be}	:	give an opportunity to the person
adopted in making	:	
order under section 5.	:	against whom the order is proposed

to be made to show cause against the order, and shall consider such representation as he may make verbally or in writing.

(2) Within forty-eight hours from the ~~the~~ making of an order under section 5 the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, shall forward in writing to the Local Government his reasons for making the order.

7. When by an order under section 5 any person has been directed to remove himself from the Presidency of Bombay and has

Power to modify order	:	complied with the order, or when
under section 5.	:	any person has been removed in

police custody outside the Presidency of Bombay under section 10, the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, may, of his own motion or upon application made to him in this behalf, if he is satisfied that both such person and the father of such person were born in the Presidency of Bombay or the such person is a member of a family which has definitely settled in the Presidency of Bombay and is himself so settled, modify the order in such manner as to permit such person to return to and remain in any part of the Presidency of Bombay outside the Presidency Area.

8. (1) As soon as possible after the issue of a notification under section 4 the Local Government shall appoint a committee

consisting of such number of persons as it thinks fit for the Review ¶ purpose of reviewing, in manner hereinafter provided, the orders passed under section 5:

Provided that at least one member of such committee shall be a person who for a period of not less than ten years

(1) has held any judicial office in the service of the Crown in India, or

(1i) has been a Barrister, Advocate, Pleader, Attorney, or Solicitor of any court in British India.

(2) Every order passed by the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be, under section 5 shall, as soon as possible, be forwarded by him together with the relevant papers of the case to the committee appointed under sub-section (1).

(3) When an order has been served on any person under section 5 and has been complied with by him, he or any agent authorized by him in writing may, within fifteen days of such service, file a representation before the committee appointed under sub-section (1) giving reasons why such order should be modified or revoked.

(4) The committee shall, within one month from the date of service of an order under sub-section (1) of section 5, examine the proceedings relating to such order and shall consider such representation as may be made to it under sub-section (3) and shall forward the same together with its recommendation thereon to the Local Government who may confirm, modify or revoke the order.

9. When an order has been served on any person under section ~~Right of appeal~~ ¶ 5 and has been complied with by him, he or an agent authorised by him in writing may petition the Local Government to revoke or modify the order and thereupon the Local Government shall consider such facts and

circumstances relating to the case as may be placed before it, and may confirm, modify or revoke the order.

10. Any person who, having been directed by an order made Failure to comply with order and served on him under section 5 -

- (a) to remove himself from the Presidency Area or from the Presidency of Bombay, fails to remove himself therefrom within the time specified in the order,
- (b) not to return to the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay within a specified period, returns thereto within such period without the written permission of the Commissioner of Police or the District Magistrate, as the case may be,

may be arrested without a warrant by any police officer, and -

- (i) may be removed in police custody outside the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay, as the case may be, or
- (ii) on conviction before a Presidency Magistrate or a Magistrate of the first class, may be punished with imprisonment of either description for a term which may extend to six months or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees or with both:

Provided that notwithstanding such conviction and punishment if the period for which such person was directed to remove himself under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 5 has not expired on the date on which the fine, if any, is paid or the term of his imprisonment, if any, under this clause expires he may be removed in police custody outside the Presidency Area or the Presidency of Bombay, as the case may be, for the unexpired portion of such period.

Explanation .- For the purposes of this proviso the period of imprisonment undergone by such person shall be treated as a part of the period for which such person was directed to remove himself under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2) of section 5.

11. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding whatever shall lie against any person in respect of anything which is, in good Indemnity. faith, done or intended to be done under this Act. The end

Conditions of Labour.Choolai Mills Dispute:leave of employees

A long standing cause of dispute between the employees and the management of the Choolai Mills, Madras, was settled amicably on 18-12-29, when the management decided to accede to the men's demand that instead of being compelled to utilise their privilege leave of 15 days a year at one stretch, they should be given the option to avail themselves of the privilege leave in instalments. The Labour Commissioner, Madras, was present when the leaders of the workers discussed the question with the management.

(Times of India 20-12-29)

Jamshedpur strike situation.

The strike of the Golmuri tin plate workers, Jamshedpur, has practically collapsed ~~completely~~. A correspondent writing to the Statesman of 20-12-29 says that on a recent visit he found the works in full swing with the mills registering record production. According to the correspondent "a third of the original strikers have resumed work in the mills, a third have left for their homes, while the remaining ~~that~~ ^{are} third depending on charity for their daily needs".

Board of conciliation for B.B.&C.I. Rly. dispute.

A dispute is now in progress between the B.B. & C.I. Railway Union, Bombay, and the management of the B.B. & C.I. Railway over the question of the terms on which some of the employees in the B.B. & C.I. Railway workshops at Parel ^{are} ~~were~~ to be transferred to the workshops at Dohad. The Union applied to the Government of India

for the appointment of a Board of conciliation regarding the dispute and the application has been granted by the Government. The Union has been asked by the Government to recommend the name of a person to represent the employees on the Board of Conciliation. Pending the decision of the Board, the railway management has withdrawn the notices served to several employees.

(B.B. & C.I. Railwayman.- 15-12-29.)

The Governor General in Council, in exercise of the powers conferred on him by section 3 of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, has been pleased to refer the dispute to a Board of Conciliation composed of the following members :- Chairman: Mr. Bepin Behari Ghose, M.A., B.L., retired Judge of the High Court, Bengal. Member to represent the employers: Mr. C.W.M. Collins, Deputy Agent, Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway, Member to represent the employees: Mr. Jamnadas M. Mehta, M.L.A., President, Bombay Baroda and Central India Railway Employees' Union, Rai Saheb Dipchand, Superintendent, Department of Industries and Labour Government of India, will act as Secretary to the Board.

(A proposed reduction in wages, to the extent of 10 per cent. on the transfer of the B.B. & C.I. Railway Workshops from Bombay to Dohad forms the subject of this dispute. The Railway contend that the 10 per cent. in question is a special allowance granted to employees in Bombay owing to the high cost of living, which allowance must cease on the transfer of the Workshops. In protest against the proposed reduction the B.B. & C.I. Railway Workmen's Union addressed recently a memorandum to the Government of India Labour and Industries Department.)

(Times of India.- 6-1-30.)

Labour conditions in Indian Mines*

The report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for the year ending 31-12-1928 recently published by the Government of India is a handy publication which gives within the compass of one volume a variety of useful information about the conditions of labour in Indian mines. The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies only to British India and not to the Indian States. The following classes of mines are dealt with in the report :- coal, iron, manganese, lead, antimonial lead, silver, gold, copper matte, nickel, zinc, mica, salt, magnesite, bauxite, steatite, slate, limestone, igneous rock, stone (unspecified), laterite, sandstone, gravel, murum, fire-clay, china clay, barytes, apatite, asbestos, ochre, Fuller's earth, kyanite, corundum, gypsum, beryl and bismuth.

Persons employed.

During the year 1928 the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 267,671, as compared with 269,290 in the previous year. The decrease was 1,619 persons, or 0.60 per cent. Of these persons 117,940 worked underground, 79,458 in open workings and 70,273 on the surface. The distribution in respect of sex was as follows:-

* Indian Mines Act, 1923, Annual report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1928. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch 1929. pp. VI+195. Price Rs.2-4-0 or 4s.

			<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Underground	...	...	86,155	31,785
In open workings	...	...	51,005	28,453
Surface	...	...	52,430	17,843
			<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	189,590	78,081
			<hr/>	<hr/>

Of the 31,785 females employed underground, 28,408 were employed in coal mines, 2,677 in mica mines, and the rest among the various other kinds of mines. The provincial distribution of the females who worked underground was :- Assam, 94; Bengal, 8,428; Bihar and Orissa, 20,504; Central Provinces, 1,426; Madras, 906; Punjab, 361; Ajmer-Merwara, 2; and United Provinces, 44.

Distribution of workers :-

Coal mines .- The number of persons employed in coal mines was 164,139, which is 1,074 less than the number employed in 1927. Of these persons 41,929 were coal cutters, 8,774 were male leaders and 36,427 were females - chiefly leaders.

Other mines .- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 103,532, which is 545 less than the number employed in 1927. 75,323 were males and 28,209 were females. Of these females only 3,377 worked underground.

Wages %- In the coalfields there was a small decline in wages, the amounts being 5 per cent. in the Jharia coalfield, 2 per cent. in the Raniganj coalfield, 4 per cent. in the Giridih coalfield, 2 per cent. in the Assam coalfield, 8 per cent. in the Punjab coalfield and 7 per cent. in the Assam coalfield,

Pench Valley coalfield. To give an idea of the wages obtaining in coal mines, the daily earnings of the several classes of workers in December, 1928, in the Jharia coalfield under the three main headings - underground, open workings, and surface - are given below :-

Underground :- Overmen and Sirdars - Rs.1-4-9, Miners - Rs.0-13-6, Loaders - Rs.0-10-9, Skilled Labour - Rs.0-13-0, Unskilled Labour - Rs.0-9-9, Females - Rs.0-8-9. Open workings :- Overmen and Sirdars - Rs.1-2-6, Miners - Rs.0-14-0, Loaders - Rs.0-5-6, Skilled Labour - Rs.0-10-6, Unskilled Labour - Rs.0-7-9, Females - Rs.0-8-3, Surface :- Clerical and Supervising staff - Rs.1-6-9, Skilled Labour - Rs.0-12-3, Unskilled Labour - Rs.0-8-6, Females - Rs.0-6-9.

The enforcement of the provision for a compulsory rest day for workers in mines, has affected the wages of certain classes of workers such as pump-minders, boiler-firemen, etc., as they are being paid only for six days work in the week instead of seven days as heretofore. The figures of average daily earnings in the various mining industries indicate a great disparity in the earnings of the workers. Thus, while a skilled labour in the Burma lead mines gets Rs.2-10-0 a day for underground work, in the M Jharia coalfield the wages for such labour are Rs.0-13-0, in the Bihar and Orissa mica mines Rs.0-8-0, in the Madras mica mines Rs.0-6-3, and in the Punjab slate quarries Rs.0-4-0. The wages for unskilled female labour range from Rs.0-10-0 a day in the Burma lead mines to Rs.0-2-6 a day in the United Provinces stone quarries

Women and underground employment :- In June 1928 draft regulations

for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines were published, and opinions were invited inter alia as to whether a check on the gradual reduction in the number of women employed in the mines to be exempted during a transition period should be obtained by means of a system of tokens or badges to be attached to the person, or by prescribing that the number of women employed underground day to day should not exceed a definite and gradually decreasing percentage of the total number of persons, men and women, employed underground. The consensus of opinion was in favour of the latter method, and it has been substantially adopted. With effect from the first day of July 1929 the employment of women underground in mines other than coal mines in Bengal Bihar and Orissa and the Central Provinces, and salt mines in the Punjab, has been prohibited. In the coal mines mentioned above, women may continue to be employed in the underground workings after the 1st July 1929, but their total number shall not be a greater percentage of the total number of persons, both men and women, employed underground than 29, and this permitted percentage will be reduced by 3 every year till finally extinguished in July 1939. Similarly the number of women who may be employed underground in the salt mines will gradually decrease from 40 per cent. in 1929-30 to nil in July 1939. Although these new regulations do not apply to quarries, the Railway Board has decided to reduce the number of women employed in loading coal in the coal quarries worked by the State Railways pari passu with the reduction in the number of women employed in underground coal workings. This rule, however, will not be extended to women employed in the removal of over-burden less than 60 feet thick.

21,515,796

Output of minerals :- Coal.- The total output in 1928 was ^{21,515,}~~796~~ tons of a declared value of Rs.8,37,52,449. The increase in the output was 406,820 tons or 1.93 per cent. The output was within a quarter of a million tons of the record production in 1919 when 21 $\frac{3}{4}$ million tons was produced. The opening stocks in 1928 were 1,721,288 tons and the closing stocks 1,625,718 tons, which is 153,212 tons less than in the previous year, and more than a million tons less than the closing stocks at the end of 1925. The average output of coal per person employed was for underground and open workings 188 tons in 1928, as against 177 tons in 1923-27, and for miners employed above and below ground 131 tons in 1928, as against 114 tons in 1923-27. There was again a small improvement in the average, and, as in the previous year, the improvement may be ascribed to the greater use of coal-cutting machinery. In 1927 the output of coal per person employed above and below ground in the United Kingdom was 252 tons. In 1926 comparative figures in certain other countries were :- Japan 132 tons; Transvaal 426 tons; United States of America 780 tons.

The market for Indian coal continued to be weak until the closing months of the year. With a view to economy in the cost of production the large concerns were obliged to strive for maximum outputs, but the excess production could not be absorbed and the pressure to sell resulted in even lower prices being obtained than in the previous year. In the closing months of the year a degree of firmness manifested itself and promised to continue. The direct cause of this change was the reduction of raisings brought about by a poorer supply of labour. When the crops are

exceptionally good, as they were in 1928, the miners do not show the same inclination to return to the collieries for work as they do in normal years.

Accidents .- During the year 1928 at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 221 fatal accidents, which is 12 more than in 1927 and 6 more than the average number in the preceding five years. These accidents involved the loss of 259 lives, which is 12 more than in 1927. Of these persons 210 were males and 49 were females. In one case seven lives, in one case six lives, in one case four lives, in four cases three lives and in sixteen cases two lives were lost. There were in addition 654 serious accidents involving injuries to 683 persons, as compared with 680 serious accidents involving injuries to 713 persons in the previous year.

The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows :-

	Number of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure ...	147	66.52
Fault of deceased	39	17.65
Fault of fellow workmen	9	4.07
Fault of subordinate officials ...	12	5.43
Fault of management	13	5.88
Faulty material ...	1	0.45
Total ...	<u>221</u>	<u>100.00</u>

Deaths occurring in each class of mine were as follows :-

218 in coal mines, 2 in mica mines, 7 in manganese mines, 5 in

silver-lead mines, 8 in tin and wolfram mines, 6 in limestone mines, 6 in stone mines, 3 in iron mines, 2 in a fireclay mine, 1 each in salt and copper mines.

The number of serious accidents reported was 654, as compared with 680 in the previous year.

Health and sanitation .- The principal bodies charged with looking after the health of the miners were the Asansol Mines Board of Health and the Jharia Mines Board of Health. In the territory under the supervision of the former the death rate was 20.9 per 1000, and the infant mortality rate 139.1 per 1000. In the latter's area, the death rate was 18.28 per 1000 and the birth rate 35.47 per 1000, as against 16.73 and 33.74 per 1000 respectively during 1927.

Coal-Dust Committee .- The work of the Coal-Dust Committee was continued throughout the year. Experiments were carried out in the underground galleries of Godhur colliery in the Jharia coalfield. In July a demonstration was given in the presence of the members of the Association of Colliery Managers in India. At the Indian School of Mines experiments were made on the effect of stone dust in preventing the ignition of coal-dust, and on the ignition of coal-dust by electric arcs.

Inspection .- Since the year 1923 the number of coal mines being worked has decreased from 942 to 556, and the number of metalliferous (including stone) mines at work has increased from 601 to 1,393.

During the year 982 mines were inspected and many of them several times. 2,410 separate inspections were made. The cause

and circumstances of practically all fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations were investigated. As in other years many inspections were made on the invitation of mine-owners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. The number of complaints received from workmen in respect of wages and hours of work tends to increase. An increasing proportion of the time of Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwelling houses and roads by reason of the underground workings of coal mines.

Immigrant Labour in Assam*.

The Government of Assam has recently published two reports on immigrant labour in the province of Assam, the first dealing with immigrant labour in the Assam Valley Division and the second with immigrant labour in the Surma Valley and Hill Division. The immigrant labour dealt with in the two reports is that recruited for the tea gardens. Below are given brief summaries of the reports.-

Immigrant labour in Assam Valley Division. - The number of immigrants ^{in July 1928 - June 1929} was 56,473 against 36,617 in the preceding year showing an increase of 19,856. The increase is mainly due to the scarcity in the recruiting districts, such as Ranchi and Santhal Parganas and importation of short term coolies from the Madras Presidency. At the close of the year the total number of garden population was 735,075 against 701,892, an increase of 33,183 or 4.80 per cent. over the population of the preceding year. The number of adult labourers to an acre is .87 in Goalpara, 1.36 in Kamrup, 1.41 in Darrang, 1.21 in Nowgong, 1.43 in Sibsagar and 1.69 in Lakhimpur. Coolies were generally well off. The number of births recorded was 22,323 while the number of deaths was 15,641. No serious epidemics occurred during the year under report. The gradual and steady increase in wages continued. The average cash earnings calculated on the average working strength were Rs.14-1-5 for men, Rs.11-4-2 for women and Rs.7-6-1 for children, as against Rs.13-2-1, Rs.11-6-1, and Rs.7-0-6 respectively in the previous year. These figures do not represent the total earnings of

* Reports on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending 30th June, 1929. Printed at the Assam Secretariat Printing Office, Shillong. Price Rs.1-3-0; 1s. 9d. pp. 20.

the labourers. In addition to wages the coolies are generally granted concessions of free firewood, grazing grounds, rice lands for cultivation in the garden grants. They are often supplied with paddy and rice below the market price. Gardens almost always allow maternity leave on full or half pay with or without free rice ~~for~~ for a period varying from three to six or even eight months. The relation between the planters and the labour force was generally satisfactory: the number of collisions when considered in proportion to the garden population is very small. The report records the occurrence of five strikes during the year, all of them of a minor and local character, and of short duration. The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 521 against 513 in the previous year. Of these 257 were liable to inspection but 239 were inspected during the year under report.

Immigrant labour in the Surma Valley & Hill Division

June 1929
for the year ending 30/6

- The total garden population, working and non-working, living in garden lines and on garden land at the close of the year rose from 323,329 to 332,587 showing an increase of 9,258 souls. Double the number of souls, 12,427 as compared with the preceding year 6,228, was imported during the year. The prevalence of scarcity conditions owing to two successive failures of the rabi harvest throughout the Jubbulpore division adjoining the Indian States gave an impetus to emigration. There were no ~~xxxx~~ cases of fraudulent recruitment during the year under report. The general health of the coolie population continued to be good. No serious epidemics were reported during the year. The birth-rate rose from 31.73 to 32.71. The death-rate was a little higher. It increased from 18.66 to 21.16 per mille. The steady

increase in the average monthly cash earnings calculated on the average daily working strength as compiled from the wages returns for the months of September and March continued. The concessions of private cultivation, free housing, free medical attendance, free fuel and grazing, and a supply of tea, rice and cloth at less than the market rates, were enjoyed as usual together with free meals and liberal maternity concessions given when necessary. The coolies on the gardens held 51,062 acres of land against 49,887 acres in the preceding year. Of the total area 2,520 acres were held directly under Government, 45,895 as tenants of the gardens, and 2,647 acres as tenants of land-holders. The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 336 against 334 in the previous year. Of these 122 gardens were liable to inspection and 108 were inspected during the year under report. Four miscellaneous cases were instituted against the managers by ~~the~~ coolies during the year and all of these were decided against the complainants. The report records the occurrence of five strikes during the year; three on questions of wages and two as demonstrations of resentment against the orders of managers. On the whole the relations between the employers and the labour force continued to be good.

The Resolution passed by the Government of Assam on the two reports summarised above points out that the total number of immigrant labourers into Assam rose from 42,845 in the previous year to 68,900 in the year under review, and that there was a similar marked increase in the number of labour force obtained locally. The total labour force (both immigrant and local) increased from / 1,025,221 in the previous year to 1,067,662 in the year under review. The resolution directs attention to the fact that the reports do not disclose to what extent, if any,

there has been an improvement in the standards of living of the labour force. Referring to labour unrest and strikes, the Resolution says: "Although labour is not organised in Assam, the labour force is quick to resent anything which is regarded with or without reason as an injustice or imposition and to express that resentment by concerted action. The industry can ill afford the loss of labour, and managers are therefore anxious to keep their labour force contented".

Labour Conditions in Central
Provinces & Berar*

Comparatively little is known of the industrial conditions prevailing in the Central Provinces and Berar. The handy and instructive volume "Labour Conditions in the Central Provinces and Berar" compiled by Messrs Fulay, Pahade and Deshpande, is therefore a welcome contribution to the literature on Indian labour. The authors, are recruits from the intelligentsia class who have identified themselves heart and soul with the Indian labour movement and they speak from actual first hand information. Differing from the Gandhian School, they frankly admit that the exigencies of international competition have made the adoption of the factory system indispensable to the material prosperity of the country. This stern sense of practical values has enabled them to define their goal as an "endeavour to mitigate the evils of exploitation and capitalist distatorship by the early establishment of well-established Trade Unions", and in this endeavour they gladly welcome the International Labour Organisation as a valuable ally.

The main thesis of the book is that labour conditions in the province are very backward, that the housing and health of the labourers leave much to be desired, that the present wage standards are abnormally low, and that both Government and employers are to blame for the continuance of such conditions. The statistical evidence given in the book bears out their contentions. In Nagpur, the

* Labour Conditions in Central Provinces and Berar by R.W.Fulay, M.A., LL.B., M.L.C., (Hony. Secretary, Press Employees' Association; Vice-President, Provincial Postal and R.M.S. Association, C.P. and Berar; Textile Union; the Motor Drivers' Association; and President, Scavengers' Union, Nagpur, etc.) J.S.Pahade, M.A., B.T., (Secretary, R.M.S.Union, Nagpur) and S.P.Deshpande, B.A., LL.B., (Vice-President, Motor Drivers' Association, Nagpur). 1929. Published by T. Krishnaswamy Mudiraj & Raji Shastri Chandekar, Walker Road, Nagpur City. Price Rs.3 . pp. iii + 119.

chief industrial centre of the Province, hardly a thousand out of the eight thousand employed there are provided with suitable accommodation through the combined efforts of the employers, the municipality and the local government; the rest of the labouring population live in one-room tenements in insanitary chawls and busties. In the same place, the infantile mortality per 1000 births was 303.38 in 1917, 364.50 in 1919 and 375.61 in 1921. In Nagpur the monthly wages of a skilled fireman is Rs.28, of a semi-skilled dyer Rs.20, of an unskilled gin cooly (male) Rs.17, and (female) Rs.9. The authors strongly plead for minimum wage legislation for India on the lines suggested by the International Labour Conference and suggest that the minimum wage should be fixed at Rs.30 per month as demanded by the All-India Trade Union Congress. They accuse the Government of a bias in favour of the employers in the recent legislation it has initiated, such as the Trade Disputes Bill and the Public Safety Ordinance and cite in further support of their contentions the lukewarmness the Government of India has shown in ratifying Geneva Conventions. They further point out that the recent swing of the Indian labour movement towards militant socialism can be countered only by a more ~~xxx~~ sympathetic attitude on the part of the Government and the employing classes.

Employers' Organisations Industrial Organisation.

Annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of
Commerce, Bombay.

The eleventh annual general conference of the Associated Chambers of India and Ceylon was held at Bombay on 16 & 17-12-29 at the office of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, with Mr. G.L. Winterbotham in the chair. The Hon. Sir Bhupendranath Mitra and the Hon. Sir George Rainy, Members of the Viceroy's Executive Council, in charge of Industries and Labour, and Commerce and Railways, respectively were present by special invitation.

In his presidential speech Mr. Winterbotham voiced the desire of the Associated Chambers to work in harmony with Indian Chambers of Commerce. Regarding political and constitutional questions, Mr. Winterbotham said that many of the worst features of the present political situation will disappear under a constitution which puts on the elected representatives of the people the responsibility for the good government of the country. Discussing the relations between capital and labour, it was pointed out that the year 1929 was marked by a series of disastrous strikes, the effects of which it would be difficult to compute. The year also saw the passing of the Trades Dispute Act and the setting up of the Whitley Commission. ~~The~~ He commended the action of the Bombay Government in availing itself of the machinery provided by the Act, when occasion arose, and wished that other provincial governments would follow in this respect the Bombay Government's example. He cordially welcomed the Whitley Commission and expressed the hope that labour organisations, instead of being led astray by designing politicians, would co-operate with the Commission. He welcomed development of real trade unionism and said he did not despair of this result though the immediate outlook was far from bright.

The following are among the more important resolutions passed by the Conference :-

"This Association requests the urgent attention of the Government of India to the extent to which, in recent industrial disputes, unregistered trade unions have interfered between employers and their labour; the Association affirms the views expressed in their resolution of December 16, 1924, to the effect that registration should be compulsorily enforced in respect of every trade union and that picketing should be declared to be illegal, and be effectively dealt with; and in the interests of peace and prosperity in the industries of India, the Association urges Government to introduce, at as early a date as possible, legislation to amend the Trade Unions Act XVI of 1926, accordingly."

Sir B. N. Mitra in explaining the position of the Government in this matter said that Government was fully aware of the part played by communists in prolonging the Bombay strikes, but was of opinion that the strike was due more to economic reasons than to Communist promptings. Regarding registration of trade unions, he remarked that labour organisations should not be recognised unless they were registered. On 3-9-29 there were 30 registered Trade Unions in Bombay and about 25 in Bengal. If registration were made compulsory it was obvious that those who failed to register their unions should be punished. It was now recognised in England and other European countries that the right to strike was an essential right of the wage-earner. Regarding picketing he said that the Pearson Committee and the Riot Enquiry Committee had recommended legislation in respect of intimidation only and not in respect of picketing. Government had no intention at present to undertake any legislation on the subject. The desire of the employers to secure industrial peace would be better served by the establishment of better standards of conduct between employers and workmen.

As a result of Sir B. N. Mitra's statement the motion was withdrawn.

Mr. P. Mukerjee of the Punjab Chamber moved and Sir Leslie Hudson seconded a resolution requesting Government to oppose the proposal of the International Labour Conference for a convention or recommendation on the subject of the regulation of hours of work of salaried employees as such convention or recommendation would be difficult, if not impossible of application in India. Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, observed that the whole question was at present engaging the attention of Government and that the views expressed at the Conference would be borne in mind before any decision was arrived at. The resolution was passed.

It is understood that Mr. P. Mukerjee in his speech moving the resolution ^{made a reference} ~~paid a tribute~~ to the work of the Indian branch of the I. L. O.

Among the other resolutions moved were ^{those} ~~resolutions~~ urging the necessity for substantial reductions in railway freight rates on cotton and fuel oil; the desirability of adopting a standard form of contract for all government purchasing departments, more especially state railways, and introducing force majeure and arbitration clauses in all contracts for supply of government stores; and expressing regret ^{at} ~~for~~ state interference with private enterprise as exemplified by the ~~the~~ permission accorded by Government to the Railway Board to offer large quantities of slack coal for public sale and the sale of jail-made goods to the public.

The 1930 annual conference of the Associated Chambers will be held in Calcutta.

(Times of India 19-12-29).

Industrial Organisation.

Workers' Organisation.

Madras Labour Union's Memorandum to Sir B.N.Mitra.

The Hon. Sir B. N. Mitra, Member of the Viceroy's Executive Council for Industries and Labour, met the members of the Executive Committee of the Madras Labour Union on 19-12-29, ⁷discussed with them a memorandum presented by the Union. The memorandum referred to the question of recognition of trade unions by employers and suggested an amendment to the Trade Union Act providing for enquiry by the Registrar of Trade Unions in regard to the bona fides of any union before registration. The memorandum also dealt with the question of representation of labour on the legislatures and the need for extending the scope of the Workers' Compensation Act.

Sir Bhupendranath Mitra is understood to have stated that these suggestions would necessarily come up before the Whitley Commission and therefore the Government of India could not consider them until after the Commission had reported. With regard, however, to the question of recognition of registered unions by employers, he is reported to have said that an amendment on the lines suggested by the union would not really ^{bring} ~~bring~~ about the desired result. In the long run the establishment of friendly relations between the employers and the work-people could only be through direct efforts even more than by legislation. Mr. Gray, the Labour Commissioner, was also present at the meeting.

(Hindu.- 20-12-29.)

Madras Presidency Postmen's Union.

The ~~xx~~ tenth annual provincial conference of the Madras Presidency Postmen and Lower Grade staff Union was held at Nellore on 22-12-29 under the presidentship of Mr. C. Doraiswami Iyengar, M.L.A.

The president in his ~~RE~~ speech pointed out that, though the postal regulations are becoming more numerous and more taxing, the pay of the lower staff had not been increased. The plea for Indianisation of the services should not mean that more Indians should be appointed in the higher grades on the present extravagant scale of salaries. Salaries in the higher grades should be cut down and salaries in the lower grades should be increased. The present practice of giving travelling allowances to the higher grades and denying them to the lower staff should be stopped. The number of village postmen had increased only by 400 during the last ten years and their present strength was only 8,700. Considering the number of villages that have to be served, the number of village postmen should be increased.

(Hindu.- 24-12-29.)

M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Demands.

A deputation of the M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Union, Perambur, headed by Mr. V. V. Giri, President of the Union, waited on the Agent of the M. & S. M. Railway on 20-12-29, and presented a memorandum embodying the grievances of the employees. The memorandum contained nearly ninety demands. Addressing a meeting of the union on 24-12-29, Mr. Giri said that the Agent had given the deputation a sympathetic hearing and that there were hopes that many of their demands would be conceded. The Union is planning to publish the results achieved and what it still hopes to achieve in the form of a blue book. The following are among the more important of the union's demands :-

In the light of the best experience from English and Conti -

mental Labour Institutions, it is desired that the Administration be pleased not only to recognise the Union but also to appoint a Standing Committee consisting of an equal number of representatives from the Administration and the Union to carry out the declared objects ^{of the Union} ~~already referred to~~. ~~From what has been already stated~~ ^{the} appointment of rival institutions or bodies like the Staff Committees in opposition to the Union is not conducive to the best interests of ^{either} both the management ^{or} and the employees.

The Union desires that full facilities to investigate ~~into~~ ~~the~~ ~~alleged~~ alleged grievances by furnishing relevant official records or information, that may be asked for, should be given, ⁱⁿ ~~order~~ to eliminate frivolous complaints. The Union should be supplied with copies of all standing rules, etc., affecting the staff, issued by various officials of the railway, from time to time. ~~The~~ service conditions of the employees are to be framed after prior consultation with the Union in accordance with the uniformly followed principle in the drafting of all the International Labour Conventions of Geneva. ~~✗~~

Uniformity of practice in the enforcement of service rules has to be observed in all the departments of the railway. Designation of employees as menials, lower subordinates, etc., should not result in different service-privileges for that reason only, and similarly, men paid on either daily-rated or monthly-rated system are to be given the benefit of equal privileges without distinction. The General Service rules of the Railway, especially those not affected by local circumstances, like Pass

rules, leave rules etc., shall not fall short of the most liberal practice followed in other State-owned Railways, and this is to be effected in consultation with the Union. Regarding security of tenure and punishments, the memorandum makes a number of demands and says that compulsory retirement should be confined only to cases of criminal misconduct, frequent wilful disobedience, and medical unfitness and superannuation. Dismissal or discharge of staff on the basis of mere police report should not be effected without full and proper enquiry. Similarly, employees acquitted by courts should not be discharged from service.

In regard to the method of fixing wages the memorandum asks that the existing scales of pay for the staff should be reviewed periodically by a joint committee of the railway and the union with a view to improve the rates wherever necessary. The memorandum then discusses the rules concerning promotions, provident fund, gratuity rules, hours of work, leave and holidays, passes, medical examinations etc. and concludes with the request that the Union should be heard by the administration when it has to make representations on general or individual grievances, and that it should be consulted on questions dealing with the service-conditions of its member.

(Hindu.- 20-12-29.)

Trade Union Movement in the Punjab*

According to the report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab for the year 1928-29 issued by the Registrar of Trade Unions, the Punjab, the total number of registered trade unions in the Punjab at the close of the year was 13.

The total number of the membership of the ten unions from ~~whom~~ ^{which} returns of statistics have been received reached the figure of 14,507 at the close of the year under review, as compared with the membership of 5,799 of the six unions of the previous year. It is apparent from these figures that the average membership per union increased from 966 in 1927-28 to 1,451 in the year under review. This rapid increase in the number of members of these unions is a clear evidence of the fact that the employees are now beginning to realise the benefits of co-operative ~~movement~~ ^{action} and look upon the Act as a safeguard for the preservation of their legitimate rights. The income of the ten unions during the year under review was Rs.15,583-6-5 as compared with an income of Rs.2,044-8-0 of the six unions of the previous year. The expenditure on the other hand increased from Rs.2,348-0-9 in the year 1927-28 to Rs.15,258-1-11 in the year under report. The year under report being the first year of the existence of the majority of the unions, the funds of these unions were mainly utilised towards their organisation. A few of these unions are considering schemes relating

* Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab during the year 1928-29. Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. Price Rs.0-8-0. pp. 3+3.

to sickness insurance and the payment of benefits like annuities, old age pensions, and the like. The majority of the unions directed their energies mainly towards the amelioration of the working conditions of the workers employed in their respective trades. The unions of the employees in the different sections of the North-Western Railway succeeded in securing some ~~of the~~ privileges relating to service recruitments, promotions, to higher grades, ~~and the provision of the existing scales of pay, etc.~~ No appeal was filed against the orders of the Registrar during the year under review, and no registration was either withdrawn or cancelled. As in the previous year none of the unions subscribed to the political fund.

Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency.

The following statistics about grade unions in the Bombay Presidency are taken from the Labour Gazette, November, 1929 (Vol. IX, No. 3).

The total number of Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency ^{was} ~~is~~ 94 during the third quarter of 1929. Of these 94 Unions, 48 ^{are} ~~are~~ in Bombay City, 8 in Ahmedabad and 38 in the rest of the Presidency. The total membership of these Unions stands at 193,335 as compared with 200,325 as at 1st March 1929, showing a fall of 3.49 per cent.; and as compared with 74,875 at the end of the year 1926, showing an increase of 158.02 per cent. The number of members in the Unions having their offices in Bombay City fell from 162,187 to 158,444 or by 1.66 per cent. The membership of the Ahmedabad Unions fell from 24,152 to 22,826 or by 5.49 per cent. The number of members in the Unions in the rest of the Presidency also declined from 13,986 to 12,065 or by 13.74 per cent.

Intellectual Workers.

All-India Teachers' Federation.

The fifth Conference of the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations, which was attended by more than a ^{thousand} ~~1000~~ delegates from all over India, opened its sittings at Madras on 27-12-29 under the presidentship of Sir P. S. Sivaswamy Aiyar. The Federation, it may be mentioned, is the premier teachers' ^{organised} ~~associations~~ in India. Its aims and objects are :- (a) to study educational problems with special reference to Indian conditions; (b) to work for the adequate realization of the educational needs of India; (c) to co-ordinate the working of the various teachers' associations of the country; (d) to safeguard and advance the interests of the teaching profession in India, and to secure for it its legitimate place in national life; (e) to act as a vehicle of representation at International Teachers' Conferences. Successful annual conferences have already been held at Cawnpore, Patna, Calcutta ~~and~~ and Bombay.

The All-India Teachers' Federation is one of the affiliated organisations of the World Federation of Educational Associations and was represented at the recent biennial Conference at Geneva by as many as twenty delegates, including Prof. D. K. Karve, the founder of the ^{Indiana} Women's University, ^{(Pona),} Mr. V. S. Ram of the Lucknow University and Mrs. Kamaladevi Chattopadhyaya, the well-known worker in the cause of women's educational reform in India.

Mr. S. K. Yegnanarayana Iyer, the Vice-President, in his speech welcoming the delegates, stressed, among other matters, the following points :- (i) that there should be hundred per cent organisation among teachers, and that (ii) efforts should be made to induce Provincial Governments to accept the teaching profession as a department

of the state and to accept all teachers as state servants, as is the case in Ceylon.

The main points emphasised in Sir P. S. Sivaswami Aiyar's presidential address were :- (1) No conclusion of the Hartog Committee report (see pages 55-57 of the Report of this Office for October, 1929) would militate against the grant of greater political responsibility to the people, who were, despite the illiteracy prevalent in the land, quite able to exercise the franchise, (2) there was considerable waste of effort in elementary schools, which was a feature in other countries also, (3) inspections of schools are carried out in a mechanical manner, (4) the training given in the Teachers' Colleges is inefficient, (5) the Secondary School Leaving Certificate Scheme is a failure, (6) the School Final Examination, as it has been conducted hitherto, has led to grave defects due to early specialisation and other causes, and (7) provision for vocational education is very scanty. To these causes he attributed the deterioration in standards of the average graduate of the present day.

The following are among the more important of the resolutions adopted by the Conference :- (1) "This conference urges upon all Provincial Governments to take steps for the provision for instruction in sex hygiene in school and colleges by such teachers and professors as qualify themselves for this task, a special allowance being paid for such extra work." (2) "This conference is of opinion that the methods of school inspection now current ^{are} and capable of improvement and do not help the schools adequately to improve in efficiency and outlook and that a new system must be tried of having a number of subject inspectors to work in co-operation with ordinary inspectors whose main function must be to direct, organise

and co-ordinate." (3) "This conference urges the Provincial Govern -
ments to take earnest steps for the provision of physical edu -
cation in schools and colleges (1) by making physical training
and games compulsory for all pupils, (2) by insisting on the
appointment of trained physical instructors, with ~~an~~ a high stand-
ard of general educational qualification and a special knowledge of
hygiene and first aid, (3) by enabling the schools and colleges to
acquire suitable play-grounds with the help of three-quarters or
even the whole actual costs in the shape of Government grants, (4)
by making health instruction compulsory in all schools and colleges,
(5) by introducing scout movement in all schools and colleges, and
(6) by starting physical culture institutions for the benefit of
students." (4) "This Federation is of opinion that the success of
elementary education in the country mainly depends upon popularis -
ing adult education and as such it requests the Government to start
a successful campaign of adult education in consultation with the
non-official educationists." (5) "This conference is of opinion that
a conscience clause should be introduced with regard to religious
instruction in schools and colleges." (6) "This conference is of
opinion (a) that a minimum salary for each grade of teachers should
be laid down and incorporated in Educational Rules and insisted on
as a condition of recognition and (b) that the great differences
in the salary scale of teachers in Government and non-Government
institutions is detrimental to the cause of education and appeals
to the Government and departments of education to minimise the
difference by adopting a standardised salary scale for teachers in
non-Government institutions and to meet all incremental charges in
the scale, the initial salary being borne by the institutions
concerned."

The conference also passed resolutions requesting the Govern -
ments to make primary education compulsory; to establish magic
lantern bureaus or centres in every province; to give liberal
library grants, and to institute special funds to enable teachers
to undertake occasional long-distance educational tours, and to
adopt the American system of giving a year's leave once in six
years with full pay for purposes of studies abroad. It was resolved
to start an all-India journal and a sub-committee was appointed
to take steps for that purpose.

(Hindu.- 29 & 30-12-29).

It is understood that arrangements are being made for the
holding of a Pan-Asiatic Conference of Teachers at Benares in 1930.

The Director of the Indian Branch who attended this Conference
on the special invitation of the Reception Committee, utilised the
opportunity to circulate copies of his article on "The I. L. O. and
Education/Bodies".

Protective duty for cotton: Conference in Delhi.

At page 50 of the report of this office for November, 1929, reference was made to the Government of India's decision to convene a conference of the representatives of the cotton millowners of Bombay, Ahmedabad, and other cotton centres to consider the course of action that was to be taken in view of Mr. Hardy's report on "import tariff on cotton piecegoods" (For conclusions of this report see pages 47-50 of the report of this office for November, 1929). The Conference took place at Delhi on 9 and 10-12-29. The Government of India was represented by Sir George Rainy, Commerce Member, Sir Arthur McWatters, acting Finance Member, and Mr. Woodhead, Secretary, Commerce Department. Among the more prominent of the representatives of the millowners were Sir Manmohandas Ramjee, Mr. H.P. Mody, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, and Mr. Saklatwala. The proceedings were confidential. According to the Hindu of 11-12-29, it appears that there were two schools of thought in the Conference. One was definitely opposed to specific duties, while the other group seemed agreeable to it as a temporary measure ~~in this direction~~ to provide immediate relief. The discussion tended in the direction of emphasising the millowners' point of view that ad valorem duties are preferable to specific duties as suggested by Mr. Hardy himself. The millowners are understood to have pointed out how adversely Japanese competition affected the Indian textile industry. Some are said to have pleaded for a higher protective duty so as to enable Indian mills to compete successfully with Japan and Italy in respect of coarse and medium counts, and also ^{to} withstand the pressure of competition now experienced from Lancashire in respect of particular counts.

The Ahmedabad mill-owners specially explained the keenness of the competition from Japan and gave statistics in support.

Depression in India's Coal Trade.

The total production of coal in India amounted in 1928 to 22,543,000 tons, which is 461,000 tons or 2.1 per cent more than in 1927, but 85,000 tons less than the record output of 1919. About 564,000 tons are estimated to have been taken by the miners for their own use, thus bringing the total production up to 23,107,000 tons. An official report compiled by the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence states that the coal trade is passing through a state of depression. Prices have steadily slipped back with the result that mines with seams of anything below first quality coal are shut down. Of first quality coal mines, those working on older methods are somehow managing to remain in existence; those which are equipped with modern type plant and organization are only find-it possible to keep among the regular dividend payers, though the dividends are getting less and selling prices falling lower.

The following causes have gone a great way to create the present position of the industry:- (1) The steady increase of output from the railway-owned mines, (2) The increasing surplus output from many large company-owned first class and selected mines owing to the introduction of electrical and coal cutting by machines; (3) General slackness of industries, strikes and long periods of closing down of factories. (4) Extension of electrical supply for millworking and railways. (5) A growing appreciation of improved coal-burning methods leading to reduced consumption in mills.

(A brief survey of labour conditions in Indian mines is given in the section of this report dealing with Conditions of Labour.)

Cottage Industries in Bengal.

The Government of Bengal in a Resolution on the administration report of the Director of Industries, Bengal, for the year 1928-29, express the following views on the steps to be taken for stimulating the cottage industries of Bengal. The Resolution refers to the finding of the Royal Agricultural Commission that, though agriculture is the main industry of India, that alone cannot occupy the agricultural population throughout the year, and that for bettering their economic condition the possibilities of spare time occupations have to be fully explored. Manufacture on cottage industry lines is the most profitable spare time occupation for the agriculturists. The cottage industries of Bengal have to a certain extent withstood the intense competition of the factory products, but to make the position of the domestic industries secure the main thing necessary is the substitution of primitive methods by modern processes. Secondly, the Department of Industries may help village artisans by educating them on modern lines so far as village manufactures are concerned by ocular demonstrations of the fact that the adoption of modern methods will enable them to effect economies in labour, time, and cost of production. Thirdly, the village artisans have to be extricated from debt by the formation of co-operative credit societies. Fourthly, cottage industries can be fostered by the organisation of markets for cottage industry products.

(Statesman.- 13-12-29.)

The Conference convened by the Government of Madras in 1928 to consider the future lines of progress of the cottage industries of the

presidency, and which submitted its recommendations in February, 1929, came to almost identical conclusions. A brief summary of the views of the Textile Expert of the Government of Madras on this question is given at pages 52-54 of the report of this office for March, 1929.

Indian Economic Conference, Allahabad.

The 13th session of the Indian Economic Conference was held at Allahabad on 28-12-29 under the presidentship of Mr. N.S. Subba Rao, M.A., (Cantab) of the Mysore education service. In his presidential speech, Mr. Subba Rao made a comprehensive survey of the economic situation in India, with particular reference to the educational readjustments that have to be made in view of the economic changes that are rapidly taking place. He pointed out that in recognition of the principle that economists have a definite place in economic enquiries and investigations, professors of economics have been appointed on several Committees and Commissions set up in recent years by the Governments, such as the Tariff Board, the Central Banking Enquiry Committee etc. He deplored the exception that has been made in the case of the Royal Commission on Labour, which particularly required the services of trained economists. Other points emphasised by Mr. Subba Rao were :- (1) Instead of the hap-hazard appointment of occasional Commissions etc, the time has come for systematic and continuous work. India should imitate the example of the United States of America, which has instituted permanent bodies like the Tariff Commission and the Federal Trade Commission and other bodies, which make investigations suo moto as the result of a comprehensive plan of campaign. Only by such methods could permanent

and solid contributions to economic literature, as well as the formulation of definite, consistent and sustained economic policies be ensured. The nucleus for the formation of an All-India Economic Organisation was present in the existing Tariff Board and the Department of Statistics and Commercial Intelligence. The ~~Tariff~~ ^{Tariff} Board after finishing its present labour should be continued as an enlarged body and vested with authority to make enquiries and surveys on its own initiative⁴ to submit recommendations to the Government from time to time. It should serve as the "Economic Intelligence Staff" of the country and pave the way for a department charged to devise the "necessary social and industrial adjustments that are intended to prevent the very occurrence of a wide spread or long-continued involuntary wagelessness".

Discussing the need for a new orientation of economic policy, Mr. Subba Rao said that post-war developments have shown the inexpediency of India's excessive dependence on agriculture, and that there was no reason to believe that India cannot herself produce essential industrial products like cloth, sugar, etc, provided state ~~like~~ support was forthcoming in the initial stages to help the country to withstand the pressure of foreign competition. This, however, was only a partial solution. The raising of the level of comfort of the masses has to be brought about by the application to the land of the brains and capital of India. At present Agriculture and Industry were transferred subjects under the control of local Ministers, with the result that schemes of development were viewed at from a provincial rather than an All-India point of view. If events made it clear that the reign of Bombay as the centre of the cotton industry is over, it would not be advisable that the

Bombay mills should be bolstered up by artificial aids against the natural development of the industry elsewhere in India, though local sentiment in Bombay would be against such action.

Reviewing the educational policy of the country, Mr. Subba Rao said that the present system was harmful in two ways in that it gave a bias not only away from manual work, skilled or unskilled, but also gave a bias towards posts in offices and other sedentary occupations. Educational readjustments have to be made to suit economic changes, secondary education should be given a vocational bias so that Indian boys, who for want of proper training are going unprepared for their life's work in agriculture, industry, and commerce, may be practically trained in such useful occupations.

Speaking about the labour problem, Mr. Subba Rao said that it offers to the economic reformer not one but several problems, such as the basis of reward for work, allowance during periods of enforced idleness, regulation of conditions of work, the place of labour organisations in the control of industry, and the provision for training and systematic recruitment.

Briefly, Mr. Subba Rao pleaded for a vivid realisation of the juxtaposition of the old and the new in India. Any system of industrial education that visualises industrial development only on factory lines will deal, but incompletely with the facts of the situation. The urgent need of the moment was a thorough survey of the economic position of the country and this required the setting up of a National Economic Commission, which should embody a triple alliance between the educationist, the psychologist and the economist.

(Times of India.- 31-12-29.)

Medical Relief for Women in the Dhanbad Colliery Area.

The Government of Bihar and Orissa had recently drawn the attention of the Jharia Mines Board of Health to the inadequate provision for medical relief for women, particularly as regards maternity and welfare work, in the Dhanbad Colliery areas. The Jharia Mines Board of Health thereupon drew up a memorandum on the subject and formulated a scheme for the establishment of a maternity home at Dhanbad. The principal suggestions made by the Jharia Mines Board of Health are embodied in a letter dated the 4th November, 1929 addressed by the Chairman of the Board to the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta. The following are the main points of the scheme:-

There is no organization in the Jharia Coalfield for maternity and child welfare work and there is no special medical relief for women. There are no special arrangements for maternity cases at the Dhanbad hospital. There is a well equipped Railway hospital but it is not open to the public as a whole. Colliery hospitals are only equipped on a small scale with no special arrangements for maternity cases. It is proposed that the Board of Health should organize a Maternity Hospital or a Women's Nursing Home, which should be located just outside the Coalfield at Dhanbad. There should be accommodation for thirty beds, of which twenty should be put into commission immediately as follows:-

- 12 for maternity cases;
- 4 for accident cases for women workers;
- 4 for the treatment of diseases of women.

The outlay of money required would amount to Rs. 115,000, and the annual recurring expenses Rs. 22,080. The local government should be approached for a grant of Rs. 50,000. The Nursing Home would provide free conveyance to the Home, free food and free clothing both for child and

and mother, and free treatment. The Home would also function as a child-welfare centre.

(Summarised from report of the proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 27-11-1929).

Education.

Railway staff college, Dehra Dun.

A Railway staff college has been opened at Dehra Dun in January 1930, to impart secondary education in transportation for the staffs of Indian railways. The Dehra Dun institution is a continuation of the "area schools" already in existence where primary education in transportation is imparted. The "area schools" have two distinct functions.

(A) The training of "probationers" who have not yet begun their railway service, and (B) The provision of periodical "refresher" courses for those already in the railway service, certificates being granted on the results of each course.

Training will be provided for probationers in three groups: (A) A station group comprising telegraph signallers, assistant station masters and station masters. (B) A commercial group, comprising coaching and goods clerks. (C) A train staff group.

The courses will vary from 3 to 10 months depending on the nature of the group. The second function of the "area schools" is the provision of refresher courses. It is intended to provide courses of training for staff at intervals of 5 years, certificates being granted at the completion of the courses. It is hoped in time to ensure that no railway servant will be considered eligible for promotion to a higher post unless he holds the corresponding school certificate.

The Dehra Dun ⁸/₂ Staff College, which is meant to serve as a Central College for the "area schools", will impart instruction of a more advanced type and provide refresher courses for officers and instruction for probationer officers. The College which has 155 acres of ground at Dehra Dun, possesses a Transportation Room 120' x 49' x 45', where a model railway of 2 1/2" gauge is worked for demonstration purposes.

(Pioneer.- 23-12-29).

Agriculture.
Imperial Council of Agricultural Research

The first session of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research (see pages 69-70 of the report of this Office for June 1929) opened at Pusa on 7-12-29 under the presidentship of Sir Mahomed Habibullah, ex-officio chairman of the Council. The session lasted six days, during which there were meetings of the Advisory Board, the Governing Body, and the whole Council. The meetings of the Advisory Body were attended by all the Directors of Agriculture and the heads of the Veterinary Departments in the Provinces, as well as ^{by} representatives of the Universities and the co-operative movement.

Reviewing the work of the Council, Sir M. Habibullah said that during the five months of its existence the Council had established a creditable record of work. The appointment of the Committee to report upon the 'sugar-cane Industry to devise solutions for saving the indigenous producer against dumping tactics which over-production abroad facilitates, the initiation of liaison activities between provincial governments and private institutions engaged in agricultural research, the stimulation of all-India co-operation in agricultural efforts, these were the first results of the Council's activities. Besides, the Council had to make awards of on applications from all over India for financial aid for agricultural research. It was also the Council's province to establish relations with international and imperial institutions engaged in kindred activities.

The Advisory Board passed the following two resolutions regarding the locust menace and the conservation of indigenous manurial resources:—

"Resolved that the Advisory Council of Agriculture Research do

appoint a special sub-Committee to (a) Work out the technique and organisation required for the control of desert locust, including measures not involving the use of poisons. (b) To make recommendation for the scientific study of the desert locust in India and to work out the staff equipment and funds required to carry this out. (c) To recommend to what extent locust research should be carried out by the Imperial and by the Provincial Agencies respectively, and (d) To report what action should be taken on the recommendations of the Committee of Civil Research.

"Resolved that a sub-committee be appointed to prepare a programme of research in fertilisers and to conduct an investigation into the economic utility of indigenous manures."

The Governing Body of the Council accepted both the above recommendations of the Advisory Board.

(Times of India.- 20-12-29.)

Maritime.Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay.

There is considerable dissatisfaction prevailing among the seamen of Bombay on the ground that their long standing grievances (see pages 50-51 of the report of this office for period 15th to 31st July 1929, and also pages 67 of report for May, 1929) have not been redressed by the authorities concerned in spite of many representations made by the Indian Seamen's Union, Bombay. The general discontent prevailing has of late been aggravated by the fact that some shipping companies of Bombay have recruited crews from Calcutta. They allege that this is unfair and unjust to the large number of unemployed seamen in Bombay, and have already represented their grievance to the Shipping Officer. The seamen held a meeting on 5-12-29 where it was decided to send a deputation to the Commissioner of Police to represent this grievance. A deputation of the Union waited upon the Police Commissioner, Bombay, on 6-12-29 to represent the grievance of the seamen and it is understood that the Police Commissioner gave them a sympathetic hearing and promised to write to the Shipping Master. The meeting on 5-12-29 also resolved that if steps were not taken to ~~put a~~ ^{held} stop recruiting crews from Calcutta and their other grievances were not sympathetically considered immediately, the seamen in Bombay would have to think of resorting to direct action.

(Times of India.- 9-12-29.)

The Indian National Steamship Owners'
Association.

At a meeting of Indian steamship-owners, recently held at the office of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, it was decided to form a body to be known as "The Indian National Steamship-Owners'

Association". After general discussion those present resolved to form "the Indian National Steamship-Owners' Association" and appointed a provisional committee, consisting of Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. Kaikobad Cowasji Dinshaw, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Mr. Sarabhai N. Haji, and Mr. M.A. Master. Mr. Walchand Hirachand was appointed provisional Chairman and Mr. M.A. Master, Honorary Secretary.

At the meeting, it is understood, there was unanimous agreement in regard to the necessity for an Association to protect and promote, Indian shipping interests. The objects of the Association will be amongst others, (1) to discuss and consider questions affecting the Indian Mercantile Marine in all its aspects, (2) to attain the advantages of united action for the representation of Indian shipping interests on public bodies in India and various Imperial and national organisations, (3) to make efforts for the spread of knowledge relating to shipping and allied industries, and (4) to secure organised action on all subjects relating to the interests of Indian ship-owners directly and indirectly.

Amongst this is
the "incident
Conference -
P.P.P.

Indian Shipping Conference, Delhi.

A shipping conference attended by representatives of the principal companies engaged in the coastal trade in India was opened on 3-1-30 by His Excellency The Viceroy in the Council Chamber in Viceroy's House. The conference was held within closed doors and the Press was not allowed. Sir George Rainy, Member, and Mr. J. Woodhead, Secretary, represented the Commerce Department. ~~Delegates were sent by~~ The Scindia Steam Navigation Company, which was represented by Mr. Walchand Hirachand and Mr. H.P. Mody, the Indian Co-operative Navigation and Trading Company by Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the Bengal-Burma Steam Navigation Company by Mr. Abdool

Baree Choudhury, the British India Steam Navigation Company by Sir Arthur Froom and Mr. J.H.Fyfe, the Asiatic Steam Navigation Company by Sir Phiroze Sethna, the Associated Chambers of Commerce by Sir George Godfrey and Mr. Ernest Miller, ^{and} the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce by Mr. D.P.Khaitan. Mr. S.N.Haji, the sponsor of the Coastal Reservation Bill, was present by special invitation.

After several hours' discussion a sub-committee, ^{was appointed} to thresh out certain outstanding details of the measure. ~~was~~ The sub-Committee consisted of Sir George Rainy, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Mr. H.P.Mody, Mr. Dowding, Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Sir Arthur Froom and Mr. Fyfe. The Sub-Committee however failed to come to a settlement. According to an agreed statement issued to the press, "various possible solutions were tentatively explored but on some points the differences between the representatives of British and Indian interests appeared to be fundamental and no agreement was reached."

A communique issued by the Government of India dated 6-1-30 says.- "The Government of India will take into consideration at an early date the issues raised in the discussion which took place at the conference on the development of an Indian Mercantile Marine as soon as it has been possible fully to consider these issues. The responsibility will rest with the Government of India of deciding what action should now be taken and whether any useful purpose would be served by inviting the interests concerned to meet again."

According to newspaper reports the failure of the conference is due to the fact that the British shipping interests were not willing to meet Indian Shippers in any arrangement by which English Companies, which have a predominant share in the Coastal trade, would agree to its gradual diminution, and which would enable the conference to arrange for a consequent gradual increase

in Indian tonnage. ~~Owing to Congressmen's resignations from the
Assembly in obedience to the Congress mandate, the chances of
Mr. Haji's Bill in the Assembly are very poor.~~

(Times of India 6 & 8-1-30.)

Migration.

Education of Indians in South Africa.

At pages 63-64 of the report of this Office for the period 1st August to 30th August, 1929, details were given about the educational facilities provided for the children of Indians domiciled in South Africa. The progress achieved in the provision of further educational facilities since 1928 was briefly summarised by Sir Kurma Reddy, Agent-General to the Government of India in South Africa, in a speech on the occasion of the opening of the Sastri College for Indians at Durban on the 26th October, 1929.

According to Sir K.V. Reddy there were in 1928 in Natal some 30,000 ^{Indian} children of the school-going age. There were nine Government schools and 43 aided schools, with about 10,000 children on the rolls. Of these schools only one was teaching up to the matriculation standard. All the other schools were primary schools teaching up to the sixth standard. Besides these there were a few schools built by missionaries. Until a year or two ago the Provincial Administration and the Education Department were not able to give that consideration for Indian education which was expected of them. Quite recently, however, a more liberal policy has been adopted. Not only is the entire amount of subsidy granted by the Union Government being utilized for the education of Indian children but a liberal and ~~an~~ broad-minded policy has been adopted and a great advance has been made during 1929. In October, 1929 there were 12 Government schools in place of nine, and 63 aided schools in place of 43 - in all 75 schools - with a little over 13,000 pupils on the rolls.

The Sastri College, until it becomes a University College, will be a combined normal college and high school. General education will

be provided for up to the matriculation standard, while training will be given to obtain three classes of certificates, the senior, the intermediate, and the junior trained teachers' certificates. The college is expected to start work in the last week of January, 1929. The Education Department will appoint a European Principal from the Education Service, while six professors will be arriving in January from India, all specially qualified for the teaching profession.

(Statesman, 1-12-1929).