

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

Report for November, 1930.

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References to the I.L.O.

The communique issued by this office on 13-11-1930 regarding the forthcoming visit of the Deputy Director of the I.L.O. to Canada and the United States of America has been published in the Hindu of 20-11-1930 and the Hindustan Times of 17-11-1930. Copies of the communique have been sent to Geneva with this office's minute No. H 2/1765/30, dated 13-11-1930.

... ..

The Hindu of 27-11-1930 and the Hindustan Times of 23-11-1930 publish an article prepared by this office on "The Unemployment Menace; the I.L.O's contribution in combating it".

The Hindustan Times of the same date has commented editorially on the above article.

... ..

The communique issued by this office on the I.L.O's Questionnaire on ~~the~~ "Hours of Work in Coal Mines" has been published in the Pioneer of 29-11-1930, the Statesman of 26-11-1930 and the Times of India of 25-11-1930. Copies of this communique have been sent to Geneva with this office's minute H 2/1793/30, dated 20-11-1930.

... ..

Two fairly long letters from its special correspondent at Geneva are published in the Hindu of 1-11-1930. The first letter deals at length with India's interest in the League of Nations and the I.L.O. The Hindu's correspondent points out that India contributes about five million rupees yearly to the League Budget, and in this respect stands next in order to the five major European powers and Japan, and

raises the question whether the benefits accruing from India's participation in the League's activities are commensurate with the ~~expenditure~~ expenditure incurred. The writer further points out that the Indian Legislative Assembly has not yet been given the right to nominate delegations to Geneva and vest them with responsible powers. A second point emphasised in the letter is that certain subjects relating to first-class political questions of an inter-imperial and international character are by a tacit unwritten convention left outside the competence of Indian delegations to raise and discuss at Geneva. Even questions like Indian emigration, which are of vital interest to Indians overseas and to Indian workers, are among the subjects thus tabooed. The alternative procedure of discussion at the periodical Imperial Conferences at London is unsatisfactory from the Indian point of view, as such subjects as the Land Revenue Bill in the Transvaal *etc.*, are left out of the agenda of the Imperial Conference. In the writer's opinion, India's appreciation of Indian ~~connection~~ connection with the Geneva institutions would be enhanced if Indian delegations to Geneva are vested with greater powers and responsibilities. The letter, however, emphasises the fact that during the past ten years much benefit has been derived by India in connection with labour and industrial legislation implemented by the International Labour Conference year after year.

The second letter deals with reorganisation of the administrative machinery of the secretariats of the League of Nations and the I.L.O. and the Registry of the Permanent Court of International Justice. The writer points out that the number of Indians on the staffs of the League institutions is unsatisfactory in comparison with India's contribution to the League budget. The letter gives a summary of the

speech of Mr. G.S. Bajpai at the last session of the League Assembly.

The Hindu in its issue of 1-11-1930 has published an editorial note on the subject in which it asserts that India has long been feeling that the claims of her nationals for places in the secretariats of the League and the I.L.O. are being ignored, and expresses the opinion that the international character of the League and the I.L.O. will be better maintained if the less important countries are well represented in Geneva's executive appointments.

... ..

The National Christian Council Review, in its November 1930 (Vol. L, New Series No.11) issue publishes a review of the book "Indian Industry: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" by Cecile M. Matheson, contributed by the Director of this office. In the course of the review an incidental reference is made to the share of the I.L.O. in accelerating the pace of labour legislation in India and in stimulating trade union organisation in this country.

An editorial note in the same issue of the National Christian Council Review invites special attention to the review of the book.

(A copy of the November 1930 issue of the National Christian Council Review has ^{not} been forwarded ^{as the Review is subscribed for} ~~with this office's minute~~ *dated by Geneva.)*

... ..

The Hindu publishes in its issue of 28-11-1930 a three column report of a lecture delivered by Mr. F.E. James, M.L.C. on 28-11-1930 at the Y.M.C.A. auditorium, Madras, on "The League of Nations - After Ten Years". Mr. James's lecture was the first of a series of lectures organised by the Madras Y.M.C.A. on the League of Nations. In the

course of his lecture, Mr. James made prominent mention of the work of the I.L.O. and pointed out how the International Labour Conventions in connection with hours, unemployment, factory inspection, workmen's compensation, maternity benefits, the employment of women in mines, etc. had been instrumental in initiating valuable labour legislation in India. The speaker asserted that India and all eastern countries were in great need of the help of the I.L.O.

... ..

Sir Hugh Stevenson, the Governor of Bihar and Orissa, in the course of his reply on 4-11-1930 to addresses presented to him by six public bodies connected with the collieries, on the occasion of his recent visit to the Jharia coalfields, made an appreciative reference to the work of the I.L.O. in bettering the conditions of workers in Indian coal mines. Sir Hugh ~~Stephenson~~ Stevenson said that of recent years there has been a quickening of interest throughout the world in labour conditions and that the impetus in this direction was mainly derived from the Geneva labour conferences. Summaries of the speech are published in the Statesman of 6-11-1930, the Hindustan Times of 7-11-1930 and in several of the leading papers.

... ..

The Indian Journal of Economics, Allahabad, in its October 1930 (Vol. XI, Part II. No.41) ^{issue} publishes at page 205 a short note deploring the turning down of Mr. S.C.Joshi's motion at the 14th Conference in favour of holding a special Asiatic Labour Conference. The Journal expresses the opinion that as long as regional legislation does not run contrary to the spirit of international legislation, no obstacle

should be placed in the way of having a regional conference of Asiatic and African countries.

The Journal, in a second note, draws attention to the delay on the part of the Government of India in announcing the personnel of the International Labour Conference delegations and urges that in future early announcements should be made as it would give members of the delegations sufficient time to study the items on the agenda.

... ..

The Annual Report for the year ending 30-6-30 of the Buyers & Shippers Chamber, Karachi, contains several references to the I.L.O. The replies of the Chamber to the Questionnaires on Minimum Wage Fixing Machinery and Protection against Accidents of Workers engaged in loading and unloading ships are reproduced in the report. The report also refers to the circular letter issued by this office in November 1928 announcing its opening in India.

... ..

The Monthly Circular for October 1930 of the Karachi Indian Merchants' Association makes a reference to Mr. Fakirji Cowasji's (adviser to the employers' delegate to the 13th Conference) ^{letter} of 26-9-30 addressed to the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, ^{regarding} India's contribution to the League of Nations. The Association thinks it desirable to investigate the question whether the advantages derived by India by its Membership of the League are commensurate with its annual contribution in money and whether under the circumstances it is not advisable to sever connection with the League. The Association expresses regret that an Adviser to the Delegation from India should have found it difficult even to gather the necessary information and to get even a copy of the budget of the League.

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The Times of India of 14-11-30 publishes the summary of an article appearing in the October issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, on the report of the delegates of the Government of India to the 14th Conference.

... ..

The Communique issued by the Government of India extending the date for recommendations from workers' and employers' associations for ^{the} nomination of the non-governmental delegates to the 15th International Labour Conference up to 1-1-1930 is published in the Pioneer of 20-11-30 and in all other papers.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 1-12-30 publishes the report of a lecture delivered by Mr. K.E.Mathew, a member of the staff of this office on 28-11-30 on "International Labour Problems" at the Y.M.C.A. auditorium, New Delhi. In the course of the speech, the speaker made reference to the various ways in which the I.L.O. had exerted a beneficent influence on Indian Labour legislation during the last ten years of India's association with Geneva.

7

Conditions of Labour.

Immigrant Labour in Assam for the year ending 30th June 1930*.

As in the previous year, the Government of Assam has published this year also 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 report on the former Division deals with labour recruited for employment in the tea gardens, ~~for employment in the~~ in the oil field and refinery at Digboi and in the coal fields, while that ^{on} the latter Division deals only with recruitment made for employment in tea gardens. Brief summaries of the Reports are given below :-

Immigrant Labour in Assam Valley Division.- The number of immigrants from July 1929 to June 1930 was 53,370 against 56,473 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 3,103. The decrease is mainly due to the fact that several gardens did little or no recruitment owing to the depressed condition of the industry. At the close of the year the total number of garden population was 753,362 against 735,075, an ^{showing} increase of 18,287 or 2.49 per cent. over the population of the preceding year. There was no unusual change in the distribution of coolies over the province of origin. The general health of the coolie population continued to be good. The birth-rate rose from 31.06 to 32.60. The death-rate was 21.77 against 21.76 in the previous year. No serious epidemics occurred during the year under report. Only one garden, in the district of Sibsagar, was unhealthy. The average wages of men fell from Rs.14-1-5 to Rs. 13-8-7 and of women from Rs.11-4-2 to

* Reports on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1930. Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press. 1930. Price 1s. 10d. or Re. 1-3-0. *pp 20*

Rs.11-1-7, while the average earnings of children rose from Rs.7-6-1 to Rs.7-8-6. The decrease in average wages for man and woman is reported to be due to the fact that under the crop restriction scheme, the coolies were less frequently engaged in extra ~~haxiri~~ works and the hoeing of the gardens was less frequent than in the past. These figures represent cash earnings only and do not take into account the value of other concessions in the form of free housing, medical attendance, firewood, grazing ground and land for cultivation. It is also reported that there has been a marked improvement in the standard of living and amenities of life of the labour force due to the higher wages. The coolies are now better dressed and spend more liberally in purchasing the necessary requirements of life including petty luxuries. The coolies working in the gardens held 117,772 acres of land, of which 13,835 acres were held directly under Government, 93,422 as tenants of the garden and 10,515 as tenants of other land holders. The relation between planters and labour force was generally satisfactory. The report states that the number of collisions when considered in proportion to the garden population is very small. The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 532 against 521 in the previous year. Of these 296 were liable to inspection, but 283 gardens alone were inspected during the year under report. The thirteen gardens not inspected during the year were in Nowgong and they have since been inspected.

Immigrant labour in Surma Valley and Hill Division.- The total number of the tea garden population, working and non-working, living in garden lines and on garden land at the end of the year was 3,35,600 as compared with 332,587 at the end of 1928-29. The number of new immigrants fell from 12,427 to 6,426. The decrease was due partly to the fact that in consequence of the flood local labour was available,

and partly to the fact that there was less demand for labour on account of the unsatisfactory state of the industry. As in the previous years there was no unusual change in the distribution of the labour force over provinces of origin. More than half the number of adult labourers came from the United Provinces, Bengal and Behar. The general health of the coolie population continued to be good. No serious epidemics were reported during the year. The birth-rate was 31.11 against 32.71 in the previous year, while the death-rate fell from 21.16 to 19.43 per mille. There was a slight increase in the death-rate of children (18.89 against 17.90) but this was counterbalanced by the fall in case of adult labourers from 23.61 to 19.83. The ratio per mille of deaths to strength among adult labourers according to nationality from all the provinces compared favourably with that of the previous year. 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 showed a slight decrease. These figures as in previous years do not represent the total earnings, as they exclude the concessions of private cultivation, free housing, free medical attendance, free fuel and grazing; free fishing from garden beels ^(tanks), free supply of tea, rice and cloth at less than market rates, free meals when and where necessary and liberal maternity benefits. The coolies on the gardens held 51,171 acres of land ^{in 1929 during the year under review} against 51,062 acres in the preceding year. Of the total area, 2,484 acres were held directly under Government, 45,974 acres as tenants of gardens and 2,713 acres as tenants of land holders. The average rent realised per acre of land under the gardens was Re.1-8-6 against Rs.6-8-10 per acre by land holders. As in the preceding years there were schools in certain

gardens for imparting free education to the garden children. The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 335 against 336 in the preceding year. Altogether 138 gardens were liable to inspection during the year and all were inspected before the close of the year. Three miscellaneous cases were instituted against the managers by their coolies. Of these one was decided in favour of the complainant, one against the complainant and the other was pending at the close of the year. Generally speaking the relations between employer and employed continue 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 in Assam decreased from 68,900 in the previous year to 59,796 in the year under review, but that the total labour force (both immigrant and local) had increased by the end of the year from 1,067,662 in the previous year to 1,088,962 in the year under review.

(A note on the method of recruitment to the Assam tea gardens appears at pages 10-12 of the Report of this Office for September 1930. The Reports on immigrant labour in Assam for the year ending 30th June 1929 is reviewed at pages 33 to 36 of the Report for December 1929).

11

Indian Labour in Ceylon* 1929.

The following facts regarding the conditions of labour of Indians in Ceylon is taken from the Report for 1929 submitted to the Government of India by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon on the working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922, the Rules issued thereunder and of the Labour Ordinances of Ceylon, ~~during the year 1929.~~

Immigration figures:

Total number of Indians in Ceylon:- Indians in Ceylon numbered nearly one million out of an estimated total population of 5½ millions. The vast majority of Indians in Ceylon earn their livelihood by working on Estates. The average number of Indian labourers reported as working on Estates during the quarter ending the 31st December 1929 was 742,297 of whom 243,335 were men, 234,390 women, and 264,572 children. These figures show that family life is almost universal in the case of Indian labourers in Ceylon.

Immigration into Ceylon:- The number of Indian Estate labourers who came to Ceylon from India during the year 1929 was 105,095 as against 133,712 in 1928. The fall in the number of immigrants from 159,398 in 1927 to 133,712 in 1928, and 105,095 in 1929 is particularly noticeable. The report observes that this decrease is due on the one hand to the more prosperous season in the Madras Presidency during 1928, and on the other hand, to the depression in the tea, rubber and cocoanut industries in the Island. Another cause is perhaps the introduction of the Minimum Wage Ordinance

*Report on the Working of the Indian Emigration Act, 1922 (VII of 1922), the Rules issued thereunder and of the Labour Ordinances of Ceylon during the year 1929 by the Agent of the Government of India in Ceylon. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1930. Price Re.1 or 1s.9d. pp. 24.

which must have resulted in the discharge of a certain number of superfluous labourers whom Estates might have otherwise kept on the register of labourers. It is also thought that the extension of the Discharge Certificate Agreement among planters has to some extent closed the vacuum caused by undue movement among labourers.

Departures to India:- During the year under review, 101,228 Estate labourers returned to India from Ceylon against 93,596 in the preceding year. Since 1925 there has been a progressive rise in the number of labourers returning to India, so much so ^{that} their number in 1929 was almost double their number in 1925.

Nett Immigration:- There were only 3,867 immigrants into Ceylon in excess of emigrants from Ceylon as compared with the previous year's figure of 40,116 and the 1927 figures of 71,917. The figure for 1929 is not merely the lowest since 1923, but is about ten times lower than the lowest figure attained hitherto.

Repatriation:- The number of Indian Estate labourers repatriated from Ceylon to India during the year 1929 was 3,187 as against 3,499 in 1928 and 2,301 during 1927. Under the Ceylon Government Scheme of 1924 for the repatriation of sick and indigent labourers, 3,143 were repatriated as against 3,353 in 1928 and 2,204 in 1927. 25 lepers - 13 men and 12 women - were also repatriated during 1929 as against 2 in 1928.

Recruitment:- Almost all the Estate labourers for Ceylon were recruited from the Madras Presidency, Mysore and Hyderabad. In 1929 Trichinopoly ~~emigrated to Ceylon during the years 1924 to 1928~~ as usual headed the list, having contributed 39,133 of the total number of immigrants into Ceylon. Salem stood second, with 21,467 labourers; but Tanjore and Pudukkottah which in previous years used to compete

with Salem for the second place showed a considerable decrease. Tamils as usual formed the overwhelming majority of labourers. The number of Malayalees was less than 1,000 while Telegus barely exceeded 700. The number of recruiting licenses endorsed by the Agent during the year 1929 was 19,331 as against 20,326 and 21,637 in 1928 and 1927 respectively. 11 cases of alleged irregular recruitment as against 28 in 1928, and 30 in 1927 were forwarded by the Agent to the Protector of Emigrants at Mandapam for action under Section 28 of the Emigration Act.

Labour Depots:- The Labour Depots at Colombo and Polgahawela Junction continued to be of great assistance to the labourers. They provided food and shelter for Indian labourers en route to their destination.

Economic Condition of the Labourers:- The report observes that reliable information on the economic condition of the workers could not be obtained for want of detailed statistics, but it states from the impression gained from the inspection of a few estates, that the economic condition of the workers ^{varied} vary considerably from estate to estate.

The provisions of the Minimum Wage Ordinance of the Ceylon Government came into force on the 1st January 1929. The report states that it is too early yet to gauge the effects of the Ordinance. All the same, the apprehension that its effect would be to make the indifferent labourer still more indifferent seems to have been unfounded, largely due to the common sense of the labourers combined with the employers' sense of justice. The fear that the minimum rates may also tend to become the maximum has also been proved baseless in the majority of cases at least, since, many of the better

class of estates have, instead of sticking to the minimum rates for the good and the bad labourers alike, adopted a sliding scale of wages which is at once an incentive to the good workers and an example to the lazy ones. The Ordinance, at any rate, does not seem to have relieved the chronic indebtedness of ^{the} ~~the~~ majority of the workers.

Movement of Labour:- The tendency of labour to move from estate to estate made the employers to devise the system of Discharge Certificate Agreement. The wisdom of the move is still under discussion. Under the scheme, the labourers have been given additional facilities to give notice of termination of service. It is claimed that the extension of the Discharge Certificate Agreement system has already resulted in an appreciable decrease in the number of bolters and ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ amount of movement from estate to estate.

Housing of labourers:- The following extract ~~m~~ from the Report of the Planters' Association of Ceylon for 1929 states the present position with regard to the housing of labourers as viewed by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services in Ceylon:-

"The fears expressed in the last Report regarding the progress of line construction for 1929 have not been realised. Many Company Estates, have carried out their line constructions to a modified but satisfactory extent. It is once more against the ~~smaller~~ smaller individually owned estates that the accusation has to be laid of neglecting to improve the housing of labourers. From them many an appeal has come on the plea that rubber prices have fallen, but these are the very estates which could best afford the expenditure since their overhead charges are light. If there be no marked change in them for the better, the necessity of appealing to the law will arise if only in fairness to the Company owned estates which are spending lakhs and lakhs".

Vital Statistics:- The birth rate among the Indian Estate population during 1929 was 34.3 and represents the lowest since 1919. The death rate has also fallen progressively from 31.2 per thousand in 1925 to 25.1 in 1929. On the other hand, infant mortality has actually increased from 211 per thousand of the population in 1928 to 214 in 1929. The corresponding rate of infant mortality for the whole of Ceylon in 1929 was 187; while the average rate of the districts in the Madras Presidency, from which labourers mainly emigrated to Ceylon, was only 173. Mortality at child-birth was also heavy. This high infantile and maternal mortality are attributed chiefly to want of proper medical attendance at child-birth and the ignorance of the mothers in rearing up their children.

The chief causes of death apart from debility are pneumonia, dysentery, ~~diarrhoea~~ diarrhoea and enteritis.

Medical relief:- The remark made in the 1928 report that every estate labourer is entitled to medical attendance but it is not always that he gets it, still holds good during 1929 also. This remark is confirmed by the following extract from the administration report of the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services for 1929:-

"The Inspecting Medical Officer, Colombo, reports that he has noticed that many estates are content to have their sick attended to by their dispensers and do not always call in a medical officer in serious cases of illness or accident as they should do. An examination of figures for last year shows that 40 per cent. of labourers who died on estates received no qualified medical aid during their sickness, and this state of affair is probably largely due to the estate dispenser's inability to recognise a serious case of illness. It is hoped that Estate Superintendents will give attention to this matter and take steps to ensure that a medical officer is called in in all serious cases of illness or accident".

In 1929 there were 65 Government hospitals and 112 Government dispensaries scheduled to estates as compared with 65 Government hospitals and 104 Government dispensaries scheduled in 1928. The

number of estate hospitals increased from 81 in 1928 to 85 in 1929, and of estate dispensaries from 684 in 1928 to 706 in 1929. The majority of estate hospitals are well built and suitably equipped. It is, however, reported that the nursing arrangements on estate hospitals are inadequate. The Inspecting Medical Officer, Colombo, goes so far as to say that there is, in fact, no nursing in estate hospitals. The ward attendants are generally wholly untrained and it often happens that a labourer from a gang is often made a ward attendant when patients are admitted. The most serious defect of the present system of medical relief on estates, however, is the presence of a large number of unqualified dispensers.

Education:- The total number of estate schools registered up to the end of September 1929 was 402 against 364 in 1928 and 304 in 1927. There are, however, 221 estates which have still to provide schools. The total number of children of school-going age at the end of September 1929 was 78,034, of whom 43,920 were males and 34,114 were females, as against 81,858 in the preceding year, of whom 44,441 were males and 37,417 were females. The total number of children who actually attended school during the quarter ending 30th September 1929 was 42,470, of whom 29,830 were males and 12,640 were females, as against a total number of 37,404 in 1928, of whom 26,282 were males and 11,122 were females. Thus 54.4 per cent. of the total number of children of school-going age attended school in 1929 as against 45.7 per cent. in the preceding year and 37 per cent. in 1927. Though much remains to be done, the progress so far registered is doubtless due to the enlightened interest taken in the education of estate children by the Planters themselves and to the painstaking activities of the Education Department. Mention was made in last year's report of a proposal to introduce vocational training in estate schools. The Education Department considers it inexpedient to introduce this scheme at this stage.

Working of the Minimum Wage Ordinance, Ceylon.

9

According to the Minimum Wage Ordinance, Ceylon, the lowest wages for men, women and children working on the rubber estates are 50, 40 and 30 cents respectively. Numerous complaints have of late been made to the effect that the estate owners are setting at nought the provisions of the Ordinance by paying their workers at lower rates. In the course of a letter published in the Hindu, Madras, of 29-11-30 Mr. H. Ananthakrishna Iyer, a correspondent from Ceylon, makes a number of pointed allegations in this respect, and says that planters are adopting several devices to deny the workers the benefits secured for them by the Minimum Wage Ordinance. The writer says that owing to the acute depression in the planting industry, the 300,000 odd Indian labourers engaged in the Ceylon rubber ~~planting~~ plantations have become an inconvenient dead-weight on the estates and as a result large numbers of the labourers are being repatriated on grounds of un-employment or insufficiency of wages. ~~Not satisfied with this,~~ ^{Further} the writer alleges that for the past six months, Indian labourers are being paid in defiance of the Ordinance, only at the rate of 37, 30 and 22 cents for men, women and children respectively. The letter points out that the planters endeavour to justify this irregularity on the ground that the minimum wages provided in the Ordinance are for a working day of 8 hours and that lower wages than the legal minimum are now being given as labourers are now worked only for 6 hours a day. The writer holds that such an interpretation of the Ordinance is unwarranted and is calculated to harmfully affect the interests of the workers.

The writer also alleges that in spite of the acute depression in the planting industry, recruitment of fresh labourers is being

continued with no regard to the actual requirements of labour on the estates. Since the onset of the depression, Malaya stopped all further recruitment, but the Ceylon planter persists in over-recruiting ment as he has not to spend a single cent on recruiting, the expenses in connection with which are entirely met from the Emigration Fund. The writer, therefore, demands that the Government of India should stop fresh recruitment for the Ceylon plantations and at the same time restate and reaffirm the legal right of Indian labourers in Ceylon for the minimum wages stipulated by the Minimum Wage Ordinance.

The Hindu 29-11-30

Proposed reduction of Minimum Wages, Ceylon.

The Government of India is understood to have intervened in the question of whether the minimum wage of estate labourers in Ceylon should be reduced. In view of the serious position of the rubber industry, the Government of Ceylon recently appointed a committee to investigate and report on the case for reduction. The Government of India has now informed the Ceylon Government that before any reduction is effected in the minimum wage for Indian labour on the Ceylon estates, the Government of India should be provided with a full statement showing the reasons for such reduction and explaining how it is proposed to distribute between employers and the employed the sacrifices which the situation may demand.

(Trade Union Record (Bombay) November 1930.)

Labour conditions in Indian Mines, 1929*

The Government of India have recently published the annual report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, for the year ending 31st December 1929. The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies to British India only and not to the Indian States. As in the previous year, the report deals with the following classes of mines:- coal, iron, manganese, lead, antimonial lead, silver, tin, wolfram, gold, chromite, copper, copper matte, nickel, zinc, mica, salt, magnesite, ~~barite~~ barite, ~~steatite~~ steatite, slate, limestone, igneous rock, stone (unspecified), laterite, sandstone, gravel, murum, fireclay, china clay, barytes, apatite, asbestos, ochre, ~~fuller's earth~~ Fuller's earth, kyanite, corundum, gypsum, beryl and bismuth.

Persons employed:- During 1929 the daily average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 269,701, as compared with 267,671 in the previous year. The increase was 2,030 persons, or 0.76 per cent. Of these persons 116,945 worked underground, 82,963 in open workings and 69,793 on the surface. The distribution in respect of sex was as follows:-

	Males		Females	
	1929	1928	1929	1928
Underground	92,856	86,155	24,089	31,785
In open workings	54,235	51,005	28,728	28,453
Surface	51,954	52,430	17,839	17,843
	<u>199,045</u>	<u>189,590</u>	<u>70,656</u>	<u>78,081</u>

* Indian Mines Act, 1923. Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1929. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1930. Price Rs. 2-4 or 4s. pp. 182.

The most remarkable feature of this table is the reduction of the number of women employed underground from 31,785 in 1928 to 24,089 in 1929. This reduction by 24 per cent. was to some small extent due to the fact that the employment of women underground in mines other than coal and salt mines was prohibited with effect from 1st July, 1929. It was, however, mainly due to the fact that with effect from the same date the number of women employed underground in coal mines was restricted to 29 per cent. of the total labour force employed underground, which was the actual percentage so employed in 1928. In that year and in previous years the percentage fluctuated from day to day and from mine to mine. As under the new regulations, however, the percentage could not exceed what was formerly the average a marked fall was inevitable; and the percentage for coal mines was 23, and for all mines 21, as compared with 29 per cent. and 27 per cent. respectively, in 1928. ~~The number of persons employed during 1929 in coal mines was 155,658, which is 1,519 more than the number employed in 1928. Of these persons 42,808 were coal-cutters, 12,592 were male loaders and 42,477 were females - chiefly loaders.~~

Of these 24,089 women employed underground, 21,880 were employed in coal mines, 1,483 in mica mines, and the rest in the various other classes of mines. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was:- Bengal 6,827; Bihar and Orissa 15,263; Central Provinces 1,032; Madras 629; ~~Raj~~ Punjab 333; Ajmere-Merwara 2; and Burma 3.

Distribution of workers: Coal mines.- The number of persons employed during 1929 in coal mines was 165,658, which is 1,519 more than the number employed in 1928. Of these persons 42,808 were coal cutters, 12,592 were male loaders and 42,477 were females - chiefly loaders.

Other mines.- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 104,043, which is 511 more than the number employed in 1928. 75,864 were males and 28,179 were females. Of these females only 2,209 worked underground.

Wages.- In the coal-fields the rates of wages during 1929 were practically the same as in 1928. There was a slight fall in the wages of lead miners and a remarkable reduction of 29 per cent. in the wages of tin miners in Burma. The wages of mica miners both in Madras, and in Bihar and Orissa were slightly less, and there was the same tendency at stone and limestone mines in the Central Provinces and the United Provinces.

Women and underground employment.- At pages 27 to 28 of this office's report for December 1929, mention was made of contemplated draft regulations for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines. With effect from 1st 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, was prohibited. In the coal mines mentioned above women continued to be employed in the underground workings after 1st July 1929, but their total number was restricted to 29 per cent. of the total number of persons, both men and women, employed underground in the mine concerned. 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. (A copy of the regulations for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines is given at pages 29-30 of the report of this office for March 1929.) As stated in an earlier paragraph, the immediate effect of these regulations has been a reduction of 24 per cent in the number of women employed underground. The report observes that in spite of this large reduction there has so far been very little complaint of inconvenience to mineowners or loss of employment. At a certain mine metal checks have been issued to the women, and no woman is allowed to go underground who is not in possession of a check. The attendance of the women is being carefully recorded, and the annual quota for exclusion is to be drawn from those who have been least regular in attendance.

Mine workers and Workmen's Compensation Act.- On the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the mining area, the report observes "Although the provisions of the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, are gradually becoming better known yet there is reason to believe that at certain mines obligations under the Act are evaded. Contractors under the Public Works Department are perhaps the worst offenders, and it is desirable that the departmental officer concerned should in every case of accident be required to satisfy himself that just claims for compensation are being met. In this matter the Mines Department does all that it can to assist injured workers and dependants, and has closely co-operated with the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation."

Colliery Schools in the Jharia Coalfield. In the Annual Report for 1927 it was stated that in the Jharia Coalfield area with a

population of 376,000 (including 138,000 rural inhabitants) there were 99 schools, of which 16 were colliery schools with an aggregate number of 617 pupils. There has since been no increase in the number of colliery schools and the number of pupils in such schools is practically the same. The total number of the schools has fallen from 99 to 88. The report expresses regret that although children were excluded from the mines as long ago as in 1924 there has been as yet no concerted movement for bringing into force the provisions of the Bihar and Orissa Primary Education Act, 1919, in the Jharia coalfield.

Output of Minerals.- Coal: The total output in 1929 was 22,308,174 tons of a declared value of Rs. 845,54,438. The increase in the output was 792,378 tons or 3.68 per cent. This production was a record, being 548,447 tons in excess of the previous maximum attained in 1919. The opening stocks in 1929 were 1,592,841 tons and the closing stocks 844,240 tons, which is 781,478 tons less than in the previous year, and nearly two 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, 193 tons in 1929 as against 180 tons in 1924-28, and for miners employed above and below ground, 135 tons in 1929 as against 120 tons in 1924-28. There was, thus, a small improvement in the average, and, as in the previous years, the improvement may be ascribed to the greater use of coal-cutting machinery. In comparing these figures with similar figures ~~in~~ in other countries, it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian mines. In 1928 the output of coal per person employed above and below ground in the United Kingdom was 253 tons. In 1927 comparative

figures in certain other countries were:- Japan, 136 tons; Transvaal, 543 tons; United States of America, 706 tons.

The indications of an improvement in the market for Indian coal faintly apparent at the end of 1928, became more evident in the early months of 1929. The factors responsible for the improvement were increased demands for export and for use on the Indian railways, and an understanding between certain of the leading producers that coal should not be sold at uneconomic prices. The tone of market at the end of 1929 was, accordingly, somewhat more hopeful than for some years past.

Accidents.- During 1929 at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, there were 212 fatal accidents, which is 9 less than in 1928 and the same as the average number in the preceding five years. These accidents involved the loss of 266 lives, which is 7 more than in 1928. Of the persons killed 215 were males and 51 were females. In one case 10 lives, in one case 6 lives, in two cases 5 lives, in three cases 4 lives, in four cases 3 lives, and in fifteen cases 2 lives were lost. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 651 serious accidents involving injuries to 672 persons, as compared with 654 serious accidents involving injuries to 683 persons in the previous year. No record ^{was} ~~is~~ maintained of minor accidents. In not a few cases of accidents, although the injuries sustained ~~were~~ not severe yet death resulted from tetanus. At a number of mines the giving of anti-tetanus injections is becoming a recognised part of surgical treatment. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:-

	Number of fatal accidents	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents
Misadventure	146	68.87
Fault of deceased	43	20.28
Fault of fellow workmen	8	3.77
Fault of subordinate officials	5	2.36

Fault of management	9	4.25
Faulty material	1	0.47
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	212	100.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Deaths occurring in each class of mine were as follows:- 194 in coal mines, 8 in mica mines, 6 in manganese mines, 20 in silver-lead mines, 8 in tin and wolfram mines, 4 in limestone mines, 11 in stone mines, 8 in iron ore mines, 3 in a ruby mine, 1 in a fire-clay mine, 1 in a salt mine, and 2 in copper mines.

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 area under the jurisdiction of the former, the death rate during 1929 was 23.2 per thousand as compared with 20.9 in 1928 and 16.62 in 1927. The infant mortality rate was 145 per thousand. In the area under the latter's jurisdiction, the death rate was 19.57 per thousand and the birth rate 27.55, during 1929 as compared with 18.28 and 35.47 per thousand, respectively during 1928.

Coal-dust Committee.- The work of the Coal-Dust Committee was continued throughout the year. A series of experiments was carried out at the Indian School of Mines on the ignition of a coal-dust-air cloud by electric arcs. It was shown that it was possible to produce by this means inflammations of dusts from Indian coal seams.

Inspection.- The number of coal mines worked during the year under review was 548, as compared with 556 in 1928. The number of metalliferous (including stone) mines at work increased from 601 in 1923 to 1,393 in 1928. In 1929 the number was 1,184, the decrease being due to the closing down of many mica, manganese and tin mines.

During 1929, 1,016 mines were ~~ins~~ inspected and many of them several times. 2,388 separate inspections were made. The cause and circumstances of practically all fatal accidents, serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulations and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made on the invitation of mine-owners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters.

(The Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 25-32 of the report of this office for December 1929).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab
during 1929*.

Below is given a brief summary of the Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1929:-

As compared with the figures of 1928 there has been a decrease in the number of cases coming under the operation of the Workmen's Compensation Act. This decrease is due to the fact that many accidents which occurred during the year were of such a trivial nature that they were not covered by the provisions of the Act.

During the calendar year 1929, the total number of accidents reported to have occurred in factories governed by the Indian Factories Act was 990 as against 1,019 in the year 1928 and 707 in 1927. Out of this number, 641 cases were such as came within the purview of the Act as compared with 953 of 1928, and of these 14 cases were fatal, 47 of permanent disablement and 580 of temporary disablement. The Punjab Government have observed that the extreme variation in the number of accidents coming within the purview of the Act ^{is} ~~was~~ a mystery which the too facile explanation offered in 1928 of improvement in reporting obviously ~~is~~ ^{does} not solve. The Government have, therefore, directed the Director of Industries to examine the figures and to account for the lack of correlation between the Factory Department's Statistics and figures of cases coming under the Workmen's Compensation Act.

During 1929, compensation was paid to the victims or the dependents ~~in~~ of the deceased in 540 cases as against 837 of the year 1928 giving a percentage of 84.4 as compared with 87.8 of 1928. No compensation was paid in respect of the remaining 101 cases during the year

Report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1929. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing Punjab. 1930. Price: Re 1-4-0 or 1s. 11d. pp. 4+xi.

under report; whereas on the ~~on the~~ other hand compensation was paid in respect of 11 fatal accidents, 22 permanent disablements and 44 temporary disablements of the previous years (1926-1928).

The total amount of compensation paid during 1929 was ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Rs. 47,793-1-2 as compared with Rs. 43,922 in the year 1928. This sum, however, includes the amount of Rs. 20,945-3-0 paid as compensation in respect of cases of the previous years referred to in the foregoing paragraph. The explanation for these variations, offered by the Director of Industries in the Report, is as follows:- "These variations are due to a variety of causes, and as long as the Commissioners, appointed under the Act, continue to send their statements in the prescribed form, it is not possible for this department to lay its finger on a specific cause which may be responsible for the increase or decrease in the respective amounts. Sometimes it so happens that the majority of accidents occur in the low-paid staff, with the result, that the average amount of compensation paid goes down, and if the conditions were reversed, the amount goes up. Again, it might be, that in a particular year, accidents occur among such class of workers, as are willing to accept whatever amount is offered by the employers rather than have recourse to litigation or the conditions might be the reverse".

As regards mines coming under the Indian Mines Act, the number of accidents reported to have occurred during the year under review was 13 as against 16 in the year 1928. The total amount of compensation paid during ~~the~~ 1929 was Rs. 2,874-6-0 as compared with Rs. 2,536-0-0 in 1928. Out of this sum Rs. 771-8-0 were paid in respect of 4 out of 13 ^{fresh} cases, whereas the balance of Rs. 2,102-14-0 was paid for accidents which occurred in the previous years.

The ~~attached~~ statements showing proceedings before the ~~the~~

commissioners for Workmen's Compensation Act show that 76 new cases were filed as compared with 90 in the year 1928. Of these cases, 30 were admitted by the employers, one was withdrawn, 3 dismissed for ~~non-appearance~~ non-appearance of the claimants, one summarily dismissed under rule 21, and 20 were allowed ex parte. Out of 76 cases disposed of by the Commissioners, only 21 were contested, and out of these, claims were allowed in 20 cases only.

As heretofore, the Factory Inspection Department continued to render assistance to the illiterate and ignorant workmen or their dependants in the method of presenting claims. The condition of organised labour did not materially improve, and it is therefore expected that the Factory Inspection Department shall have to continue to render this assistance ~~in~~ till labour is in a position to safeguard its own interests.

Factory Administration in the United Provinces, 1929*

The total number of factories in the United Provinces ~~in the~~ subject to the Indian Factories Act at the close of the year 1929 was 384 as against 373 in 1928. Out of ~~this~~ ^{these} 384 factories, only 349 factories were working during the year while 35 remained closed. The number of operatives in all industries, as obtained from the annual returns submitted, was 91,188 in 1929, as against 86,531 in the previous year. The increase is chiefly due to the registration of ~~the~~ ²² new concerns and the cotton spinning mills in Agra, which had not worked in 1928. Of the 91,188 operatives, 27,964 were employed in ~~the~~ ^{the} textile industry, 23,448 in Government and Local Fund Factories, 10,724 in

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces for the year 1929. By W.W. Dalgarno, Offg., Chief Inspector of Factories and Boilers. Allahabad: The Superintendent, Government Press, United Provinces. 1930. Price 14 annas. pp 39.

food, drink, and tobacco factories, 10,414 in gins and presses and 7,099 in Engineering.

Employment of Women and Children .- The average number of women employed in 1929 was 6,362 as against 6,343 in 1928, and that of children 1,109 in 1929 as against 1,076 in 1928. The number of women and children employed thus registered a small increase during the year.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation .- The report states that sanitary arrangements and ventilation in factories on the whole were more satisfactory during the year under review.

Fencing of Machinery .- The report states that though fencing in many of the factories was satisfactory, five prosecutions had to be instituted for failure to provide necessary fencing and guards. Most of the cases were in seasonal factories where guards were frequently removed at the end of the season and not replaced when the factory started working in the following season.

Accidents .- 1790 accidents occurred during the year under review as against 1,611 during 1928. Of these, 16 were fatal, 205 serious and 1,569 minor accidents as compared with 26 fatal, 178 serious and 1,407 minor accidents in 1928. The majority of the accidents occurred in Railway Workshops which reported 1,464 out of the total 1,790 accidents.

Housing of factory Operatives.- No appreciable improvement is reported under this head. Housing is, to some extent, provided in practically every district in the province, the largest number being in Cawnpore, where the greatest number of large-scale factories are established. In all 6,687 quarters are provided, i.e., 5,451 single quarters, 1,175 double quarters, and 61 larger tenements, of which

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2,790 are rent free. 3,107 quarters are provided in Cawnpore itself. These are occupied by 9,659 workers and their families; 807 quarters are provided free. ~~of the year~~ The proposal mentioned in last year's report of a scheme for providing housing accommodation for 20,000 factory employees and their families ~~continues~~ ^{is still} under consideration.

Hours of employment .- The majority of the factories worked up to the maximum limit allowed by the Act. The Weekly hours of 53 factories were not more than 48, and those of 26 were not more than 54, while those of 268 factories were above 54. No shortage of labour was reported during the year under review. There ~~were~~ ^{were} comparatively little labour trouble during the year.

(The report on the Factory Administration in the United Provinces for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 25-27 of the report of this Office for October 1929.)

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Railwaymen's Grievances: Subjects for discussion with
Railway Board.

The following communiqué has been issued by the General Secretary, All India Railwaymen's Federation under date 19-11-30.

The Railway Board have agreed to hold the second half-yearly meeting between them and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation on 8th and 9th December, 1930, at New Delhi. The following subjects have been notified for discussion :-

1. Reinstatement of the G.I.P. Railway strikers.
2. Revised regulations for the medical examination of subordinate and inferior service staff.
3. Recent rules for recruitment of Apprentice Mechanics and Trade Apprentices.
4. Rules for the educational assistance of railway employees' children.
5. Provident Fund and Gratuity Rules.
6. Suggestions for making rules governing infliction of punishments.
7. Facilities for Unions for conducting welfare work of the staff.
8. Reconstitution of Staff Councils or Welfare Committees to serve the real interests of the staff.
9. Case of employees blocked in promotion for years.
10. Leave Rules.

The Federation has submitted a memorandum in respect of the above subjects, and the representatives of all the Railway Unions in India will meet at Delhi on 7th, 8th and 9th December, 1930, to consider the situation and formulate a programme of future action.

(The Hindu.- 24-11-30.)

(A summary of the proceedings of the first half yearly meeting is given at pages 49-55 of the report of this Office for September 1930.)

Meeting with Railway Board .- The Railway Board met the delegates of the All India Railwaymen's Federation at a meeting held at

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10-30 a.m. in the Secretariat Building in New Delhi on 9-12-30.

The Federation requested that discussion should be concentrated on the question of re-instatement of the G.I.P. Railway strikers in view of its paramount importance. This proposal was agreed to by the Railway Board. Dewan Chamanlal, who acted as the spokesman of the delegation, raised a variety of points concerning the G.I.P. Railway strikers. Chief among these were :- (1) The medical examination of strikers prior to their reemployment. (2) The alleged wrongful discharge of certain strikers after re-employment. (3) The reinstatement of strikers in posts corresponding to those formerly held by them and on the same rates of pay. (4) The treatment of strikers taken back in regard to certain privileges, such as passes, leave and gratuity. (5) The alleged removal from the waiting list of individuals who had not been able to report for duty within the time specified owing to insufficiency of notice. (6) The question of retrenchment in relation to its effect on re-employment of strikers. (7) The monthly statements submitted by the State railways showing the progress made in the registration and re-employment of strikers and the balance still available for employment. (8) The alleged employment in certain instances of outsiders in vacancies on the G.I.P. Railway, as well as on the other state-managed railways, in preference to the G.I.P. Railway ex-strikers. (9) The number of ex-strikers still unemployed and their prospects of re-employment against vacancies likely to occur in the near future.

In regard to all these points, the Railway Board gave very full replies stating what steps had been taken to implement the undertaking given in the Government of India communiqué dated March 1, 1930. They also placed at the disposal of the delegation all the important

information that they possessed on the points raised. The discussion turned mainly on the allegation made by the Federation that the G.I.P. Railway administration had failed to comply with the Government of India communiqué dated March 1, in that it had refused to place on the waiting list, the names of the men who had not vacated their quarters. The Railway Board explained their views on the matter and held that there had been no such failure on the part of the administration. Mr. Russell also promised to send to the Federation at an early date, the full reply to their representations on the point, after carefully considering all the arguments advanced by the Federation at the meeting.

In winding up the discussion, Mr. Russell took the opportunity of pointing out how in several directions the Railway Board and the G.I.P. Railway administration had gone beyond the terms of the communiqué, solely with a view to assisting the strikers back to employment as soon as possible and ~~affording~~ affording to them concessions which had not been provided for in the Government of India communiqué of March 1.

(The Pioneer .- 11-12-30).

Protection of Interests of Indian Labourers in Burma; New
Committee formed.

At pages 39-40 of the report of this Office for June 1930 references have been made to the riots between Indian and Burman labourers in Rangoon. The difficult situation of Indian labourers in Rangoon have led to a movement to stop further emigration of Indians to Burma as labourers. A meeting to consider the situation was held at Madras on 2-11-30 under the chairmanship of Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chettiar.

After discussion, a committee was constituted for the purpose of protecting the interests of Indian labourers in Burma and taking steps to dissuade further emigration of Indian labour into that country. The following gentlemen were appointed as the provisional office-bearers :- President: Mr. P. Varadarajulu Naidu; Vice-Presidents: Messrs. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti and Bupathirazu Venkatapathirazu; Secretaries: Messrs. A. Narayna Rao of Rangoon, and S.P.Y. Surendranath Arya; Treasurer: Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliar. The Secretary was authorised to call for meetings whenever necessary to transact any business and the quorum for such meetings was fixed at 3. It was next resolved to issue an appeal and to draw public attention to the necessity for the suspension of emigration of Indian labour to Burma, by means of leaflets, posters, advertisements in the press and other constitutional methods.

The meeting resolved that the following resolution be entrusted to the leaders of the Madras Legislative Council with a request to move it at the forthcoming session of the Council on the 18th instant:

(a) "That this Council recommends to the Governor in Council that having regard to the deplorable condition of Indian labourers in Burma and the growing anti-Indian feeling in that country steps

should be immediately taken by the Government to dissuade by means of leaflets, further emigration of Indian labour to Burma and to issue instructions to the Collectors and Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners of Labour to explain to the Labour population the conditions prevalent in Burma.

(b) "That this Council recommends to the Governor-in-Council to represent to the Government of India ~~the~~ the regret and dissatisfaction of this Council at the indifferent attitude assumed by the Government of Burma in the matter of compensating and repatriating Indian sufferers in the recent riots and request the Government of India to take such steps as to ensure safety to the lives and property of Indians." (The Hindu.- 4-11-30).

Another public meeting in this connection was held at Madras on 8-11-30 when resolutions were passed, deploring the Burma Government's failure to make proper arrangements to ~~re~~ repatriate or compensate the sufferers in the recent riots that occurred between the Indian, and Burman labourers in Rangoon, urging the public to take legitimate steps ^{to} ~~and~~ dissuade the emigration of Indian labour to Burma until security of life and property and better treatment to labourers are assured, and demanding that immediate steps be taken by the Government of India to end the system of contract of labour as ^{it} now exists and appoint a special officer to protect the interests of Indian labourers. (The Hindustan Times.-12-11-30)

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Quarterly Strike Statistics (period ending 30-9-30.)

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India in a press communique dated the 27th November 1930, has published the Statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 30-9-30. During the period under review, there were altogether 32 disputes involving 25,957 men and causing an aggregate loss of 71,053 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 18 disputes involving 14,811 men and entailing, on the whole, a loss of 42,154 working days were recorded. Bengal comes next with 5 strikes in which 4,008 men were involved and a loss of 11,153 days ^{was} entailed. There were 1 strike in Madras (involving 2,900 men and entailing a loss of 10,150 working days), 6 strikes in Assam, 1 in the United Provinces and 1 in Burma, while no strikes were recorded in the Central Provinces, Behar and Orissa, Delhi, and the Punjab.

Of the 32 disputes during the quarter under review 15 were due to questions of wages, 8 due to questions of personnel and 9 were due to other causes. In 7 disputes the workers were successful, in 2 they were partially successful, in 21 they were unsuccessful and 2 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

Classified according to industries, there were 13 strikes in cotton and woollen mills involving 14,382 men and causing a loss of 43,124 working days; 2 disputes in jute mills involving 5,300 men and entailing a loss of 14,900 working days; and 1 dispute in Railways including railway workshops, involving 311 men and entailing a loss of 2,488 working days. There were 1 dispute in Engineering Workshops and 15 in other industries altogether involving 5,964 men and entailing a loss of 10,491 working days.

(The Statistics for industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 31st June 1930 is reviewed at pages 15-16 of the report of this Office for August 1930.)

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Workers' Organisation.

The Calcutta Corporation Employees' Association.*

The following facts regarding the Calcutta Corporation Employees Association are taken from the Report of the Association for the year 1929-30 which had recently been forwarded to this Office. The Association was started five years back and was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 in 1929. The total membership of the Association stood at 588 at the end of 1929.

The Association was brought into being to safeguard the interests of the employees of the Calcutta Municipal Corporation, more especially of those in the lower ranks of service. The following are some of the more important of the specific demands made by the Association *during the year under review* and submitted to the ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Corporation for favourable consideration :- (a) the introduction of the "Fundamental Leave Rules", (b) the modification of some of the rules in the Provident Fund scheme, a draft of which was under the consideration of the Corporation. (The Report states that the Corporation has accepted the views of the Association and has made the suggested changes.) (c) The amendment of the Gratuity Rules. The following is the text of the resolution passed by the Executive Council of the Association on this subject :-

"That the Gratuity Rules of the Corporation be so modified as to enable an employee to get a gratuity in case of retirement with less than fifteen years' service due to (i) physical or mental incapacity or (ii) abolition of appointment, the amount of gratuity being limited ordinarily to half a month's pay, and in special cases where circumstances warrant, to one month's pay for each year of qualifying service subject to a maximum of six months' pay in all. In the event of death of an employee before completion of fifteen ~~years~~ years'

* The Report of the Calcutta Corporation Employees' Association for the year 1929-30. Association Office. Corporation Building, Hogg Street, Calcutta. *AP 18*

service the gratuity for which he would have been eligible if he had then retired on ground of illness should be paid to such member or members of his family as the Chief Executive Officer may decide."

The Report expresses ~~xx~~ satisfaction at the increased attention which was being paid by the Corporation to the representations made by the Association.

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Workers' Organisations.

Trade Union Movement in the Punjab,* 1929-30.

The following facts regarding the Trade Union movement in the Punjab have been taken from the Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 in the Punjab for the year 1929-30.

According to the report, the total number of registered trade unions at the close of the year under review was 19 as compared with 13 of the previous year. The total number of membership of the unions from which returns of statistics have been received was 26,318 at the close of the year, as compared with 14,507 of the previous year. The average number of members per union increased from 1,451 in 1928-29 to 2,193 in 1929-30. It is apparent from these figures that increasing interest is being taken by workers in the trade union movement. The Labour Union, Khewra Salt, deserves special mention in having as its members 639 women out of a total membership of 1,404. This Union stands unique in this respect in the Punjab, and the report states that it is a happy sign of the times that women workers have commenced taking an active interest in ~~the~~ trade unionism.

The financial position of the Unions ~~showed~~ showed a distinct improvement. The total income of 12 unions during the year under review was Rs. 21,469 as compared with Rs.15,583 of 10 unions during 1928-29. The average income per union increased from Rs.340 during 1927-28 and Rs.1,558 during 1928-29 to Rs.1,789 during 1929-30. The average expenditure decreased from Rs.1,525 during 1928-29 to Rs.1,225 thus making a total expenditure of Rs. 14,702 between 12 unions during

*Report on the Working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab, during the year 1929-30. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab. 1930. Price: Re.0-8-0 or 9d. pp. 3 + 3.

the year under review. The unions have hitherto interested themselves mainly in securing certain privileges for their members or in getting some of their grievances redressed. No trade union or Federation subscribed to any political funds. There was no case in which the certificate of registration was either cancelled or withdrawn, nor was there any appeal preferred against the orders of the Registrar during the year under report.

(The working of the Trade Unions Act in Punjab for the year 1928-29 is reviewed at pages 46 to 47 of the report of this office for December 1929.)

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Executive Committee Meeting of the A.I. Trade Union
Congress, Calcutta.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Calcutta on 17 and 18-11-30 under the presidentship of Mr. Subash Chander Bose. In connection with the meeting Mr. Subash Chander Bose issued an appeal on 12-11-30 for restoring unity in the ranks of Indian labour. The following are relevant extracts from the appeal :-

"On 17-11-30 after the meeting of the Executive Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. is over, a conference will be held at which the question of restoring unity within the Trade Union Congress will be discussed. Ex-members of the Executive Council representing Unions that have withdrawn from the Trade Union Congress as well as other representatives of those seceding Unions (see pages 24-29 of the report of this Office for November 1929 sent with minute C.1/1275/29 dated 19-12-29). are cordially invited to take part in the conference.

I believe that if the representatives of Unions that remain affiliated to the Trade Union Congress as well as representatives of Unions that have seceded from the Trade Union Congress after the Nagpur Congress meet and discuss the question of a compromise between the two parties ~~in~~ it may be possible to arrive at a common formula. To this purpose I cordially invite the representatives of seceding Unions to come and take part in ~~in~~ the conference of the 17th November, at 6-30 p.m.

(Free Press Journal, Bombay, 15-11-1930).

There was no response to this appeal on the part of the Unions that had seceded at Nagpur and formed themselves into the All India Federation of Trade Unions as it was the opinion among such Unions that the A.I.T.U.C. was still extremist in its policies and that there had not taken place the necessary change of heart ~~which~~ among the leaders of the A.I.T.U.C., which alone would ensure permanent unity in Indian labour ranks.

The Executive Committee of the A.I.T.U.C. met at Calcutta on 17 and 18-11-30 and passed several resolutions, the most important of which was a resolution favouring the calling of a general strike

in the near future. The date of the beginning of the strike, it was decided, should be ~~decided~~^{settled} at a subsequent meeting of the Executive Committee in consultation with the representatives of the affiliated unions. The strike is "to check effectively the combined offensive of Government employers and Trade Union reactionaries which tries to annihilate the Trade Union movement and also to frustrate the manoeuvres of the nationalist bourgeois to betray the cause of Indian Independence by striking a bargain with British Imperialism at the expense of the workers and peasants." The Committee has formulated a number of general demands including a general increase in wages, the minimum wage ~~not~~ being fixed at Rs. 45 per month, a six-hour day with a weekly rest with pay, and equal pay for equal work for women and young workers. Resolutions condemning the policy pursued by the Indian Railways for the last few years, and ^{the} Round Table Conference were also adopted.

Place of Indian Labour in Reformed Constitution of India.

Labour in India is considerably exercised over its future position in the reformed constitution that will mark the next stage in the political advancement of the country. At pages 12-13 of the report of this office for July 1930, a summary has been given of the references to this subject in the report of the Simon Commission.

Mr. N.M. Joshi, who along with Mr. B. Shiva Rao represents Indian labour at the Round Table Conference, speaking at the Conference on the subject of the rights and privileges of Indian workers, said that he realised that heaven would not descend on earth for the workers when India was self-governing, but the chances of the success of the workers' struggle would be greater than now under a Government responsible neither to the British Parliament nor to the Indian Legislature. For instance, he said that the extra-ordinary influence now exercised by European industrialists in India would be greatly reduced. He himself and his colleague, Mr. Shiva Rao, hoped that the constitution would contain a declaration of the fundamental rights of workers and would also be founded on universal suffrage, that labour legislation would be a central or federal subject and that the constitution would be so framed that India would fully benefit by international labour action.

He welcomed the inclusion of the Indian States in the federation, but he reminded the Princes of their inaction hitherto to recognise international labour obligations.

(The Pioneer, 22 21-11-1930).

The demands of Indian workers as to their place in the future constitution of India and the attitude of Indian labour to the political situation in general were further defined at a meeting held at Madras on 14-11-1930, of the Executive Committee of the following Labour Unions of Madras:- The Madras Labour Union, the Madras Port Trust and Harbour Workers' Union, the Madras Engineering Workers' Union, the ~~Madras~~ ~~En~~ Mount Road Motor Engineering Workers' Union, the Telephone Workers' Union and the Western India Match Factory Workers' Union.

The meeting passed the following resolutions unanimously:-

"This meeting representing the work-people ~~of~~ the above unions accords the full support of labour in this province in particular and India in general for the national demand for complete Swaraj and a position in the Empire equal in all respects to that of the self-governing dominions. It demands at the same time that proper provision should be made in the new constitution for the adequate representation of Labour by persons in whom it has confidence, in all Legislatures of the land and in all the local and municipal bodies concerned with the general administration.

"This meeting is of opinion that any policy of dividing the representation of labour on lines of communal or caste distinctions would be gravely detrimental to its solidarity as well as to social progress and so strongly recommends to the Round Table Conference the general principle ~~of~~ disregarding all such distinctions as a basis for representation in the legislatures and local bodies.

"It is important in the view of this meeting that the Conference should provide in any constitution that it may evolve for the safeguarding of labour welfare in the Indian States in the same manner as in British India".

(The Hindu, 17-11-1930).

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Intellectual Workers.Proposed Reduction in Salaries of Higher Paid Staff
of Bombay Municipal Corporation.

The opinion has long been held in several quarters that the salaries of the higher staff in the services of the Government of India and the Provincial Governments, as also of the municipal corporations are too high compared to the low grades of pay given to the lower staffs of these services. This view has recently found expression in a resolution moved by Dr. A.G.Viegas at a meeting of the Bombay Municipal Corporation held on 20-11-1930 calling upon ^{the} Standing Committee and the Commissioner to consider the desirability of cutting down the salaries of all municipal employees drawing more than Rs. 200/- per month. The resolution occasioned a keen debate in the Corporation, some members contending that such a measure would lead to inefficiency and discontent, particularly in view of the fact that only recently a saving of Rs. 250,000 had been effected by the reorganisation of the Health and Engineering Departments of the Corporation. The proposition was, however, carried.

Co-operation.Co-operation in Bihar and Orissa, 1929*

General Progress.- Expansion continued to be rigidly controlled in pursuance of the policy of consolidation and introspection which has been consistently followed ever since 1927. The process of purging the movement of stagnant societies which had become a serious menace was continued and as many as 440 societies have been placed under liquidation during the last 3 years. Two of the central banks have also been closed down. Hasty organisation has been discouraged and great stress laid on preliminary spade-work and the training of co-operative workers. The rate of expansion has diminished and the total number of societies ~~only~~ increased during the year from 9,188 to 9,316^{only}, giving an increase of 128 against 601 in the preceding year. Membership increased by 5,986 against 12,402 and working capital by Rs. 1,700,000 against Rs. 6,300,000^{in the preceding year.} Profits increased by Rs. 92,000 and deposits by Rs. 1,282,000, while the reserve fund increased by over Rs. 500,000. It is clear from these figures that there has been controlled and sound progress, even though consolidation has been the main key-note of the policy followed by the Registrar.

Provincial Bank.- The Provincial Bank has maintained its usual high standard of efficient and progressive administration. The working capital increased from Rs. 6,600,000 to Rs. 7,400,000, and the bank improved on its last year's record by making a gross profit of Rs. 104,000. The bank has steadily kept in view the ideal of reducing the average lending rate to central banks with the result that this rate has been reduced from 8 per cent. in 1925 to 6½ per cent. in 1929. The average rate of interest paid on deposits has been reduced during the same period from 6.8 per cent to 5.1 per cent.

* Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1929. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna, 1930. Price Rs. 2-9-0. Pp. 39+XXXiii.

In spite of this reduction, there was an increase of Rs. 1,000,000 in deposits during the year under review, which shows that the public has got every confidence in the solidarity and efficiency of the apex bank of the movement in the province.

Central Banks.- The number of central banks remained stationary on account of two of the worst banks being liquidated and two new ones being registered during the course of the year. Working capital showed a slight increase by Rs. 150,000, but there was improvement in the proportion of owned to borrowed capital. The central banks also seem to have continued the wholesome policy of not accepting outside deposits in ~~an~~ excess of requirements with the result that the aggregate profits increased from Rs. 456,000 in the previous year to Rs. 589,000. Only one central bank showed a loss of Rs. 86 on its working on account of starting operations very late in the year. Most of the other banks earned substantial profits and made substantial additions to their reserve and bad debt funds. The percentage of collections by central banks from affiliated societies showed a further decline from 64.9 to 58.9 which is very ~~near~~ near to the low water-mark of 57 per cent. reached in 1926. The main reason for this low percentage is said to be the sum of Rs. 772,000 outstanding against societies under liquidation. Liquidation proceedings, the report notes, have been extremely dilatory and unsatisfactory. A step in the right direction now appears to have been taken by the appointment of paid liquidators. Other proposals to facilitate liquidation are also being examined and all the points raised will be taken into consideration before the Co-operative Societies Act is taken up for revision. In view of the banking enquiries which are still going on and the consequent delay in the appointment of the Committee on Co-operation, it is however unlikely that Government will be in a

a position to undertake fresh legislation for the next few years.

Government are glad to note a further improvement in the percentage of societies which have been classed as "model" or "good" from 20.9 per cent. to 22 per cent. The number of average societies remains very much the same, while the number of "bad" and "hopeless" societies has decreased from 10.7 per cent. to 10 per cent. There is still much room for improvement and efforts have to be made for weeding out hopeless societies and improving the bad ones by opening a net work of training classes for the members and making full use of the new training institutes at Sabour and Cuttack and the appointment of assistant propaganda officers. All the Central banks have continued to take active interest in agriculture, land improvement, irrigation, sanitation and medical relief.

Agricultural Societies.- The progress in the number of agricultural societies of all classes was even more restricted than that in the last year, the increase being by only 183 as against 598, which brings the total number of these societies to 8,715 at the end of the year. Their membership increased from 232,413 to 236,393 and the paid-up share capital from Rs. 1,327,884 to Rs. 1,506,626. Although the working capital of these societies increased by about Rs. 550,000 and stood at Rs. 24,294,154 at the end of the year, the profit which amounted to Rs. 428,050 was less by Rs. 11,000 than that of the last year. The proportion of share capital and reserves showed further improvement and formed 18.7 per cent of the working capital as against 16.9 last year.

Non-agricultural Societies.- The number of such societies increased by two. The working capital showed an increase over the previous year of Rs. 255,350,000, while the profits increased from Rs. 105,000

to Rs. 114,000. The working of these societies generally appears to be satisfactory.

The appointment of a Committee on Co-operation which was fore-shadowed in last year's resolution has been again postponed pending the publication of the Central Banking Enquiry Committee's report next year. The Provincial Banking Enquiry Committee has already passed most of the important aspects of co-operative finance and banking under review and this body of experts has arrived at the conclusion that the co-operative movement in this province "has made an appreciable inroad into the province of rural credit and, viewed as a banking agency, is generally in a sound condition. Its defects are remediable and there is no reason why it should not occupy a very prominent position in this sphere before many years have passed".

Women and Children.Postponement of All-India Conference of Women on Labour, Bombay.

At pages 45 to 46 of the report of this office for October 1930, reference had been made to the All-India Conference of Women on Labour which it was proposed to hold in Bombay from 28-11-1930 to 5-12-1930 under the auspices of the National Council of Women in India. In view of the troubled political situation, which prevents many leading women interested in labour problems from attending the conference and also because women generally are not able to give at present as much attention to the subject as it requires as they would be able to give in normal times, it has been decided to postpone the Conference to a more seasonable juncture when there will be a better chance of getting a really representative gathering. In a Press Note announcing the postponement of the Conference, the convener says that a considerable amount of interesting material has been submitted to the Conference from various parts of India and Burma. In all twenty-six memoranda dealing with various aspects of the conditions of work of women in India have been received by the ~~convener~~ convener. The Press Note says that as soon as the situation is more normal, plans for the Conference will be taken up again and the material submitted will be kept in readiness till then.

(The Times of India, 26-11-1930)

Bill to regulate Domestic Service of
Children, Ceylon.

At pages 54-55 of the report of this office for April 1929 reference had been made to the existence of forms of child slavery in Ceylon under the cover of domestic employment and to the agitation that was being carried on in Ceylon for the initiation of legislation

to curb the evil. The Government of Ceylon have in September 1930 drafted a Bill to regulate the employment of children in domestic service. The Bill which has recently passed its second reading had now been referred to a Select Committee.

(The Pioneer, 28-11-1930).

Scheme for Street Boys' Clubs, Calcutta.

The following facts about the conditions of life of the street boys of Calcutta, most of them orphan children with no proper guardians to take care of them, are taken from an interview on the subject given to the Statesman, Calcutta, by Mr. B.K. Mukerji, Presidency Magistrate, Central Children's Court, Calcutta.

According to Mr. Mukerji, to those who have studied city life in Calcutta it is apparent that a pressing problem is constituted by street boys who have no ostensible home, regular occupation or means of livelihood. They belong almost exclusively to areas north of Park Street, though this does not mean that other localities have not their quota of this class of boys. Calcutta could probably muster up 50,000 of them. Free primary schools have not yet touched them, and if and when compulsory education is introduced it is these lads with whom it will be most difficult to deal. On the other hand it has been demonstrated that personal contact with them is derivative of good results when they are dealt with in groups. A solution might be found in the formation of a group of social workers, organizing in the first place a number of street boys' clubs.

It has been found in London that holidays and leisure hours are periods when most offences are committed by juvenile delinquents, so that juvenile delinquency is largely a mode of week-end dissipation.

Thus the discovery of a profitable utilization of leisure hours offers a good starting point of reformatory work. In India most offences occur between the hours of 4 and 7 in the evening during the winter months and between 5 and 8 p.m. during the rest of the year - suitable periods when games, scouting, cinema shows and lectures might be offered by clubs to stimulate the young minds. Once the movement is under way it should not be difficult, in Mr. Mukerji's opinion, to introduce elementary instruction in arithmetic, writing and reading. Introduction to useful handicrafts might follow, and then with a gradual appreciation of the "team spirit" the boys might ultimately forsake their care-free ways in favour of industrious and thrifty habits.

The Street Boys' Clubs in Ceylon are firmly established and recognized as the best means of tackling juvenile delinquency, getting hold of youngsters at an age before they begin transgressing the law. No two children are exactly alike, but all possessed many common characteristics providing basic factors upon which a start might be made. With the exercise of patience and forbearance, sympathy and firmness, the gradual building up of the characters of street boys might finally be achieved. At the moment there are more than 500 primary and vocational schools in Calcutta; there are maidans, parks and ~~many~~ playgrounds, and many philanthropic institutions, but the need of the street boys has yet to attract attention.

A few figures demonstrate the increase in the number of cases dealt with by the Juvenile Court. Last year 5,657 were sent for trial, and 2,560 warned and discharged. These figures have rapidly grown from 999 and 176 respectively in 1923. The commonest offences are obstruction ~~obstruction~~ caused by selling articles in the street

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begging, theft, burglary and selling cocaine.

(The Statesman, 20-11-1930).

Demand for Qualified Inspectresses of Factories:

5th Women's Educational Conference, Madras.

The 5th Madras Constituent Conference of Women on Educational and Social Reform was held at Madras on 22 and 23-11-1930 under the presidentship of Her Highness the Junior Maharani of Travancore. A number of resolutions on important educational and social reform questions in so far as they affect the interests of women were passed by the Conference. Attention has to be specially directed to a resolution passed by the Conference on the conditions of work of women and children in factories. The resolution on the subject moved by Mrs. Hilda Wood was as follows:-

"This Conference asks that qualified inspectresses should be appointed to inspect the work and conditions of women and children working in factories".

She stated that the conditions of women workers in factories were far more unsatisfactory than those of men. Their wages were low, and their health was not satisfactory. Sanitation in some mills was bad and latrine accommodation was inadequate and housing conditions *poor*. To remedy these evils qualified inspectresses were necessary.

(The Hindu, 23-11-1930).

Education.Education in India -- 1927-28*

The report on educational progress in India during the period 1-4-1927 to 31-3-1928 published by the Educational Commissioner with the Government of India furnishes a mass of valuable information on the progress of education in India.

Total Number of Institutions and Scholars.- The report states that the year under report has been one of substantial progress. The number of recognised institutions increased by 8,762 and the scholars reading in them by 630,806. The total number of scholars in ^{recognised and unrecognised} all kinds of institutions, both ^{stood at 11,775,222} nearly five per cent. of the population. The following table gives details :-

Institutions and Scholars.

Types of Institutions.	<u>No. of Institutions.</u>		<u>No. of Scholars.</u>	
	1928.	1927.	1928.	1927.
Universities.	15	14	7,562	7,053
Arts Colleges.	236	232	65,952	65,250
Professional Colleges.	71	77	17,162	17,616
High Schools.	2,759	2,687	828,854	794,201
Middle Schools.	9,240	8,651	1,173,700	1,059,866
Primary Schools.	197,299	189,348	8,712,968	8,256,760
Special Schools.	10,190	10,039	353,958	328,604
Unrecognised Institutions.	34,914	35,216	615,066	628,146
Total ...	254,724	246,264	11,775,222	11,157,496

Secondary and Primary Schools .- The number of secondary and primary schools was 209,298 and the number of pupils receiving education in these schools and in the school departments of intermediate colleges was 10,720,594. The pupils were distributed over the various stages of instruction as follows :-

Stage of Instruction.		Boys.	Girls.	Total.
High stage	286,426	9,480	295,906
Middle stage	737,764	48,017	785,781
Primary stage...	...	7,816,021	1,822,886	9,638,907
Total ...		8,840,211	1,880,383	10,720,594

* Education, India. Education in India in 1927-28. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch. 1930. Price Re. 1-12-0 or 3 shillings. *M. 72.*

Expenditure on Education .- The total expenditure on education from all sources increased by Rs.1,24,31,247 from Rs.24,58,47,572 to Rs.25,82,78,819. Towards this expenditure, government funds contributed 49.0 per cent., district board and municipal funds 14.7 per cent., fees 21.1 per cent., and all other sources 15.2 per cent. The proportion of cost met from government funds varies considerably from province to province; it is highest in the North-West Frontier Province (66.2 per cent.) and lowest in the minor administered areas (20.8 per cent.).

The average annual cost per scholar was Rs. 23 for the whole of British India. The incidence of this cost was as follows :-

		Rs. A. P.		
Government funds	...	11	5	7
Local funds	...	3	6	4
Fees	...	4	14	1
Other sources	...	3	8	3

The provincial figures ranged from Rs. 80 in Baluchistan to Rs.17 in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa and Assam.

Education of Girls .- The number of recognised institutions for girls rose from 28,001 to 30,003 and their enrolment from 1,118,547 to 1,213,546. Of the total of 1,213,546 pupils in girls' schools 46,855 were boys, while 733,199 girls were reading in boys schools. Thus the total number of girls reading in recognised institutions was 1,899,890, representing an increase of 158,279 over the total for the previous year. The increase was made up of 101,563 girls reading in girls' schools and 56,716 girls reading in boys' schools. The total number of girls in all kinds of institutions, both recognised and unrecognised, was 1,996,445 - about 1.7 per cent. of the female population as against 1.5 per cent. in the previous year. The corresponding figure for boys is 7.7 per cent.

Of the total of 1,899,890 girls reading in recognised institutions 1,681,414 were reading in primary schools.

Professional and Technical Institutions .- The majority of professional and technical institutions, other than those for the training of teachers, are not under the control of provincial departments of education. The information furnished in provincial educational reports regarding these institutions is therefore incomplete and is mainly statistical. The following table summarises this information

Types of Institutions.	1927		1928	
	Institutions.	Scholars.	Institutions	Scholars.
Law Colleges and schools.	15	8,213	16	7,732
Medical colleges and schools.	42	9,607	42	9,168
Engineering colleges and schools.	17	3,644	18	4,283
Agricultural colleges and schools.	22	1,336	21	1,528
Commercial colleges and schools.	158	8,221	160	9,150
Forest colleges.	2	129	2	138
Veterinary colleges.	3	330	3	378
Technical and Industrial schools.	450	24,537	473	26,141
Schools of Art	11	1,964	11	2,094
Total (India) ...	720	57,981	746	60,612