

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch.

(ILO) C1903/17

Report for April 1930.

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### General.

The legislative session having ended on the 31st March, the political developments in India during the month under review were confined to the civil disobedience campaign which was initiated by Gandhi on the 6th April. Gandhi, with a batch of 84 volunteers, had left Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad, on the 12th March, and marching on foot through the intervening country reached Dandi, a sea-coast Gujrat village on 5-4-1930. Here, on 6-4-1930, Gandhi and his band of satyagraha volunteers accompanied by Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, initiated the civil disobedience campaign by collecting salt deposits from the sea-shore in defiance of the salt laws. The ~~mix~~ police were conspicuous by their absence, and the start of the movement, therefore, went off peacefully. After thus ceremonially breaking the law, Gandhi issued a statement to the press, declaring that a start having been made, it was open for each individual Indian to break the salt laws. The inauguration of the campaign was followed by organised efforts to break the salt laws in the various provincial capitals, important towns and even villages.

The ~~ix~~ policy of quietly watching developments which the Government had at first adopted was substituted for one of active intervention, when it was seen that the civil disobedience movement was spreading in all directions and gathering strength, instead of dying of inanition. The Government accordingly began to arrest the leaders of the movement. The first crop of arrests and convictions included those of Mr. Manilal Kothari (3 months' simple imprisonment), Mr. Ramdas Gandhi, son of Gandhi (6 months' rigorous imprisonment), Mr. K.F. Nariman (1 month's simple imprisonment), Mr. Jannalal Bajaj (2 years rigorous imprisonment)

and Mr. Gangadhar Rao Deshpande (1 month's simple imprisonment). The second week of April saw an intensification of Government's repressive policy. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President of the Congress, was arrested on 14-4-1930, for ~~breach~~ breach of the salt laws. Other notable arrests of the week included those of Mr. J.M. Sen Gupta and Mr. T. Prakasam, the leaders of the Congress movement in Bengal and Madras respectively.

The repressive policy of the government found its repercussions in the greater stimulus that was given to the civil disobedience movement. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had, anticipating his arrest, nominated Gandhi as his ~~xx~~ successor in the presidentship of the Congress in the event of his arrest, and Gandhi in turn nominated Pandit Motilal Nehru to the office. Under his leadership the people registered their protest against the policy of the government by holding all over the country huge demonstration meetings and processions, and <sup>by</sup> the declaration of hartals, namely, voluntary closing of shops and other places of business. The repressive actions of the government gave also further edge to two of the subsidiary activities of the Congress Party, namely, the foreign cloth boycott movement and the picketing of liquor shops. A notable feature of these activities was the increasing association of women with these movements. Gandhi, who at first discouraged the active participation of women, later lifted the ban, and in consequence, it may be said, the picketing of foreign cloth shops and liquor shops are almost entirely conducted by women volunteers, to the evident ~~embarrassment~~ embarrassment of the shop-keepers concerned. In obedience to the behests of the Congress, foreign cloth dealers in all important centres, Bombay, Calcutta, Madras, Delhi, Karachi and other places, have agreed not to place orders for foreign cloth for a period of one

year and to cancel wherever possible the orders for foreign cloth that have been already placed. As such a step will involve the cancellation of many contracts, foreign firms are much perturbed over the development, while the dislocation of the Indian cloth market has seriously affected trade and labour interests.

What with ~~repression~~ repression on one side and the resort to social and economic boycotts on the other side, towards the close of the month tempers got frayed on both sides and serious clashes occurred between satyagraha volunteer groups and the police at several centres, notably in Calcutta and Madras. But apart from these minor civic disturbances, a fresh development began when revolutionary outbursts, as distinguished from satyagraha activities, began to break out in different parts of the country. The raid on the armoury at Chittagong on 18-4-1930, and the Peshawar disturbances which broke out later, and both of ~~the~~ which necessitated active military operations for their quelling, have been attributed to the activities of revolutionary advocates of violence.

On the 25th April, Mr. V.J. Patel, the President of the Legislative Assembly, tendered his resignation of the office to the Viceroy. In the letter announcing his resignation, Mr. Patel, while paying a personal tribute to Lord Irwin, severely criticised the policy of the Governor-General-in-Council, complained of "harassment and persecution" by the bureaucracy which made his occupancy of the presidential chair "a bed of thorns", ~~and~~ affirmed that the bureaucracy condoned a press campaign of vilification and misrepresentation against him, and stated that in view of the recent developments both in the Assembly and outside he has no choice but to tender his resignation and range himself with

the rest of his countrymen who are advocates of civil disobedience. Mr. Patel's return to the congress party and Pandit Malaviya's active support of the foreign cloth boycott movement have given an immense fillip to the national movement.

On 27-4-1930, the Viceroy promulgated an ordinance reviving the Press Act of 1910 with certain amendments to suit the conditions now prevailing in the country. In the course of a statement explaining the measure, the Government stated that the measure is not designed to restrict the just liberties of the press or to check fair criticism of the administration. The promulgation of the Ordinance which arms the Government with autocratic powers of control of the Press of the country, has been greeted with a chorus of disapproval by the Indian Press. The Ordinance invests the local authorities with the right to demand money security from the various newspapers, <sup>The Security is</sup> ~~which are~~ to be forfeited where a paper has been found to promote disaffection, followed by confiscation for a repetition of the offence. Several Indian papers have ceased publication rather than lead a precarious existence under the terrors of the Ordinance. A result of the Ordinance <sup>is</sup> ~~has been~~ that all Delhi papers have suspended publication, and the Imperial Capital <sup>now</sup> is left without a single newspaper.

References to the I. L. O.

The Hindu of 1-4-30 and 8-4-30 contain letters from the paper's special correspondent at Geneva.

... ..

The Times of India of 1-4-30 and all papers publish a press communique issued by the Government of India regarding the agenda of the 14th session of the International Labour Conference. The communique points out that the Governing Body of the I. L. O. has decided to place the question of hours of work in coal mines on the agenda of the forthcoming conference and that though the conference will have full power to decide the scope of the subject, it is likely that the conference will restrict discussion on the subject to hours of work in European mines.

... ..

The Hindu of 10-4-30 publishes the report of a debate held on 8-4-30 in the Y.M.C.A. auditorium, Madras, under the auspices of the Y.M.C.A. Athenaeum, when Mr. T. Sadasivan moved "That the work of the League of Nations ~~will~~ all these ten years hastened the prospect of world peace" and Mr. A. Krishnaswami opposed the motion. During the course of the debate references were made by several speakers to the work of the I. L. O. The debate was presided over by Mr. P. Chenchiah, Advocate, Madras High Court.

... ..

The abstract of Proceedings for March 1930 of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce records that the Chamber received I. L. O. Questionnaires regarding (1) Protection of Seamen in case of sickness including the treatment of seamen injured on Board Ship; (2) the Regulation of hours of work on board ship; and (3) Certificates of competency for captains, and navigating and

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Engineering officers in charges of watches on board ship, and that the Chamber has forwarded its answers to the Questionnaires

... ..

The Communique issued by this office on the Blue Report issued by the I. L. O. on "Forced Labour", the first item on the agenda of the 14th International Labour Conference, is published in the Times of India of 24-4-30<sup>the</sup>, all the other important English newspapers (Copies of this communique have been forwarded with this Office's minute H.<sup>2</sup>/493 /30 dated 24-4-1930).

... ..

The Indian Social Reformer of 29-3-30 (Vol.XL, No. 30) publishes an editorial note reviewing the report of the Indian Delegation to the League Assembly of 1929. The journal endorses the suggestions made in the report and puts in a strong plea for the inclusion of more Indians among the higher officials of the League organisations.

... ..

The Times of India<sup>of</sup> 26-4-30 publishes an editorial article reviewing the book "The United States of the World" by Oscar Newfang. Mr. Newfang in his book emphasises the need of developing the League into an actual federation of States. The paper points out that as long as America keeps out of the League, the League cannot become universal and suggests that the inclusion of America may be possible if the federal form of organisation is applied to the United States of the World.

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The New India of 17-4-30 (Vol. IV, New Series, No. 3) comments in an editorial note on the report that the Maharaja of Bikanir will lead the Indian Delegation to the next session of the League of Nations, and raises an important constitutional point with the query "Can a Prince lead the Indian Delegation to the League without accepting the obligation to respect the Conventions of its counterpart, the International Labour Conference?"

... ..

The New India of 24-4-30 (Vol. IV, No. 4) publishes the following list of names of members of the Indian employers' and workers' delegation to the 14th International Labour Conference :- Employers' Delegate, Mr. A. L. Ojha. Advisers - Messrs: P. Mukerji, R. Vaishya, and J. K. Mehta. Workers' Delegate - Mr. S. C. Joshi. Advisers - Messrs: B. Shiva Rao, K. C. Roy Choudhury and Muhamad Umar Rajah.

... ..

The Servant of India of 17-4-30 (Vol. XIII, No. 16) publishes a review by the Deputy Director of this Office of the book "Men and Machines" by Stuart Chase. In the course of the review an appreciative reference is made to the work of the International Labour Organisation in imposing controls on work strains to combat the "fatigues, monotonies and repressions" of the machine.

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The Servant of India of 24-4-30 (Vol. XIII, No. 17) ~~at~~ ~~pages~~ publishes a lengthy review of the I. L. O. Souvenir Album. (A cutting of this review has been forwarded to



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to Geneva with this Office's minute M.1a/643/30 dated 15-5-1939.

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A brief reference to the agenda of the International Labour Conferences of 1930 and 1931 are made in the April issue (Vol. IX, No. 8) of the Labour Gazette, Bombay. Mention is made of the fact that ~~there~~ the next Maritime session of the Conference will be held not in 1930, but in 1931. It is also pointed <sup>out</sup> that in 1931, the International Labour Conference will have to examine the decennial reports on the application~~s~~ of conventions adopted at Washington and ~~Genoa~~ Genoa, and will also have to consider the report on wages in the coal industry.

... ..

The April issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay (Vol. IX, Nos 8) publishes at pages 834-836 a fairly long review of the I. L. O. Souvenir Album. The Labour Gazette in the course of the review pays tribute to the work of the I. L. O. and acknowledges India's debt to the I. L. O. in these terms :- "In India particularly, we have reason to be grateful for our connection with Geneva, inasmuch as, while till 1919 industrial and labour questions attracted but little attention, since then, we have been having a notable series of labour enactments, such as the amended Factories and Mines Acts, the Trade Unions Act, and Railway Amendment Act of 1930, the Amended Emigration and Port Trusts Acts, etc., all of which have been in the right direction. So marked, indeed, has been the influence of Geneva on Indian social legislation that it has been claimed that, but for Geneva, public interest in labour questions would not have been so rapidly and effectively mobilised in this country." (As the

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Labour Gazette is subscribed for by Geneva no cutting of the review has been forwarded to Geneva).

... ..

An article under the caption "the 13th session of the International Labour Conference" contributed by the Director of this Office is published at pages 165-170 of the April 1930 (Vol. IX, No. 40) issue of "Education" (Cawnpore) (A copy of the journal has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute K/753/30 dated 22-5-30).

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The same article is published at pages 10-16 of the April 1930 (Vol. VI, No. 10) issue of "the Progress of Education" (Poona) (A copy of the journal has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute K/753/30 Dated 22-5-1930).

Conditions of Labour.B.B. & C.I. Dispute: Conciliation Boards Recommendations.

References have been made in previous reports of this Office (December 1929, pages 23-24; January 1930, pages 25-28; February 1930, page 32) to the dispute between the management of the B.B. & C.I. Railway and certain of their workmen re: the conditions governing the transfer of the workmen from the workshops at Parel, Bombay, to Dohad. At page 32 of the Report of this Office for February 1930, a brief summary of the recommendations made by the Conciliation Board appointed by the Government of India to settle the dispute is given. Fuller details are now available of the Board's recommendations. The representative of the employers, Mr. Collins, and of the workmen, Mr. Jannadas Mehta, have signed the report subject to their separate dissenting minutes. The issues to the dispute were the following:-

(a) Whether the present rate of wages of the workers when transferred to Dohad should be reduced or increased by 20 per cent; (b) whether special gratuity under the reduction of Staff Rules should be allowed to persons who go to Dohad but retire from service within a year from the date of the transfer; (c) whether a special gratuity at the rates suggested by the Union should be allowed to men not willing to go to Dohad who entered into service between the years 1902 and 1917, (d) whether a bonus of one month's salary should be given to those, who do not elect to join at Dohad; (e) whether there should be any charge for water tax, conservancy, etc; and (f) whether catering places should be provided rent free.

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The following are the Board's findings :-

20 per cent cut in wages - On the question of the 20 per cent cut in wages proposed by the Company, the report after a lengthy examination of the evidence recommends that there should be no reduction in the wages, consequent on a transfer to Dohad.

Option of retiring, after transfer to Dohad, on payment ~~of~~ of special gratuity.- On this point the Board recommends that the special terms of gratuity on voluntary resignation should also apply to men, who go to Dohad and voluntarily resign within three months of the date of transfer, provided such resignation is on grounds of health certified by competent medical authority (but on no other ground), the gratuity admissible to any such employee being calculated on the Parel rate of his pay on the date of transfer to Dohad.

Special gratuity to men not willing to go to Dohad, who entered into service between 1902 and 1917 - The Union claims that the workmen who do not wish to go to Dohad but who on account of the rules of the Provident Fund prevailing between 1902 and 1917 could not join the Fund should be allowed a gratuity of one month's pay for each year of service between those years and from 1917 onwards according to the special Reduction of Staff Rules, i.e., 1/16th of a month's pay for each month of continuous approved service. The men who took service between 1902 and 1917 did so according to the rules then in force, (which did not allow them to join the Provident Fund), and no case has now been made out why on their exercising the option of retirement on this occasion they should have a special gratuity of one month's pay for each year of continuous service as demanded. The Board is, therefore, unable to support the claim of the Union for the grant of an additional bonus to these workmen, and considers that the Company's offer of gratuity to the workmen (including those who joined between the years 1902 and 1917), is reasonable and should be accepted by the Union.

Bonus of one month's salary to those who do not elect to go to Dohad - The only item of dispute with regard to bonus is in respect of those workmen who do not elect to join at Dohad. The Union claims that one month's pay as bonus should be given to these men as compensation for loss of service. The Board considers that this claim on the part of the Union as regards workmen who elect not to join at Dohad cannot be sustained. Those men who would voluntarily resign have been offered special rates of gratuity and in the opinion of the Board, the demand for an additional bonus is not justified.

Housing and charges for water tax, conservancy, etc - The objection that was ~~is~~ raised by the Union's representatives as regards one room tenements is only applicable to the

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workmen drawing Re.1-2-0 per day or less. As the Board decided that the dispute with regard to such ~~workmen~~ workmen was not before them, the question of suitability or otherwise of one-room tenements ~~also~~ not arise. With regard to the residential quarters provided for the workmen concerned in the present dispute, there is no question that the housing accommodation is adequate and that the rent proposed to be charged, viz, ten per cent of the pay of the employee or the economic rent which ever is lower, is in accordance with the usual rules of ~~of~~ the Company. The Board finds that the accommodation and the terms as regards rent, etc., offered by the Company are satisfactory and recommends that the same be accepted by the Union. With regard to the claim that there should be no charge for water tax, conservancy and electric installation, the Board has no special recommendation to make in favour of the workmen. These matters may be dealt with under the ordinary rules of the Company.

Catering Places - Since the Company agrees to provide catering places, the only question under dispute is one of rent. The Board recommends that nothing more than the economic rent should be charged for the buildings provided for the purpose.

Loans from the Co-operative Credit Society, Kit passes and working days - The dispute raised in the written statement of the Union with regard to loans from the Co-operative Credit Society, Kit Passes and working days, was given up by the Union representatives at the final stage of the proceedings. It, therefore, follows that the terms offered by the Company in this behalf are accepted by the Union and the Board recommends them to be followed.

( Hindustan Times .- 4-4-30  
& B.B.& C.I. Railway ~~men~~ .- 1-5-30  
(Vol. I, Nos. 18 and 19 -joint  
issue.)

Buffalo Cart Drivers' Strike, Calcutta.

The buffalo cart drivers of Calcutta numbering about 20,000 went on strike on 1-4-1930. The causes that led to the strike are as follow:-

The Calcutta branch of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals had for many years been carrying on agitation against the long hours of work to which buffalo cart-drivers of Calcutta put their buffaloes. Owing to the agitation carried on by the C.S.P.C.A, a special clause was included in the Cruelty to Animals Act passed in 1926, which gave Government the power to prohibit the use of buffaloes at stated times and seasons. In addition to the limitation of hours the C.S.P.C.A. also urged that regulations should be issued reducing the load allowed to buffalo carts from 60 maunds (1 maund=80lbs) to 45 maunds, a demand which was supported by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and the Port Commissioners, Calcutta. The Government of Bengal, after due consideration of the demands, decided to issue regulation reducing the load allowed for buffalo carts from 60 maunds to 45 maunds and the new regulation was to come into force on 1-4-1930. There are about 15,000 buffalo carts and 20,000 buffalo cart-drivers in Calcutta. The carters who had been resenting the rule issued in 1926 against the use of buffaloes between 12 noon and 3 p.m. during the hot season (1st April to 30th September), strongly protested against the new regulation reducing the load, on the ground that in view of the increasingly serious competition with motor lorries and bullock carts, a reduction of the load would paralyse their trade, as no merchant would pay them the usual rate for the smaller load.

The other grievances of the carters were oppression by the C.S.P.C.A. agents, frivolous arrests by the police on such charges as road obstruction and the imposition of heavy fines on offending cart-drivers by the Courts. (Statesman, 3-4-1930).

On 1-4-1930 the buffalo cart-drivers organised a demonstration against the new rules by blocking all roads leading to Howrah Bridge by abandoning and overturning their carts in the roadway. When the police attempted to clear the roads and disperse the demonstrators, the police were pelted with brick-bats with the result that the police were compelled to open fire. The total number of casualties on the occasion is reported to be five killed and 60 wounded (Times of India, 3-4-1930).

~~On 1-4-1930 the buffalo cart-drivers organised~~ On 2-4-1930, a deputation of the Carters' Union waited on the Police Commissioner, Calcutta, and requested him to make arrangements to present a memorial to the Government. On 4-4-1930 in obedience to a resolution of the Carters' Union, the carters decided to offer satyagraha and to court arrest and punishment by refusing to obey the rule enforcing three hours' compulsory rest for buffaloes, and many arrests of carters were made on this score. Mr. M. Burman, Swami Viswananda and Mr. Godbole, leaders of the carters' Union were arrested on 5-4-1930. As the result of a conference between the men's leaders and the authorities on the same day the Government decided to suspend for a fortnight the new regulation reducing loads, but the carters decided to continue their campaign against the hours rule.

On 12-4-1930 the carters submitted a memorial to Government making the following demands:- (1) the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry; (2) suspension of the rule reducing loads from 60 maunds to

45 maunds; (3) suspension of the rule prohibiting the use of buffalo carts between 12 noon and 3 p.m. in the hot season, and (4) withdrawal of the cases instituted against the carters' leaders. The memorial stated that about 20,000 men are dependent on the plying of the 15,000 odd buffalo carts in Calcutta, that the upkeep of each buffalo of which there are about 35,000 in Calcutta, costs about Rs.45/- a month and that owing to the competition of motor lorries and bullock carts the average earning of a cart has been reduced to Rs. 4/- per day. The petition pointed out that over Rs. 10 millions were invested in buffaloes and carts by the carters, and that the imposition of rules to suit the demands of the C.S.P.C.A. would result in depriving the carters of their living and in the destruction of the huge capital invested. (Statesman, 13-4-1930).

In this connection, the Secretary, Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, has addressed a communication to the Government of Bengal pointing out that the imposition of simultaneous restrictions on carters in respect of loads and hours of work will operate very harshly on them, and urging that if the rule prohibiting midday work is to be enforced, the Government should take steps to ensure that railway goods sheds and port commissioners' sheds should be opened earlier and closed later to fit in with the hours of work of the buffalo cart drivers. (Statesman, 16-4-1930).



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~~Councils working at Poona and some other places whose decisions were merely recommendations, having no binding force upon the Government.~~ (Times of India.- 3-4-30).

G. I. P. Railway strike.

The G.I.P. Railway strike, to which reference has been made at pages 16-20 of the report of this Office for March 1930, was unconditionally called off by the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union with effect from the morning of 16-4-30. The decision to call off the strike was arrived at only after the strikers had ineffectually tried the weapon of satyagraha (passive resistance) (See page 20, March 1930 report). The attempts of the workers at satyagraha failed, and in some instances these attempts resulted in clashes with the police, on 5-4-30 at the G.I.P. main station in Bombay and on 8-4-30 <sup>at</sup> and the Dadar and Matunga stations, Bombay. Attempts at satyagraha by the strikers lying on the rails and preventing mail and other trains from proceeding were resorted to at Nagpur, Bhusaval, and other places, also, but beyond causing temporary embarrassment to the management, the train services were not interfered <sup>with</sup> to any appreciable extent by these tactics. Mr. Ruikar, the president of the Union, and Mr. Khandalkar, president of the Red Flag Union, were arrested on 7-4-30 for addressing meetings of the strikers in defiance of police orders. It was under these circumstances that the strike was called off at a meeting of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union on 15-4-30 when the following resolutions were passed :-

- (1) The strike is to be called off from 7 a.m. of 16-4-30

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(2) The Railway Board should be memorialised to reinstate all strikers by 20-4-30. (3) If all strikers are not reinstated by 20-4-30, the All India Railwaymen's Federation should take the necessary steps to bring about the reinstatement. (4) If negotiations in this respect fail the All India Railwaymen's Federation should make preparations for a general strike by 15th May. (5) The Railway Board and the Federation should make the necessary arrangements to allow the strikers to remain in railway quarters without further molestation. (6) The Government of India and the local governments should be urged to release all arrested strike leaders. (7) All workers in service should contribute one day's wages to the relief of the strikers' families. (Pioneer.- 21-4-30).

It is estimated that as a result of the strike nearly 29,000 men have been thrown out of employment. The Union authorities state that at Bombay 22,000 men are out of employment owing to <sup>them</sup> having been replaced by new hands and also to the Government scheme of curtailing the strength in the workshops. The number of railway men out of work between Bombay and Kurla is quoted as 7,000, due to the same reasons. The Railway authorities state that the figures of the Union are greatly exaggerated. (Times of India .- 21-4-30)

Following the decision of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, Bombay, the strike at Nagpur was called off on 17-4-30, as also at all other G.I.P. centres.

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Lightning Strike in Delhi Cloth Mills, Delhi.

About 5,000 workers of the Delhi Cloth Mills struck work on 23-4-1930 mainly on the question of reduction of wages. It is alleged by the labourers that the management recently reduced their wages by 3 pice per pound, while the management maintained that no reduction has been effected lately. The strike was settled on 24-4-1930 by the management acceding to the men's demands and work was resumed on 25-4-1930. It is understood that the management has agreed to recognise the Union after the approval of the rules. It has also agreed to inquire into the question of wages and to discontinue the system of compulsory contribution to the provident fund. Lastly, the management has satisfied the workers in the matters of the Workers Relief Fund by publishing an upto date account, thereby meeting all the demands of labour. (Times of India, 26-4-1930).

Strike in Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore.

A strike began at the Oorgamm Mine in the Kolar Gold Fields, Mysore, on 3-4-1930. The strike was begun by £ 200 to 300 staff coolies employed by a contractor as a protest against a new system of registration of finger marks instituted by the management of the mines. According to the managements, the finger-print system was resorted to ensure identification of men who deserted without working off the advances £ paid to them. By 8-4-1930 the strike had spread to all the five mines in the Kolar Gold Fields and between 16,000 and 20,000 workers had downed tools. On 7-4-1930 there was a clash between the police and the strikers, and the police had to open fire in the end. As the situation was getting dangerous, the Mysore Government despatched a body of troops to the Gold Fields area to keep the strikers under control. In deference to the wishes of the strikers, the

superintendents of all the five mines issued notices on 9-4-1930 to the effect that all finger prints that have been taken will be returned but the men still held out on the ground as they had other grievances to be redressed. (Hindu, 10-4-1930).

On 13-4-1930 at a largely attended meeting of the strikers the following demands were formulated:-

(1) The recently established Central Labour Registry should be abolished and the system of finger prints should be done away with; (2) Hospital and sick pay rules should be restored; (3) Service money should be granted to contractors' coolies on the same terms as to the Company's coolies; (4) That contractors' coolies be put on the same footing as the Company's coolies in respect of bonus for regular attendance; (5) The Superintendents should recognise the representatives whom the workers elect from amongst themselves as a panchayat to submit the grievances of the workmen and demand redress; (6) Full pay during strike; (7) A provident fund be instituted for all employees similar to the system on railway companies; (8) An annual increment in wages; (9) Increased house accommodation for long service men as their families have increased largely. (Times of India, 16-4-1930).

~~The speaker requested the~~ On 15-4-1930 a meeting of the managements of the five mines was held and issued the following notice:

"Notice is hereby given that the new procedure governing the employment of labour will be as follows:-

The name of the Central Labour Registry is altered to the Employee Office. The finger-print system is abolished, except under the old rule, under which men employed in reduction works must continue to give their finger-prints. A mine disc will be substituted for the Central Labour Register disc which is abolished. Men who have already received Central Labour Register disc must return them in exchange for a mine disc.

Men whose names were on the companies or contractors rolls on April 4, 1930 will be classed as old labour and they will be required to (a) attend at their mine office and have their names and descriptions taken, (b) as regards contractors' labour, to attest the above by their signature or left thumb impression, (c) receive a mine disc and afterward, if they are transferred to another mine to report at the Employment Office and proceed as in the case of new labour.

Men engaged after April 4, and old labour transferring thereafter to another mine will be classed as new labour and will be required to: (a) attend at the Employment Office and have their name and description taken; (b) attest the above signature or left hand thumb impression; (c) receive medical examination; (d) receive a mine disc; (e) report at the Employment Office when they are transferred to another mine or leave service.

Contractors' coolies will be entitled to ~~part~~ participate under

the service gratuity scheme without giving their finger-prints for which there will be, as a substitute, their signatures or left thumb mark. The finger print records of men who have deposited finger-prints for this purpose have been destroyed". (Pioneer, 18-4-1930).

As these terms of the management were not acceptable to the strikers, the strike continued. On 24-4-1930 there was a clash between the police and the strikers and the police had again to open fire. At this period large numbers of the workers began to leave the mines for their villages. On 26-4-1930, the Dewan of Mysore, Sir Mirza Ismail, visited the gold-fields and conferred with the leaders of the strikers and the mine managements. As the result of his intervention, the management issued the following notice: -

"Out of deference to the wishes of the Dewan of Mysore, Messrs. John Tayler Sons Committee hereby announce that they have decided to abolish the system of obtaining the signatures or thumb impressions of their employees and also the Employment Office". (Times of India, 29-4-1930).

Following on this notice the strike ended on 28-4-1930.

Only once before during the last 50 years <sup>was</sup> there ~~was~~ a general strike in the Kolar Gold Fields. Mr. B. Shiva Rao in a letter to the Hindu of 15-4-1930 points out that the passivity of the workers is not due to the absence of grievances, but is due to the fact that owing to the harsh operation of the Mysore Mines Regulation of 1906, the workers have been denied the elementary right of association with the result that they have no facilities for forming trade unions and making collective representations.

VDS.

Choolai Mill Strike, Madras.

Over 2,000 men employed in the Choolai Mill, Madras, struck work on 14-4-1930. According to the Times of India of 16-4-1930, the immediate cause of the strike is that 107 men, working in the cording and blowing department, soon after entering premises refused to work on the ground that they had not been given an increase. As the engines could not be started, work for other men could not be allotted. Other men left the mills peacefully, while these 107 men practised satyagraha. Police help was requisitioned and these men were made to leave the place. The management closed the mills, declaring a lock-out, and posted a notice to that effect.

On 16-4-1930, Mr. B. Shiv Rao interviewed the Labour Commissioner, Madras, on behalf of the men and sought his intervention to settle the strike. The strikers decided to demand the appointment of a Court of Inquiry, only if the efforts of the Labour Commissioner proved unsuccessful (Hindu, 16-4-1930). At a meeting of the strikers held on 18-4-1930, it was decided that they should resume work on 21-4-1930, in case the management agreed not to resort to any victimisation and also consented to discuss the demands of the workmen with the representatives of the Labour Union. The decision of the workers was conveyed by letter to the management, who informed Mr. Shiv Rao on 19-4-1930 that they were not prepared to accept any such terms as a condition precedent for the re-opening of their mills, as they considered the present strike was unjustified. At a meeting of the strikers held on 21-4-1930, the workers decided that unless the two conditions put forward by them were conceded, they would continue the strike. According to the Hindu of 28-4-1930, the management of the

mills have decided to terminate the lock-out and to keep the mills open on 28-4-1930 provided they received final orders from their Bombay office in the matter, but as no orders were received the mill was kept closed. The strike is continuing.

Jute Mills Strike, Calcutta.

The Calcutta Jute Mills' strike to which reference is made at pages 24-26 of the report of this office for March 1930, practically ended by the first week of April. Partial~~ly~~ working was resumed on 1-4-1930 at the Kelvin, Standard, Kinnison, Empire and Titaghur No.1 and 2 jute mills, Barrackpore. At all these mills lightning strikes occurred on 10-3-1930 (see page 24, March 1930 report) rendering idle a labour force of 30,000 hands. Most of the operatives returned unconditionally to work on 1-4-1930, and only a handful of Madrasi employees are now remaining out (Statesman, 4-4-1930).

It is understood that members of the Jute Mills Association have under consideration suggestions concerning a reduction of the working hours in mills. No definite conclusion has yet been arrived at, nor can a decision be reached unless and until the attitude of mill owners who are not members of the Jute Mills Association is known. It is believed that no suggestion for reduced hours of work will be entertained without the unanimous support of the industry. (Statesman, 2-4-1930)

KLB.

Child Labour in Beedi Factories, Madras.

A conference convened by the Youth League, Madras, to consider the problem of child labour in Beedi (country cigarette) factories was held in Madras on 10-4-30, under the presidentship of Mr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, the Deputy President of the Madras Legislative Council. A number of social workers interested in the question attended the meeting.

Mr. V. T. Arasu, the convener, in a short speech explained the objects of the conference. He said that the report submitted by a committee of the League on the working of the beedi factories in the city revealed a state of affairs which required <sup>the adoption of</sup> ~~taking~~ immediate steps, for remedying the existing evils. While the speaker was examined as a witness before the Whitley Commission some of the Commissioners suggested that a conference might be held at which all people connected with beedi manufacture might meet and discuss the ways and means of putting an end to the evil. The speaker issued invitations to prominent beedi manufacturers in the city to attend the conference, but unfortunately, none had turned up. In the speakers' opinion something should be done immediately, and he would therefore ask the meeting to consider the recommendations made by the committee in their report, namely, that the Indian Factories Act of 1911 should be amended so as to bring these beedi factories under its operation, and pending such an amendment the local Government should <sup>by</sup> ~~by~~ notification in the local Gazette declare by name individually all the premises where beedies were manufactured to come under the category of a regularly constituted factory. Mr. Arasu also said that an attempt should be made to have the



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KLB. 2.

Elementary Education Act, now compulsory in the City, so amended as to give power to penalise the employees of child labour. At present there was no such provision in the Act.

The President said that she was very much shocked to read the report and know the very low wages these children were given. She had given notice of an amendment to the Madras Children Act to prevent cruelty to children but before that, they must do something immediately to put a stop to this evil. Unless the Government helped them, it was not possible to do anything by way of helping the poor children. She therefore suggested that a deputation might wait upon His Excellency and upon the member in charge and press for the appointment of a committee consisting of officials and non-officials with power to visit the factories and take some disciplinary action.

The meeting accepted the suggestion and resolved that a deputation of about 8 persons, consisting of two ladies, two Muslims and four members of the Youth League do wait on His Excellency before he left Madras and the Hon'ble the Home Member and urge on them the necessity <sup>for</sup> taking some immediate action to put a stop to this evil.

Hindu.- 10-4-30.

Industrial Disputes in India, 1921-28.\*

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has recently issued in its series of Bulletins a valuable review of industrial disputes in India during the years 1921-28. The Bulletin does not aim at any scientific analysis of the statistics provided; its object is merely to render available in a handy form facts regarding the progress of industrial unrest which should be of some value to all interested in labour questions in India and which may be of assistance to those engaged in the economic study of industrial conditions. With this aim, a short descriptive account is appended of the period which the statistics cover, with some details of the more important industrial disputes. Particulars are also furnished of cases in which industrial disputes were the subject of investigation by single arbitrators, or Boards of arbitration or conciliation, with the results achieved.

Conditions between 1918 and 1921. The period immediately following the end of the great war was marked in India by industrial strife on a scale previously unknown. Strikes had occurred sporadically before this period, but the power of the strike as an economic weapon was not generally realized by Indian labour. The workers, who were for the most part villagers endeavouring to improve their position by a temporary allegiance to industry, were submissive and unorganized; and if conditions became too distasteful, the natural remedy was not the strike, but the abandonment by individuals of the mill or of industry generally. During 1918, a number of industries were earning phenomenal profits, and could, by concerted action, have been compelled to pay phenomenal wages; but strikers were rare, and the level of real wages was certainly not higher than it had been before the war.

With the end of the war there came a change. Contrary to the expectations of the masses (and of many who should have known better) prices instead of falling rose more sharply than before. Increases in wages were granted by most employers; but the rise in wages did

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\*Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour, No. 43, Industrial Disputes in India 1921-1928. Published by order of the Government of India. -- Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1930. Price Re. 1-2-0 or 2s. *46*

not keep pace with the rise in the cost of living. And other factors intervened to accentuate the unrest so caused. The war had done much to educate the Indian peasantry regarding conditions and methods in other countries. Conditions, particularly as regards working hours, which had formerly been accepted as inevitable, were no longer regarded as tolerable; and while trade unions, as they are understood in the West, were still almost unknown, the value of concerted action was rapidly realized. Some strikes of importance occurred in the cold weather of 1918-19, and there was more widespread outbreak of industrial unrest in the following winter. Several of the bigger strikes at this period were directed towards securing a ten hours' day and so much success was achieved that the embodiment, in 1922, of the sixty-hours' week in the Factories Act represented little more than the enforcement on industry generally of a principle already accepted by the great majority of employers. But the most serious outbreak of industrial strife took place in the cold weather of 1920-21. The cost of living which had fallen somewhat during the earlier part of the year rose sharply in the autumn and attained a pitch unknown in India before and not equalled since. Industry was enjoying great prosperity and although wages had been raised by many employers, the general level of real wages had fallen considerably. The influenza epidemic of the two preceding years had taken a heavy toll, and the demand for labour was keen, while the idea of organization for the purpose of securing concessions had taken root in the more important centres. Conditions were thus exceptionally favourable for successful strikes; and when in a number of strikes substantial increases of wages were secured without difficulty, a fairly general outbreak was an almost inevitable consequence.

These strikes were nearly all short-lived, and the percentage of successes was remarkably high: out of 97 strikes concluded in Bengal in the last six months of 1920, only 31 ended in complete failure for the strikers. Before the end of 1920 the cost of living commenced to fall and it fell fairly sharply until about the middle of the following year. A very general increase of wages had been granted and in consequence, the number of successful strikes diminished rapidly and the workers who in some areas had come to regard a strike as an un-failing panacea were quickly disillusioned. But there were other causes now at work which, though they did not tend to produce any general outbreak of strikes, introduced an intensity and an acerbity into individual strikes which was rare in the earlier period. There is no reason to suppose that any political influence was at work in promoting most of the strikes in 1920 which were, as a rule, amicably conducted; but by the end of the year the political turmoil in India undoubtedly had an effect on industrial strife.

Strikes of 1921. By the middle of 1921, the Bulletin observes, conditions changed greatly. The short-lived amicable and successful strikes of 1920 had become less frequent, and strikes now tended to be rather longer in their duration, more bitter in ~~their~~ their character, and less effective in their results. On the one hand, the cost of living fell sharply throughout the cold weather of 1920-21, with the result that by the beginning of the hot weather it was probably as low in most centres as it had been at any time since 1918. On the other hand, political unrest was working up to a climax. Towards the end of 1920 political opponents of Government began to take a direct

interest in labour unrest, and to give their assistance to, and invoke the assistance of the public for, strikers who were Government employees e.g., postal workers, or who were employed in public utility services such as tramways, the supply of lighting, etc. The fact that a large number of the leading employers were Europeans intensified the reaction of the political atmosphere on industrial strife. But, as has been indicated above, economic conditions were less favourable in 1921 for successful strikes than in the preceding year. Industries, which were generally very prosperous, had been able to give substantial increases of wages and the purchasing power of money had risen. One important exception, however, was the tea industry which was undergoing a severe depression, and in this industry, partly as the result of the non-co-operation agitation and partly as the result of economic distress, labour became restive, resulting in some tea-gardens in actual strikes and in some areas (Assam tea-gardens) in an exodus of the strikers. The sharp increase in retail ~~xxx~~ prices registered in the autumn of 1921 helped the upward curve of strikes: 168 strikes were reported as commencing between the 1st October 1921 and the 31st January 1922, and the proportion of successes, which had been small in the preceding months rose sharply in the last quarter of 1921. In the whole of 1921, 396 strikes were reported as having been in progress, affecting over six lakhs of workers. These g figures have not been approached in any succeeding year of the period under review and although the actual loss of working days (about 700,000) was less than that reported in 1924, 1925 and 1928 there has been no year in which labour unrest was so universal in India.

Strikes of 1922. In 1922 strikes were still numerous, 278 being recorded in all. Labour generally had not fully realized the limitations of the strike; the fact that conditions had altered was not appreciated until repeated experience of unsuccessful strikes drove it home. The cost of living fell rapidly at the beginning of 1922 and showed a general downward trend throughout the year; and industry was now experiencing a big reaction after the post-war boom. It is not surprising, therefore, that the proportion of unsuccessful strikes reached a very high figure: 79% of the strikes which ended in 1922 were completely unsuccessful against 54% in the preceding year. The great bulk of the strikes had purely economic causes; but the most serious strikes of this year were a reflex of the racial and ~~political~~ political feeling prevalent at the time.

Strikes of 1923. By 1923, labour conditions had toned down and more normal conditions were established; but these normal conditions, the Bulletin observes, were very different from pre-war conditions. The weapon of the strike had by this time become a weapon for settling industrial differences. A new development on which the Bulletin lays special emphasis, is the employment of the strike as a mark of protest, a feature which is almost unknown to the West. Strike by the labouring classes were made to assume the nature of a public protest against some act committed by a third party, not necessarily the employers of labour and in this they partook of the nature of the old Indian institution known as the hartal. A strike of this kind, it should be noted, is different from what is known as the "sympathetic strike". A sympathetic strike is an endeavour to bring influence directly to bear on the employer of others who are on strike with a view to forcing him to grant a concession, but a hartal or "protesting" strike is a

demonstration against a third party who very often is not an employer of labour. The statistics for 1923 show nearly the same number of successful strikes, those of 1922; but there was a substantial reduction in the number of unsuccessful strikes, indicating an increasing recognition of the limited power of the strikes to secure concessions at this period. The cost of living was throughout the year at a lower level than in 1922, and while demands for increased wages were still numerous, employers began to consider the possibility of reducing wages, and the most important strike of the year, the Ahmedabad Textile Strike, was, over this question.

Strikes of 1924. In 1924, there was a marked diminution of industrial unrest in the country, the total number of disputes being only 133, as against 213 in the preceding year. Most of the strikes were short-lived and unimportant. But there occurred during the year a strike greater in its proportion than any previous strike in the country. This was the general strike in the cotton mills in Bombay city which accounted for a loss of about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  million working days. The trouble arose over the decision of the Millowners' Association to withhold the annual bonus to the workers owing to trade depression; the bonus had been granted regularly to the men for five years and it had come to be regarded by them as part of their wages. The strike commenced on the 17th January 1924 and soon affected all the cotton mills in Bombay city and island involving over 160,000 workers. Owing to the seriousness of this dispute, the Local Government appointed a Committee of Enquiry which was required by its terms of reference to report whether the operatives had any customary, legal or equitable claim to bonus which was capable of enforcement, and whether, as contended by the Millowners, the grant of the bonus was not justified by the profits of the preceding year over the industry as a whole. The Committee decided on both questions in favour of the Millowners. The strike collapsed on 25th March, but normal work in the mills was resumed only a month later.

Strikes in 1925. In 1925, there were altogether 134 strikes, the majority of them being in cotton mills, consequent on the Bombay millowners' decision because of financial pressure to reduce by 20 per cent the dearness allowance paid to their employees with effect from 1st September 1925. The strike terminated only after the millowners had decided to restore the cut in wages as the result of the Government's decision to suspend the cotton excise duty for the remainder of the year. It was significant of the increasing tenacity of purpose on both sides that workers in spite of their illiteracy and inadequate organisation and employers in spite of the losses entailed by the continuance of the strike could be brought to terms only by a timely concession on the part of the Government.

Strikes in 1926. The number of strikes registered a further decline in 1926, the actual figure being 128 as against 134 in 1925, 133 in 1924, 213 in 1923, 278 in 1922 and 396 in 1921. The number of workers involved in 1926 were 186,811 and the working days lost 1,097,478. A notable feature of the year was the increase in the percentage of unsuccessful strikes, the percentage figure for 1926 being 82 as against 67 in 1925 and 66 in 1924.

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**Strikes in 1927.** The total number of strikes reported in 1927 was 129 as against 128 in 1926, but the loss of working days was nearly double that of the preceding year. This was largely due to the two prolonged strikes on the Bengal Nagpur Railway which alone accounted for a loss of about 900,000 working days. The period from 1922 to the end of 1927 is one of comparative quiescence in the history of industrial disputes in India. During this period there was a fairly steady downward tendency in the number of disputes, but the loss of working days showed a steady increase up to the year 1925. This was due to the fact that in each of the three years after 1922 there occurred a strike of unusual intensity and duration. The years 1926 and 1927 witnessed a lull in industrial disputes through<sup>out</sup> the country and gave rise to a series of prolonged strikes which seriously affected some of the important industries of the country.

**Strikes in 1928.** In 1928, though there was a further decline in the cost of living in most centres, a fresh wave of unrest swept through the country. The total number of disputes was 203 but the loss in working days reached the record figure of 31½ million which was even greater than the total loss of working days during the five preceding years taken together. Unrest was rife in the textile mills in Bombay city and island, and in April the decision of some of the mill owners to introduce new methods of work in accordance with the recommendations of the textile Tariff Board with a view to increasing the efficiency of labour and thereby reducing the cost of production led to a general strike. No settlement was reached till the beginning of October when both parties agreed to the appointment of a Committee of Inquiry by the Government of Bombay. This strike alone was responsible for a loss of over 22⅓ million working days. The other important strikes during the year occurred in the Tata Iron and Steel Company's Works at Jamshedpur; the East Indian Railway; the South Indian Railway; the Fort Gloster Jute Mills, Bauria, Bengal; and the textile mills at Sholapur and at Cawnpore. A significant feature of the disputes during the year was the growth of picketing and intimidation which in some cases resulted in violence and bloodshed. In the general strike in Bombay textile mills and also in the strikes on the East Indian Railway, the South Indian Railway and in the Fort Gloster Jute Mills, Bengal, the police were compelled to resort to firing in order to prevent the strikers from causing injury to person or damage to property.

In the following table is given a consolidated statement of industrial disputes by provinces during 1921-28.

Province	No. of disputes.	No. of men involved.	Days lost
Assam	20	15,521	56,456
Bengal	547	1,119,966	13,460,504
Bihar and Orissa	40	101,877	3,655,767
Bombay	751	1,148,771	49,138,924
Burma	58	95,602	1,166,147
Central Provinces	28	33,788	724,716
Madras	94	103,538	1,583,235
Punjab	12	19,422	704,253
United Provinces	54	81,645	1,592,754
Total	1,604	2,720,130	72,082,756
	less 6*§ or 1,898		

\* One strike extended to five provinces in 1922.  
§ One strike extended to three provinces in 1927.

Causes of strikes. The Bulletin classifies the causes of strikes during the period under review thus:- Pay, 729; personnel, 350; bonus, 139; leave and hours, 64; and other causes, 322. The majority of the strikes had purely economic causes; but political and racial feelings were responsible for a number of disputes in 1921 and 1922.

Results of strikes. Out of 1591 disputes which were settled during the period under review, ~~24~~ 254 or about 16 per cent. were entirely in favour of the workers and 264 or about 17 per cent. partially in their favour. More than 50 per cent. of the disputes in each year ended in failure from the viewpoint of the workers. They were able to secure either complete or partial success in over 33 per cent. of the disputes in the years 1921, 1924, 1925, 1927 and 1928; and in 25 per cent. or less during the years 1922, 1923 and 1926. The cotton mill operatives were entirely successful in about 20 per cent. and partially successful in nearly 11 per cent. of their disputes which were settled during the period. The details of the results of the disputes in the whole of India are set out below:-

Year	Number of disputes in which workers were			
	Successful	Partially successful	Unsuccessful	In progress
1921	92	87	211	6
1922	34	25	215(a)	4
1923	34	19	159	1
1924	23	21	88	1
1925	17	27	89	1
1926	12	12	104	..
1927	15	32(b)	79	3
1928	27	41	128	7
Total	254	264	1,073	7

(a) One strike was common in five provinces.

(b) One dispute extended to three provinces.

Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton  
Mill Industry.\*

The Labour Office, Government of Bombay, has recently published the Report of an Enquiry conducted by the Office into Wages and hours of labour in the ~~the~~ cotton mill industry in 1926. The present enquiry is the third conducted by the Bombay Labour Office on the subject. The first was made in 1921 and related to May 1914 and May 1921. The results of the Enquiry were published in the form of a special Report early in the year 1923. The second census for the year 1923 was taken in August of that year for all centres. The results were published also in the form of a special Report in July 1925. The third Enquiry was undertaken in May 1926 for Ahmedabad and in July for Bombay and Sholapur and the Report now published gives the results of that Enquiry. The present Enquiry is more detailed as the enquiry was conducted not by the schedule method as in the case of the other two enquiries, but by the Muster-roll method combined with the sample. A number of mills were selected at each centre, employing about 30 per cent. of the operatives engaged in the industry, and special forms, following very closely the lines of a mill muster roll, were distributed to the mills, who entered upon them all the particulars appearing in their muster rolls for every individual employed by them in the mill.

The Enquiry reveals that ~~surpr~~ surprising variety of methods prevail in respect of wage payments in the industry and that not only do these methods differ fundamentally in the three centres themselves, but there are wide variations in every mill and even in departments of the same mill.

\* Labour Office, Government of Bombay. Report on an Enquiry into Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry 1926. Prepared by the Labour Office, Government of Bombay. Price - As.8 or 10d. Bombay  
*Printed at the Government Central Press, 1930-31/72*



The following table shows the number of mills included in the enquiry and the number of workers returned by the selected mills in comparison with the total number of working mills and the number of workers employed at each centre during the census month.

Items of Information.	Centres of Enquiry		
	Bombay Town and Island.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur
Number of cotton mills working during the month selected for the Census.	75	57	5
Number of hands employed in the working mills.	145,653	54,592	18,093
Number of mills selected for the Census.	19	16	2
Number of hands returned by the selected mills.	50,421	16,392	4,763
Proportion of number of hands returned to number employed.	Per cent. 34.62	Per cent. 30.03	Per cent. 26.33

The age and sex distribution of the number of operatives covered by the census at each centre is given in the following table:-

Age and Sex Groups	Centres		
	Bombay	Ahmedabad	Sholapur
Men	38,349	12,719	3,761
Women	12,072	3,016	810
Children	....	657	192
Total	50,421	16,392	4,763

Methods of Wage Payments.

(a) Bombay. There is a very wide variation in the systems adopted at different centres with regard to the methods of calculating wages. In the case of the mills in Bombay City there is first a "basic" rate to which is added a dearness allowance of 80 per cent. for male piece-workers and 70 per cent. for male time-workers and all female workers. Those mills which grant a good attendance bonus add the amount of the bonus granted to the gross wage from which, before arriving at the net wage payable, are deducted any fines that might be inflicted. In many mills the percentage addition is calculated on the actual amount earned on the basic rates, but in some cases the calculation is made on whole rupees only and the annas (irrespective of the dearness allowance, most mills round up to the nearest eight annas in payment. In some cases, however, rounding is effected to the lowest two annas, the differences in cutting being utilised for welfare work, especially medical aid. In all mills in Bombay City wages are calculated on a monthly basis and payments are effected from 12 to 15 days after they become due.

(b) Ahmedabad. In the Ahmedabad mills there is not only a complete lack of uniformity in the methods adopted in calculating the different additions and deductions before arriving at the final earnings, but wide variations in the methods adopted also exist for different classes of workers in a particular mill. For calculating the wages of Ahmedabad workers the following items have to be considered:— (1) the "basic" rate, (2) the Moghvari or dearness allowance, (3) the deduction of 15  $\frac{5}{8}$  per cent for the general wage cut effected in 1923, (4) the good attendance bonus. Wages in the case of piece-workers and process operatives on time rates are calculated on a fortnightly basis and are paid about eight days after they are due. In the case of workers in the maintenance and watch and ward departments wages are calculated on a monthly basis and are paid about fifteen days after they are due. Some operatives engaged in "process" work are also paid on a monthly basis. The term "fortnightly" is used with reference to what is known as haptas. A hapta is a period which varies from 14 to 16 days according to the convenience of each particular mill.

(c) Sholapur. In Sholapur there are five separate and distinct items that go up to make a fixed wage-operative's aggregated earnings during the wage period: (1) the basic rate; (2) the dearness allowance of 30 per cent. granted in cash on the basic rate; (3) the good attendance bonus; (4) wages for "grace" days; and (5) the benefit that may be gained as a result of being allowed to ~~buy~~ buy a quantity of grain at a price which gives a cash saving of about 30 to 40 per cent. on the purchase. It is evident that those operatives who put in work for all the working days during the wage period may secure the full advantage that could be earned from these different concessions. But, in practice, comparatively few workers get the total financial benefit that may be gained. The operation of the "double khada" rule in the Sholapur mills whereby a worker is cut two days' wages for one day's absence without leave may deprive the worker who remains absent with "French Leave" not only of his good attendance bonus and the "grace" days but he is also liable to be cut two days' wages for each day's absence. In practice, however, the "double khada" rule is only brought

into effect as a disciplinary measure in the case of those operatives who persistently remain absent without permission or bona fide reasons. If a worker remains absent for more than four days in a month he loses the grain concession in addition. Wages are calculated for calendar months and are paid about 15 days after they become due.

#### Hours of Work.

(A) Bombay. The Indian Factories Act limits the maximum hours of work for men and women to 11 per day (section 28) or 60 per week (section 27), and for children to 6 per day (section 23 (c)). In the Cotton Mills in Bombay City, daily hours of work were reduced from 12 to 10 for adults and from 6 ~~to 7~~ or 7 to 5 for children after the strike of 1920. According to the information furnished by the mills selected for the Enquiry the normal hours of work in the mills in Bombay City during the month of July 1926 were 10 per day for male operatives in all the seventeen mills which supplied information, while female operatives had a normal working day of 10 hours in nine mills, of 9½ hours in one mill, 9 hours in three mills, 8½ hours in two mills and 8 hours in one mill. No children were employed in any of these mills. Four mills reported no variations from the normal. In one ~~mill~~ mill the hours of work for the Engine, Shafting and Boiler Departments exceeded the normal and amounted to 11 per day and in the same mill women in the Winding and the Reeling Departments worked 9¼ hours per day. Another mill stated that the normal daily hours varied to 9. The other mills reported variations of three kinds, viz., 8 hours, 8½ hours, and 9 hours per day respectively in certain departments and occupations. The normal daily hours of work for the Reeling and the Winding Departments were 8 in the case of one mill, 8½ in three mills, and 9 in the case of one mill.

(B) Ahmedabad. The normal hours of work in the case of all the reporting mills in Ahmedabad were 10 for both male and female operatives and 5 for children. Two mills did not employ children, but in certain mills which employed them it was reported that the children worked in two sets, each set working for five hours. The normal hours of work were observed without variation by eleven mills.

(C) Sholapur. In Sholapur, both the mills selected for the Enquiry reported that the normal working hours were ten per day for men and women and five for children, who were employed in two batches. One of these mills reported that the normal working hours varied to 11 for the Engine Department and 9½ for Mechanics, Fitters, Masons, Carpenters, Line Levellers, Roller Coverers and Reelers and also for all workers in the Mixing Department.

#### Intervals.

(A) Bombay. Under the provisions of the Indian Factories Act, each person employed in a factory is entitled to a period of rest of not less than one hour for each period of six hours' work done (section 21(1)(a)(i)). The rest interval may, at the request of the employees concerned, be so arranged that there will be a period of rest of not less than half an hour each for periods of work not exceeding five hours, the total duration of the periods of rest on any working day not being less than one hour for each period of six hours' work done (section 21(1)(a)(ii)). Each child working for more than

5/2 hours in any day is likewise entitled to a period of rest of not less than half an hour (section 21(1)(b)), and this period requires to be so fixed that no such child shall be required to work continuously for more than four hours (section 21(2)). These intervals are generally utilised by the workers for taking their midday meal although in a few cases it was reported that workers observed unauthorised intervals for meals.

(A) Bombay. The present Enquiry showed that an allowance of an interval to the operatives for the midday meal is a normal feature in all the mills selected for the Census. In Bombay City work usually starts at 7 a.m. and the one hour recess is generally granted between 12 noon and 1 p.m. There is practically no variation either in the duration or the starting time of the interval except in two mills.

(B) Ahmedabad. In the Ahmedabad mills the rest interval uniformly lasted for one hour from 12 noon to 1 p.m. except for Coalmen and Oilers alone in one mill where these operatives were required to work from 6.30 a.m. to 6.30 p.m. with two intervals from 10.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. and from 3.30 p.m. to 4.30 p.m.

(C) Sholapur. The two mills at Sholapur also observed intervals of one hour for the midday meals.

#### Overtime.

x(A) The Indian Factories Act provides that every person employed in any factory for more than sixty hours in any one week shall be paid in respect of overtime worked, at a rate which shall be at least one and a quarter times the rate at which he is normally paid (section 31). The Act also contains a definite provision to the effect that no person shall be employed in any factory on a Sunday unless he has had or he will have a holiday for a whole day on one of the three days immediately preceding or succeeding the Sunday (section 22(1)(a)).

(A) Bombay. In eleven out of the seventeen reporting mills in Bombay City overtime work was paid for at 1 1/4 times the usual rate. In three mills one full day's wage was given for six hours' overtime work put in, in one mill it was paid for eight hours' work and in another mill for five hours' work. In one mill which granted 1 1/4 times the usual rate for overtime work in the Spinning Department, the allowance for overtime in the Weaving Section was at 1 1/2 times the usual rate. Another mill reported that a full night's work was calculated as equivalent to two full days' work for purposes of calculation of the overtime rate.

(B) Ahmedabad. In Ahmedabad, seven out of the fourteen reporting mills stated that no overtime was worked. Out of the remaining mills, five granted overtime allowances at 1 1/4 times the usual rates. One mill stated that payment for overtime was made according to the provisions of the Factories Act. One mill reported that one full day's wages were paid for six hours' overtime work put in during the day and two full days' wages for similar work during the night. No work was done on Sundays and holidays in five mills. Two mills reported that substitute holidays were granted.

(C) Sholapur. Overtime work in the two Sholapur mills was paid for at 1 1/4 times the usual rates. One of the mills followed the same practice with regard to work on Sundays and holidays, whereas the other mill gave substitute holidays.

Exemptions re Hours of Work.

The provisions of the Indian Factories Act in regard to the maximum hours of work for adults (section 27 and 28) are not applicable to persons holding positions of supervision or management or employed in a confidential capacity. The Local Government may exempt any factory from the provisions of sections 27 and 28 of the Act if such exemption is necessary in order to enable such factory to deal with an exceptional press of work (section 30(2)); or, if there is in such factory any work which necessitates working outside the normal limits, or continuous production for technical reasons, or if the work is of an essentially intermittent character (section 30(1)).

(A) Bombay. The reports received from the Bombay mills show that six mills did not take advantage of any exemptions from the limitation on working hours while three mills did not claim any special exemption other than that allowed by the provisions of the Indian Factories Act. One mill stated that it took advantage of the exemptions which the Act provides for. Out of two mills which obtained exemptions in respect of their Blow Room Departments one stated that 50 per cent. of the men were required to work in connexion with the cleaning of gutters. In the remaining five mills, either some or all employees mainly of the Mechanic, Engine and Boiler, and Electrical Departments were exempted from the provisions of sections 27 and 28 of the Act.

(B) Ahmedabad. Nine out of the 14 mills in Ahmedabad which furnished information stated that no exemption was taken from the provisions of the Factories Act regarding hours of work. One mill had no records. The remaining four mills stated that they only availed themselves of the exemptions provided in the Act in respect of persons holding supervisory or managerial positions.

(C) Sholapur. One of the two mills in Sholapur stated that no exemption at all was obtained while the other reported that no special exemptions were applied for.

Attendance and Absenteeism.

The following table summaries the position for the whole industry by different age and sex groups, at each centre studied:

Age and Sex Group.	Centre	Total number of workers returned.	Number working full-time	Percentage of full-time workers to total returned
Men	( Bombay	38,349	20,144	52.53
	( Ahmedabad	12,719	7,157	56.27
	( Sholapur	3,761	1,178	31.32
Women	( Bombay	12,072*	3,968*	32.87*
	( Ahmedabad	3,016	1,677	55.60
	( Sholapur	810	205	25.31
All Adults	( Bombay	50,421§	24,112§	47.82§
	( Ahmedabad	15,735	8,834	56.14
	( Sholapur	4,571	1,383	30.26

Age and Sex Group.	Centre.	Total number of workers returned.	Number working full-time.	Percentage of full-time workers to total returned.
Children	( Bombay	Nil	••••	••••
	( Ahmedabad	657	463	70.47
	( Sholapur	192	70	36.45
All Operatives	( Bombay	50,421§	24,112§	47.82§
	( Ahmedabad	16,392	9,297	56.72
	( Sholapur	4,763	1,453	30.52

\*The corresponding figures excluding winders and reelers are 5,395 -- 2,434 -- 45.12 per cent.

§The corresponding figures excluding female winders and reelers are 43,744 -- 22,598 -- 51.66 per cent.

The following table summaries the position with regard to percentage of absenteeism for different age and sex groups at each centre:-

Age and Sex Group	Centre	Number of workers returned.	Percentage absenteeism.
Men	( Bombay	38,349	7.13
	( Ahmedabad	12,719	8.04
	( Sholapur	3,761	12.49
Women	( Bombay	12,072*	11.86*
	( Ahmedabad	3,016	7.40
	( Sholapur	810	10.81
All Adults	( Bombay	50,421§	8.26§
	( Ahmedabad	15,735	7.92
	( Sholapur	4,571	12.19
Children	( Bombay	••••	••••
	( Ahmedabad	657	3.62
	( Sholapur	192	15.61
All operatives	( Bombay	50,421§	8.26§
	( Ahmedabad	16,392	7.73
	( Sholapur	4,763	12.33

\*The corresponding figures excluding winders and reelers are 5,395 -- 6.11 per cent.

§The corresponding figures excluding women winders and reelers are 43,744 -- 7 per cent.

Rates of Wages. Although full information was procured in the present Enquiry in connection with rates of wages paid to individual operatives in cotton mills in Bombay, Ahmedabad and Sholapur, it has been found impossible to present any comparable figures owing to the very wide variations which exist both in methods of payment and the manner in which rates are fixed not only as between centre and centre but also as between unit and unit in a particular centre.

Variations were also found to exist for the same occupation in a unit. The variations were most intensified in the case of Ahmedabad on account of the different methods adopted for the treatment of the Dearness Allowance and the wage cut of 15.625 per cent. effected in 1923. The same sort of variation is to be found in the case of almost all occupations both for time rates and for piece rates. With regard to time rates of wages, there are several variations in the periods for which the rates are fixed. The predominant basis in Ahmedabad is a daily rate. In Bombay and Sholapur there is an almost equal distribution between daily rates and "monthly" rates. The word "monthly" in this case indicates either the total number of working days in the wage period, 26 days, 27 days, 30 days, 31 days or an actual calendar month irrespective of the number of days it contains. "Monthly" rates with the variations indicated also exist to a considerable extent in Ahmedabad.

The following three tables show, separately for adult males, adult females, and all operatives (including children) the numbers of workers on time rates, on ~~per~~ piece rates, and on combined time and piece rates respectively at each centre. The percentage which each figure bears to the total number returned is given below the figure to which it relates and is underlined.

1. Distribution of Adult Male Operatives according to Time and Piece Rates.

Centre.	Total Number Returned.	Number on Time Rates	Number on Piece Rates	Number on combined Time and Piece Rates.
Bombay	38,349	20,776 <u>54.18</u>	17,566 <u>45.80</u>	7 <u>0.02</u>
Ahmedabad	12,719	6,457 <u>50.77</u>	5,823 <u>45.78</u>	439 <u>3.45</u>
Sholapur	3,761	1,945 <u>51.71</u>	1,816 <u>48.29</u>	.. ..

2. Distribution of Adult Female Operatives according to Time and Piece Rates.

Centre.	Total Number Returned	Number on Time Rates	Number on Piece Rates	Number on combined Time and Piece Rates.
Bombay	12,072	5,585 <u>46.26</u>	6,352 <u>52.62</u>	135 <u>1.12</u>
Ahmedabad	3,016	1,864 <u>61.80</u>	1,104 <u>36.61</u>	48 <u>1.59</u>
Sholapur	810	181 <u>22.35</u>	629 <u>77.65</u>	.. ..

3. Distribution of All Operatives (including children)  
according to Time and Piece Rates.

Centre.	Total Number Returned.	Number on Time Rates.	Number on Piece Rates.	Number on combined Time and Piece Rates.
Bombay	50,421	26,361 <u>52.28</u>	23,918 <u>47.44</u>	142 <u>0.28</u>
Ahmedabad	16,392	8,978 <u>54.77</u>	6,927 <u>42.26</u>	487 <u>2.97</u>
Sholapur	4,763	2,318 <u>48.67</u>	2,445 <u>51.33</u>	.. ..

The figures for average daily earnings in particular occupations in different mills vary widely from mill to mill. This is sufficiently illustrated if the figures for four important occupations, viz., Weavers, Siders, Warpers and Grey Winders (Women) are taken for each of the mills covered in the Enquiry for Bombay and Ahmedabad. In Bombay the earnings of weavers vary between Rs. 1-9-1 and Rs. 2-1-6 per day, those of Siders between annas 14-3 and Rs. 1-2-11 per day, those of Warpers between Rs. 1-10-3 and Rs. 2-14-0 per day and those of female Grey Winders between annas 8-3 and annas 15-5 per day. In Ahmedabad the variation of limitation in the case of Weavers was Rs. 0-11-9, the actual range being Rs. 1-8-5 to Rs. 2-4-2 and for Warpers the limit of variation was Rs. 1-6-3 with a range from Rs. 1-9-2 to Rs. 2-15-5. In Sholapur the average daily earnings of Siders and Weavers in one mill were Re.0-11-1 and Rs. 1-9-2, as against Re.0-12-7 and Rs. 1-10-1 in the other mill. One important factor in these variations in earnings is the different rates paid by different mills for the same class of work, a difference which the Indian Textile Tariff Board which sat in 1926 suggested should be rectified by standardisation.

The following table gives the average daily earnings, by centres for all adult male operatives, all adult female operatives, all children and all adult operatives employed in the selected mills in the cotton mill industry at each of the three centres studied:-

Average Daily Earnings of All Operatives.

Centre	Average Daily Earnings for			
	Men	Women	Children	All adults
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Bombay	1 8 0	0 11 11	....	1 5 3
Ahmedabad	1 6 8	0 12 6	0 5 6	1 4 8
Sholapur	1 0 5	0 6 8	0 4 0	0 14 8



Bonus.

The term "Bonus" generally relates to a cash payment given in addition to wages for regular attendance. In many cases, an Efficiency Bonus is given either by itself or in addition to the attendance bonus. The system of granting bonuses is not universal and even in those mills where it prevails it is not given uniformly in all departments. In some cases it is granted to certain occupations in particular departments and not to others, and in still a few cases, even in particular occupations in individual units some workers are covered and others not. The variations both in the existence of the system of giving bonuses and the method of its calculation and payment are so great that it is not possible to make any general statements for the industry as a whole.

Industrial Organisation.  
Workers Organisation.

South Indian Trade Unions and the Recognition Question.

It would appear that several registered trade unions in South India are experiencing considerable difficulty in obtaining recognition from their employers. Mr. B. Shiva Rao points out in an article appearing in New India of 10-4-30 (Vol. IV, No. 2) that the Madras Port Trust Union, which was recently registered, addressed a letter to the Chairman of the Madras Port Trust re: its registration and the letter has not been even acknowledged.

He also cites the case of the Ranipet Labour Union, consisting of workmen of Messrs: Parry & Co., Madras, where the employer-company threatens to withdraw recognition unless the Union adopts a rule that not more than two outsiders will be in the executive. Mr. Shiva Rao points out that this is indirect contravention of the Trade Unions Act, which provides for the presence of outsiders on the executive to the maximum of half the numbers. There is nothing in the law to compel an employer to recognise a registered trade union, and in the absence of such a provision, the writer points out, registration brings hardly any advantage to the union.

Messrs: Binny & Co., another large employer of labour in Madras, according to Mr. Shiva Rao is refusing to recognise the Madras Labour Union unless the following conditions were agreed to :- The Madras Labour Union should exist separately from the Buckingham and Carnatic Mill Employees' Union as well as from the Choolai Mill Employees' Union, that is to say, that

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three separate unions should be allowed to exist, (2) that questions connected with representation of grievances to the employers shall be made through the respective unions and on behalf of the members of their own Union members only, and (3) that such representations shall be made through the work-people themselves and not through outsiders, even if they happened to be office-bearers of the Union.

(Hindu.- 10-4-30).

Mr. Shiva Rao contends that recognition is not worth having under such conditions.

Referring next to the rumours of Government's intentions to amend the Indian Trade Unions Act with a view to invest itself with greater powers of control over trade unions (see pages 12-15 of the report of this Office for March 1930), the writer suggests that there is a conspiracy between the Government and the employers to crush the Indian trade union movement, and advocates that if an amendment of the contemplated nature is passed trade unions should not care for registration.

(Hindu.- 10-4-30).

5th M. & S.M. Railway Employees' Annual Conference.

The fifth annual conference of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway Employees' Union was held at Hubli on 18, 19 and 20-4-30 under the presidentship of Mr. V. V. Giri. The president, in his address, reviewed the phenomenal progress achieved by the Union since the last conference, and dwelt on the present situation and referred to the Agent's reply to the memorandum of grievances. He pointed out that redressal by the administration depended on the workers' solidarity. Referring to the

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present unrest in the country, he opined that the workers could not ignore their duty, and there could not be a surrender of the principle of self-determination.

Mr. L. Guruswami, Assistant Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, conveying fraternal greetings from other railway workers, referred to the ~~recent~~ Railway Board's *recent* policy revealed in the lowering of wage scales and curtailment of leave privileges and concluding, appealed for unity and larger membership to ensure success. (Hindu.- 21-4-30).

The most important resolution passed by the conference was the one relating to the M. & S. M. Railway Employees' Union's memorandum presented on 20-12-29 (See pages 43-45 of the Report of this Office for December 1929) to the Agent of the Railway. It runs as follows :-

This Conference reiterates the demands formulated in the Union's memorandum in December last, deploras the reluctance displayed by the Agent even in granting complete recognition to the Union and while expressing readiness to await the announcement of the promised revision of wages till June 1930 and action by the Agent regarding other <sup>grievances</sup>, desires to make it clear that any further delay in solution of not only the wages question but also other grievances will not be conducive to the maintenance of cordial relationship between the administration and the Union, and this Conference further directs the Union Executive to take necessary steps to secure complete enrolment to enhance the Union's representative character and the power of collective bargain. (Hindu.-22-4-30).

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Central Labour Board, Madras.

A well attended meeting of the representatives of the Madras labour Unions was held in the Gokhale Hall on 3rd March 1930, when the constitution and rules of the newly formed Madras Central Labour Board were adopted and the officers elected. Mr. V.M. Ramaswami Mudaliar, President of the Madras Kerosine Oil Company Labour Union was elected President of the Board. Besides the officers there are nine members of the committee each of whom is to be in charge of some branch of work. The objects of the Board are; (a) To co-ordinate the work of the affiliated Unions on broad lines of policy and method and without detriment to the freedom of individual Unions. (b) To obtain information of the labour conditions in the various trades in the city and to work for their amelioration. (c) To co-ordinate statistics collected and organise common work. (d) To settle disputes and mediate in any matter that may be referred to the Board regarding any affiliated Union, and, (e) In general to organise deputations, make representations, carry on propaganda for the popularisation of labour questions, etc.

(Indian Labour Review, March 1930,  
Vol.III, No.2)

Whitley Councils scheme, All India Postal and

R. M. S. Union.

At page 31 of the report of this Office for March 1930 mention has been made of the scheme which is being worked up by the All India Postal and R. M. S. Union for the establishment of joint committees of postal workers on the lines of the Whitley Councils. Further details are now available with regard to the conception and the working of the joint committees. The functions of these joint committees would include, firstly, the provision of the best means for utilising the ideas and experience of the staff; secondly, means for securing to the staff a greater share in and responsibility for the determination and observance of the conditions under which their duties are carried out; thirdly, the determination of the general principles governing the conditions of service, namely, recruitment, hours, tenure and remuneration in so far as those matters were peculiar to the members of the staff, and fourthly, working for higher efficiency; fifthly, the creation of opportunities for a fuller consideration of the suggestions by the staff; and sixthly, the consideration of the proposed legislation affecting the department. The decisions of the joint Committees would be without prejudice to the "over-riding authority" of the Government of India and the Legislative Councils and the responsibility of the Director General, as such. The powers of the joint committees would, however, exceed those of the present Advisory Councils working at Poona and some other places, whose decisions were merely recommendations having no binding force upon the Government.

(Times of India.- 3-4-30).

VDS.

Economic Conditions.

Scheme for Central Weavers' Society, Madras.

*Madras*

The Textile Advisory Committee, to which references had been made in the Reports of this office for September 1929, pages 51-52, and January 1930, pages 54-55, has recently been concentrating attention on the proposal to form a central weavers' society at Madras. The following were among the subjects to be considered at a meeting of the Committee on 4-4-1930: grading and labelling of mill yarns for the market, removal of the import duty on cotton yarns of counts above 40s., removal of the duty on gold thread, organising a central weavers' society at Madras, transfer of sericultural work from the textile section, trade in Madras handkerchiefs, curricula of weaving schools and increase in the number of peripatetic weaving parties.

The departmental note on the subject of the organisation of a central weavers' society at Madras circulated to the members says: "In dealing with the subject of forming co-operative societies for hand-loom weavers, the Textile Advisory Committee, in their meeting on the 25th January 1930, asked for a note 'on the difficulties in regard to the formation of a central weavers' co-operative society.' The proposals submitted by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and agreed to by the Director of Industries, for the organisation of a Central Weavers' Depot at Madras are -- (1) that the central society should admit both primary weavers' societies and a limited number of individual weavers as members; (2) that its capital should be Rs.100,000, of which Rs. 50,000 will have to be paid as soon as the society begins work; (3) the society will purchase the yarn wholesale and supply it to the affiliated societies which, in their turn, will distribute it among their members; and (4) the members will hand over the finished fabrics to their societies, which will forward them to the central society

which, in its turn, will arrange for their sale to the best advantage.

It is anticipated that through this organization weavers will get yarn cheap, their finished products will find a ready sale, the number of middlemen between the handloom weaver and the ultimate purchaser will be reduced to the minimum and that the weavers will be enabled to get a larger share in the profits.

The Registrar considers that financial assistance from Government in the manner indicated below is essential to the success of the scheme:

- (1) That Government should take shares in the proposed society to an extent not exceeding Rs. 50,000 provided that an equal amount is forthcoming from societies and individuals or in the alternative, should grant a loan on such conditions as the Government deem fit, when necessity therefor arises;
- (2) that Government should meet for a period of three years the pay of ~~₹~~ (a) a business expert on Rs. 600 per mensem and (b) an assistant on Rs. 150 per mensem; and
- (3) that Government should grant a subsidy for shop rent and clerical establishment at Rs. 5,000 in the first year and Rs. 4,200 in the second year.

The Business Expert will study the market and indicate the nature of the demand and criticisms of the supply. The actual running of the society will be in his hands. The Assistant, who will be of the grade of Sub-Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, will see that the societies produce the sort of cloth, etc., specified by the Expert. The difficulties in the way of acceptance of the scheme are that it is highly problematical whether a business expert on Rs. 600 could learn his business and collect information needed as to the working of a market which, in respect of one item alone, viz., lungi cloth, exports articles worth from one and three-fourths to over ~~two hundred twenty~~



two crores of rupees in value. There is the further circumstance that the weaving industry does not depend on Madras for the supply of yarn. There are big centres like Madura and Coimbatore wherefrom very large quantities are supplied by the hand-spinning industry. Every district has its own fancies in patterns and colours and to attempt to concentrate a depot at Madras might be to work on wrong lines. The Salvation Army perhaps made exactly the same mistake. They set up a central depot in Madras for articles manufactured at their criminal settlements as if the market for such articles was Madras, but the experiment never paid."

(Hindu, 2-4-1930).

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Industrial Development Schemes, Hyderabad State.

The Hyderabad State (South India) is planning several schemes of industrial development for bettering economic conditions in the State. Mr. B. Abdy Collins, C.I.E., I.C.S., Director-General and Secretary to H.E.H. The Nizam's Government in the Department of Commerce and Industry, to whom the formulation of these schemes has been entrusted, has recently submitted a comprehensive report, reviewing the industrial possibilities of the State and outlying several schemes of constructive development of suitable cottage and agricultural industries in the State. At the very outset he ~~states~~ declares that he has not much belief in subsidiary industrial occupations for the agricultural population, except in certain well defined spheres. What they require to do was to teach the various sections of the people to practise their own trade or calling in a more efficient and scientific manner. They had to induce in them a desire for a higher standard of comfort and an ambition to better themselves by the spread of education and the formation of co-operative societies. Apart from this the policy should be to teach them to adopt scientific methods of cultivation, to provide them with capital to enable them to do so, and to help them to procure water to irrigate their fields, manure to improve their yielding capacity and modern implements and pure seed which will give them a larger out-turn than previously. If the rural population have any energy left after their hard day's work in the fields, it can as a rule be most profitably employed in occupations which are of an agricultural nature or directly subsidiary to agriculture. For example, there appears to be no occupation for the agricultural population likely to be able to ~~be~~ be developed on a larger scale than poultry

keeping, and Mr. Collins would like to see a large organisation built up in Hyderabad, similar to that which was in course of establishment in the United Provinces from which area over 70,000 eggs weekly had already been exported to Europe.

The main recommendations of the Report are as follow:-

1. The guiding principle of the whole scheme is demonstration in the villages themselves. The basis of the organisation is to be the Cottage Industries Institute. The idea is to train local dyeing mistris and by obtaining the confidence of the weaver to introduce new designs for and new styles of cloth. Demonstrations will be conducted of the preliminary process of weaving, dyeing etc. for cotton, silk and wool and, in particular, it is hoped to do a great deal for the existing blanket industry. The hand-spinning of wool on improved charkas will also be encouraged. This Cottage Industries Institute is to also serve as a research centre for cottage industries, attempts being made to solve the problems of these industries and to adapt or invent appliances suitable for them. Mr. Collins hoped that this Institute will be built within six months. In addition to the main Institute at headquarters there will be one or two special Institutes in the districts, which will be run on similar lines to the Cottage Institute, but their work will be much more commercialised.

2. Another important pillar in the proposed organisation is to be the School of Arts and Crafts. The School will have an important influence on the cottage industries in encouraging and developing the artistic spirit in the State, in teaching persons of all grades to draw and design and in developing in particular the artistic crafts which are not within the scope of the Textile Expert's work. Mr. Collins hopes that one of the main results will be to introduce and inspire truly Indian designs and ideas in place of the hybrid Western designs which were now spoiling the work of the village artisans.

3. Mr. Collins is opposed to the institution of a general industrial survey and prefers intensive surveys of individual industries. He now proposes to conduct a proper survey of the handloom and dyeing industries, as well as one of another of their principal industries, that of tanning. Plans for these surveys are already under consideration and will shortly be placed before the Industrial Fund Trustees, who have already set aside money to finance them. Another important side of the organisation is to be the training of young men, whether educated youths or artisans, in such other institutes or factories in India whether inside or outside the State, as may enable them to gain real practical knowledge and experience.

4. Coming to his proposals for the establishment of Agricultural Industries, Mr. Collins remarks that so far as the general agricultural population was concerned the work was rather for the Agricultural than for the Industries Department, but as long as the money was forthcoming he has little doubt that here too they would be successful. He states that the Agricultural Department had done nothing so far and they had to obtain a staff from outside the State to establish farms and really

to start work from the beginning. Now that the organisation of the department was nearly complete, he was turning his attention to what might prove to be subsidiary occupations for the agricultural population. A scheme for poultry breeding at the Himayath Sagar Farm had already been prepared by one of their Deputy Directors, who was a poultry expert, and the next step would be the survey of the existing industry and the formation of a State Poultry Association.

5. Another subsidiary industry which seemed to have some promise in certain ~~mk~~ areas was that of fruit culture. A horticultural section had already been laid out at Himayath Sagar, and besides there are the fruit gardens at Daulatabad near Aurangabad. Mr. Collins proposes to devote special attention to this branch of horticulture, and he thinks of proposing the appointment of further expert staff, while he also thinks that a survey of the existing industry may be desirable. Yet another line which Mr. Collins thinks can be greatly developed is that of vegetable growing in and about towns.

6. He says that dairying, cattle-breeding and the rearing of sheep and goats are other industries suitable for a rural population, and he believes there are good possibilities for them to develop their own system of cheese-making in the State.

7. He also suggests the extension and improvement of tobacco growing and curing and the encouragement of gur making on modern lines wherever sugarcane can be grown.

8. He has under consideration the establishment of an Institute of Agricultural Industries, in order to study and develop these industries and others such as apiculture and jam and ~~pickles~~ pickle-making.

9. In conclusion he lays stress on the fact that all these institutions and industries and agricultural departments themselves should work in close co-operation with the Co-operative Department. The main function of this department is to supply capital for agricultural and cottage industries, but as soon as a proper staff had been obtained and a new spirit infused into the department, they may be able to undertake co-operative sale and production to a limited extent.

(Times of India, 11-4-1930).

Social Conditions.

All India Burma and Ceylon Rural Uplift Conference.

An All India Burma and Ceylon Rural Uplift Conference was held at Poona on 14 & 15-4-30 under the auspices of the National Christian Council of India, the Rt. Rev. the Bishop of Dornakal presiding. Though the Conference was held under Christian missionary auspices, as the subjects which came up for discussion included such matters of national interest as the advisability of giving an agricultural bias to school education and the feasibility of starting land colonisation schemes, it was attended by important government officials of the Agricultural Department like Dr. W. Burns, Acting Director of Agriculture in the Bombay Presidency, and Dr. Harold Mann, ex-Director of Agriculture of the Bombay Presidency. Others present included Mr. J. L. Goheen, Principal of the Sangli Technical Institute, Dr. S. Higginbotham, Principal of the Allahabad Agricultural Institute, Mr. H. W. Lee-Wilson of the Agricultural Bias School at Manmad, Rev. D. J. Lichty, Principal of the Vocational School, Ankleshwar, Miss M. E. Shannon, Principal of the Lucknow Christian College for Girls, and Mr. K. T. Paul, General Secretary of the Y.M.C.A in India. The ~~ix~~ basis of the discussions at the Conference was the preliminary report on agricultural education of Dr. K. L. Butterfield. Some speakers pointed out that the present attempts at rural education and uplift were ~~x~~ faulty in that experience has shown that village children educated under these schemes often manifested a disinclination to stick to an agricultural life in the villages and urged that a greater agricultural bias should be given to education.

Mr. K. T. Paul, discussing the problem "Is it worth while to

give the landless boy an agricultural training" pointed out that such training would transform village loafers into useful units of society and help to solve the labour problem of the country. In certain districts in the Madras Presidency depressed classes were slowly becoming land-owners as the caste Hindus were drifting into the cities and the professions. Generally throughout India the landless boy, as an individual, was not a power in the country, but in co-operation, when he became a tenant of land as a result of his agricultural training, he became a distinct power. With the advent of a tenantry co-operative society, there came to light a new force in the life of the peasant. As this power developed the whip hand would be with the tenant and not with the landlord. In the delta of the Godaverri river, for example, he said, many fertile islands were let to cultivators, who had the necessary agricultural qualifications but no land of their own. Unfortunately a payment on the lease was required and the cultivators had to get someone else to pay this money and so passed on <sup>their power as tenants. A cooperative</sup> society had now been formed, which was also advancing money to the cultivator on the security of his crops and was prepared to take repayment not in cash, but in kind. In 10 years the cultivator would become a capitalist in a position to buy his own land. Thus if economic conditions were studied and tenants assisted to better living conditions, the ~~agricultural~~ agricultural education of the landless boy would be by no means wasted.

Dealing with land colonisation, Mr. Paul asserted that India was strewn with the debris of such colonies. People were brought from various villages and placed on land prepared for them and yet if they looked at the colonies established some time ago they would

find that scarcely one of the original people held the land. It had been sold, deserted or given up as a result of quarrels. It was a maxim in India that made-up land was poor land. So a made-up ~~community~~ community was a poor community. It did not have the requisite social ground-work for permanency. He would not say that they should cease founding colonies or do away with those founded, but if they were to be carried on successfully, then they would have to arrange for a perpetuity of supervision. Otherwise they should take the community where it is found in its own surroundings, and give it the necessary knowledge and enlightenment to progress.

The Rev. M. W. Beatty in charge of the land colony settlement at Borsad, Gujrat District, took strong exception to Mr. Paul's criticisms of land colonisation schemes and instanced the success of the colony under his charge, where 7000 to 8000 Christians working on the land on a co-operative basis, not only succeeded in supporting themselves, but besides earning a margin of profits contributed Rs. 15,000 annually to the work of the mission.

Dr. Burns, Director of Agriculture, Bombay Presidency, in his address outlined what was being done in the development of agriculture in the villages in the Presidency, and drew attention to the many organisations now working for the uplift of the villager. Some common bond between them and a simple programme of activity was needed. The Missions, he felt, might provide the pivot round which the work might revolve and he appreciated the need for a comprehensive survey of what was required, such as had been undertaken by Dr. Butterfield. In the rural uplift work in the Presidency the following channels had been found useful: land improvement, crop sale societies, seed improvement by variety and grading,

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manure conservation, fencing, removing deep-rooted weeds and the encouragement of subsidiary industries which might bring in a return for the villager's own use or, being sold, bring him ~~in~~ cash.

Throughout the Conference the general feeling was in favour of giving a general agricultural bias in educational work, whether among the depressed classes or other communities.

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Public Health.

Vital Statistics of Bombay City\*

The following summary of Vital Statistics for the city of Bombay is taken from the Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the city of Bombay for the year 1928-29 ( A copy of the Report has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute No. / 750 / 30 dated 22-5-30. ).

Area and Population.- The area of the City is 23.54 square miles. The Population at the Census of 1921 numbered 1,175,914. The estimated population in the middle of the year 1928 was 1,298,708. The average density of population per acre is 78.

Births and Birth-Rates.- Excluding 1,826 still-born children the number of births registered during the year was 24,017 and was more by 2,332 than in 1927 and by 3,255 than the annual mean number of births registered in the ten years, 1918-1927. The birth-rate calculated on the estimated population for 1928 was equivalent to 18.5 births per 1,000. Calculated on the Census population for 1921, the birth-rate was 20.4. Of the children whose births were registered, 12,472 were males and 11,545 females, the proportion of males to females being 1,080 to 1,000. The low birth-rate recorded year by year for the City is probably by no means a fair measure of the true fertility of the population. It is in part due to the custom whereby married women leave the City for their confinement and register their children in the mofussil districts where they are born.

Still-Births .- The number of infants certified as still-born was 1,826 as against 1,780 in 1927 and the decennial average 1,889.

Deaths and Death-Rates .- The total number of deaths registered from all causes during the year was 27,312 being 321 less than in 1927. It was 6,353 less than the average annual mortality of 1923-1927 and 15,895 less than the average annual mortality of the preceding 10 years (1918-1927). The death-rate per 1,000 persons living was 21 and was lower than that for any year since 1872. The death-rate (like the birth-rate) is invariably high amongst the poorer classes; and as an unduly large proportion of the population of the City belongs to the most poorly paid sections of society, the general death-rate is raised by that of the unusually large proportion of the very poor. The Census of 1921 showed that 66 per cent. of the population live in one-room tenements. Of the ~~xx~~ total number

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\* Administration Report of the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay for the year 1928-29. Bombay: The Times of India Press. 1929. pp. 376+96.

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of 27,312 deaths in the year, 14,966 were among males and 12,346 among females. The larger number of deaths among males is due to the preponderance of males who form nearly two-thirds of the population, the actual death-rate being higher among females. Thus the male death-rate was 18 and the female death-rate 27 as in 1927.

Infant Mortality .- The number of deaths among infants under one year of age was 7,468, being 611 more than in 1927, but 2,362 less than the annual average in the ten years 1918-1927. The infant mortality rate expressed as the number of deaths in infants per 1,000 registered births was 311 as compared with a rate of 316 in 1927 and of 474, the annual average in the decennium (1918-1927). 5,735 or nearly 77 per cent. of the total deaths in infants were due to diseases of the Respiratory System, Infantile Debility and Premature Birth against 76 per cent. (5,224 deaths) in 1927. Diarrhoea and Enteritis caused 268 deaths, Malaria, Ague and Remittent Fevers 104 deaths and Convulsions 654 deaths. The deaths from Small-pox and Measles numbered 127 and 23 respectively.

Of the total deaths among infants, 1,636 or 22 per cent. took place in the first week of life and 1,019 or 14 per cent. in the age-period 1 to 4 weeks. The mortality among infants who had not completed the first month of life was thus 2,655 or 36 per cent. of the total infant deaths. The number of deaths in the age-groups 4 weeks to 6 months and 6 to 12 months was 2,134 and 2,679, being respectively 29 and 36 per cent. of the total infant mortality. The high rates of infant mortality recorded suggest the presence in Bombay of some adverse factor in addition to the poverty and ignorance which are chiefly responsible for high rates in western countries. The added factor affecting all classes is probably Malaria; another factor which can hardly fail to enhance the infant mortality among the more ignorant portions of the population is the practice of soothing babies by the administration of opium. Syphilis contributes to the death roll but whether to a greater extent than in other cities it is not possible to say when an overwhelming majority of the total deaths under one year are not certified by medical practitioners.

The percentage of population occupying tenements of one room and under to the total number of occupants in all classes of tenements in the City by the Census of 1921 was 66. Of the 24,017 births registered in the year, 13,959 or 58 per cent. occurred in families living alone in a single room or sharing it with others, and the number of deaths in infants in ~~the~~ this class of population was 6,189 or 83 per cent. of the total infant mortality. It will be observed from the statement that the rate of deaths among infants in single room tenements per 1,000 births in such tenements during the year was 443 against 490 in 1927, and that the proportion of deaths to births varies inversely as the number of rooms occupied by the parents.

Prevention of Infantile Mortality .- The work which is being done in Bombay for the reduction of infant mortality may

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be described under the following heads :- (i) Visits by the Municipal District Nurses for the purpose of getting into touch with prospective mothers and for discovering cases of sickness especially among women and children and unvaccinated children; for inquiry into the condition of new-born infants; and for giving instruction by homely talks as to the care and rearing of children. (ii) Attendance on confinements. (iii) Provision of necessaries and comforts during the lying-in period. (iv) Maternity Homes. (v) Infant Milk Depots. (vi) Infant Welfare Centres.

During the year the Municipal Nurses paid 41,461 visits to houses, chawls and huts (against 37,397 in 1927), inquired into 2,801 cases of ordinary sickness, and reported 172 cases of infectious diseases and 441 deaths in the female population of the City. They also attended on 1,370 confinements (against 1,330 in 1927) and verified the reports of the Birth Karkuns on 5,115 births.

Epidemic and other diseases .- Deaths from Plague numbered 257 during the year as against 207 in 1927 and 574, the average of the last ten years (1918-1927). Small-pox caused 597 deaths as against 842 in 1927 and 618, the average in the last decennium. The disease was epidemic for 7 weeks from 19th March 1928. Cholera was registered as the cause of 34 deaths as against 82 in 1927 and 1,064, the average for the preceding decennium (1918-1927). Influenza caused 79 deaths as in 1927, as against 1,006, the mean of the last ten years (1918-1927). The deaths from diseases of Respiratory System numbered 10,468 as against 9,949 in 1927 and 16,438, the average of the preceding decennium. Tuberculosis accounted for 1,764 deaths as against 1,748 in 1927 and 1,807, the mean of the ten years (1918-1927). The number of deaths from Malaria was 295 and from Ague and Remittent Fever 1,431 as against 365 and 1,633 deaths respectively from these causes in 1927. The average number of deaths for the last five years (1923-1927) from Malaria was 494 and from Ague and Remittent Fever 2,269.

Sanitary State of the City .- The principal causes of the insanitary conditions which maintain the death-rate at a high level even in non-epidemic periods are the insufficiency of the sewers, the continuance of the basket privy system of conservancy, the density of houses and persons per acre and the overcrowding of persons in rooms and tenements. A scheme of the first importance for the conversion of basket privies into water-closets was set in motion early in the year and promises to meet with signal success. When an owner has been served with a Notice calling for the conversion of the privies on his premises, he receives from the Corporation a subvention of Rs. 100 for every seat converted, provided the work is completed within three months of the date on which the Notice was served. If, however, the work is not completed within the time laid down, no subvention is paid and if there is further delay the conversion is carried out by the Municipality at the owner's expense. By the end of the year 942 privy seats had been converted. The number of seats remaining to be

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converted in the sewered areas of the City is in the neighbourhood of 30,000.

Housing .- The routine inspection of dwellings and premises presenting or likely to present sanitary defects has been systematised under a scheme whereby each one of the 39 Medical Assistants and 20 Medical Inspectors is required to devote not less than one afternoon a week to the inspection of houses in streets or areas definitely allotted for the purpose by the Assistant Health Officers. The scheme aims at the inspection of not less than 5 houses per week by each member of the inspectorial staff or 17,500 houses in all in the year. Were inspection the single object in view, these numbers could be doubled or trebled. Since however the primary inspections are only the first step in securing the remedy of the sanitary defects discovered, their number is strictly limited by the number of secondary visits which the enforcement of the requirements of the Department entails. Since the year 1898, the City Improvement Trust has provided 47,342 new tenements as against 32,522 tenements demolished. During the year 1927-28, 541 new tenements were provided and 301 only were demolished, the net gain to the City being 240 new tenements.

Women and Children.

All-~~India~~ Asian Women's Conference.

Further particulars are now available about the proposal to held an All-Asian Women's Conference to which reference has been made at page 66 of the January 1930 report of this Office. The following extracts are taken from an appeal published over the signatures of fifteen Indian women leaders, including Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, and Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi :-

We, the undersigned representatives of the Women of India, having experienced the value of meeting in Conference from all parts of India, believe that the time has come when women representatives of the various countries of our common Continent, Asia, can similarly derive and confer much benefit from meeting together in an All-Asian Conference of Women.

The tides of Western influence are pouring in on us on all sides in increasing volume. In our opinion, it is fully time that we Oriental women should make a determined effort to understand one another, and to develop among ourselves a spirit of Asian sisterhood, with the object of preserving all that is valuable in our age-long National and Social cultures, and of discriminating what is best for us to assimilate from outside Asia. This can best be done by our uniting, and meeting to review our common heritage and destiny.

With this object in view, we Indian women take the initiative in placing before our sisters in Asia a proposal ~~th~~ that an All-Asian Women's Conference should be held in 1931. Further, having at our immediate disposal the facilities and experience necessary for organizing such a gathering, we propose that the Conference should be held in India. If you are in favour of this project, we shall esteem it a high privilege if a delegation up to the number of ten women from your country will accept the invitation to attend such a Conference which we hereby heartily extend through you. The same number of delegates is being invited from each of the thirty countries of Asia. We shall also be very happy if you will at the same time accept our offer of hospitality for such delegates during their stay in India. We further propose that the Conference be held in the month of January. This time seems specially suitable, as the International Association of Teachers will hold an Asiatic Teachers' Conference in Benares, India, from December 25 to 31, 1930, and it may help some of the delegates to the Women's Conference if they are able to travel with delegates to the Teachers' Conference with whom they are acquainted. We also propose 1931, because the Pan Pacific Women's Conference, which women from the Far Eastern countries attend, will meet in Honolulu in August, 1930, and in China, in 1932. The women of Lahore, Punjab, have offered to make all arrangements for the proposed Women's Conference during the week of January, 1931, either preceding or following the All-India Women's Conference, which will be held in the same city.

(New India.- 3-4-30).

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Migration.

Government of India Inquiry re: South African Repatriates.

The Government of India have decided to review the arrangements now in force for the reception and care of emigrants returning from the Union of South Africa under the scheme of assisted emigration recommended by the Cape Town Conference and agreed to by the Government of South Africa and India in 1927. The object of the proposed inquiry is to ascertain how far these arrangements are adequate and what improvements, if any, are required especially to ensure that those able and willing to work are given all possible help to secure employment suited to their aptitude and resources. As regards emigrants belonging to the Madras Presidency, it is proposed to entrust the inquiry to Mr. Gray, Commissioner of Labour, Madras, and Mr. G. A. Natesan, Member of the Council of State. It is hoped that these gentlemen will be able to start their investigation on April 8 when the s.s. UNZUMBI, which is bringing a batch of emigrants from South Africa, is expected to reach Madras. Besides inspecting at the time of the arrival of the emigrants in Madras, the working of the special organisation set up by the Government of India in 1927 to assist and advise <sup>the</sup> returning emigrants, Messrs. Gray and Natesan will also review the information collected by the Officer in charge of the special organisation to show how far his efforts to help the emigrants to find suitable occupation have proved successful.

As regards emigrants who, after return, settle in Northern India a ~~similar~~ similar review is also contemplated. The time of the inquiry and the personnel to whom it will be entrusted will be announced later.

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The Hindu of 8-4-30 in a leading article comments editorially on the decision of the Government to appoint a Committee of Inquiry and points out that in view of the fact that in February 1930, Mr. Bhavani Dayal, a social worker from South Africa, published an interim report in which he made serious allegations about the condition of repatriated Indians in the Madras Presidency and demanded the appointment of an impartial committee of inquiry, the composition and terms of reference of the present committee of Inquiry are not satisfactory. The paper criticises the Government for its policy of unjustifiable secrecy and reticence and observes that Government's refusal to publish the report of Mr. Venn, the Commissioner for Asiatic Affairs, who recently visited India confirms the suspicion that all is not well with the repatriates. The paper is inclined to agree with Mr. Bhavani Dayal's allegation that though ostensibly there is no compulsion exercised on Indians in South Africa to seek repatriation, yet repatriation in a large number of cases was not voluntary, and urges that an Indian officer thoroughly conversant with the conditions of Indian repatriates should be deputed to South Africa to study this aspect of the question and report on it. The scheme of "assisted" emigration from South Africa was part of the Cape Town Agreement (See the Report of this Office for May 1929, Page# 72) entered into on the part of the Government of India on the condition <sup>that</sup> those ~~that~~ Indians in South Africa who wanted to stay in South Africa would be afforded all facilities for becoming a part of the permanent population. The Hindu asserts that the spirit of the Cape Town Agreement has been violated by the South African whites and that the new laws threatening land ownership and trading rights of Indians in South <sup>Africa</sup>

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indicate that the "Gentleman's Agreement", as the Cape Town Agreement has been called, is a one sided arrangement benefiting white South Africa and injuring Indians.

Indian emigrants in Ceylon.

The denial of adequate franchise rights to Indians in Ceylon under the new constitution of Ceylon shortly to be introduced, is causing great concern in India. The general feeling is that if the Colonial Office refuses to do justice to Ceylon Indians in the matter, the Government of India should be compelled to take some action in vindication of its self-respect. Mr. St. Nihal Singh, an Indian publicist, in a special article appearing in the Hindu of 12-4-30, deplores the apathy of the Government and the general public in India in respect of the plight of Ceylon Indians and urges that if the political handicaps imposed on Indians are perpetuated in the new constitution of Ceylon, as a measure of self-defence the Government of India should stop the further migration of Indians to Ceylon. Mr. St. Nihal Singh argues that such a policy would hit the Ceylon planters hard and seriously threaten the economic development of the country and would, therefore, induce the Sinhalese to accord fair treatment to Indians in Ceylon. The following facts about the Indian emigrant population in Ceylon are taken from Mr. St. Nihal Singh's article referred to above:-

According to an estimate made by Mr. T. Reid while serving as Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour, "the Indian population in Ceylon probably now exceeds 900,000 persons." This estimate was made in 1928 and furnishes a fairly reliable index to the



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number of <sup>Indians</sup> ~~our people~~ at present in the Island. Of the nine lakhs of Indians, something like seven and a half lakhs live on plantations of one kind or another. The exact number was 739,316 ~~326~~ persons in 1928. Less than two lakhs of <sup>Indians</sup> ~~our people~~, therefore, reside outside plantations. That fact is important to know, because these Indians alone can be described as FREE. Broadly speaking they are the only Indians in Ceylon who have come to the Island of their own initiative and at their own expense. Unlike Indian estate workers who, at best, are semi-free, they are able to move about the Island as they please and to engage in avocations of their choice. The ratio of the semi-free Indians in Ceylon to the "free" Indians is something like seven to two. Not only is there great disparity between the numbers of the two classes of Indians, but during recent years that disparity has been growing.

This great disparity between the relative proportions of free and semi-free Indians annually migrating to Ceylon, though not emphasised by the Ceylon government, finds confirmation in the annual statistics of migration published by the Controller of Indian Immigration. The figures from the Controller's report relating to the growth of the Indian population in Ceylon during the five years extending from 1924 to 1928 (both years inclusive), which are given below, conclusively prove that while the number of free Indians has been more or less stationary during recent years, the number of semi-free Indians has greatly increased during the period.

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Statistics of Indian arrivals in Ceylon.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Arrivals.</u>	<u>Departures</u> <u>(approximate)</u>	<u>Net Increase.</u>
1924	242,776	139,877	102,899
1925	226,909	158,457	68,452
1926	216,167	182,348	34,819
1927	285,137	211,062	74,075
1928	271,869	216,061	55,808

These figures relate to arrivals and departures via the two principal routes - the Tuticorin-Colombo sea-route and the Dhanushkodi-Talaimannar sea-ferry and mail-route. Comparatively few Indians enter or leave the Island by other routes. The number of Indians bound for Ceylon who leave India from other ports, or who come to Ceylon from other parts of the world, except for transshipment to or from ~~Europe~~ Europe, is small. The number of Indians who sailed from Ceylon for other ports during 1926 by routes other than the two mentioned was, for instance, only seven. The statistics given, therefore, offer an accurate index to the movement of population from India to Ceylon and back to India. The report of the Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour for 1928 shows that there has been a net increase of 335,053 persons in the Indian population in Ceylon during the quinquennium ending in 1928, or, Indians have increased numerically by 67,010 persons, on an average, per ~~ix~~ year.

This great disparity between the relative proportions of free and semi-free Indians annually migrating to Ceylon, though not emphasised by the Ceylon government, finds confirmation in

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The distribution of Indian emigrants between the "semi-free" and "free" classes can be ascertained from the following figures taken from the reports of the Controller of Indian Immigrant Labour. The number of Indians who have been brought to Ceylon at the expense of the Ceylon planters for work on the plantations - Indians who are classified in the Controller's report as "Assisted Estate Labourers" and whom St. Nihal Singh calls "semi-free" Indian emigrants, and the number of those of this class who have returned to India during 1924-1928 are set out below:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Arrivals.</u>	<u>Departures</u> <u>(approximate)</u>	<u>Net Increase</u>
1924	153,989	56,118	97,871
1925	125,585	53,203	72,382
1926	101,746	61,265	40,481
1927	159,398	87,481	71,917
1928	133,712	93,596	40,116

The following table shows the number of "free" Indians who have entered and left Ceylon during the period 1924-1928 (The figures are taken from the Reports of the Controller of Indian Immigration).

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Arrivals.</u>	<u>Departures</u> <u>(approximate)</u>	<u>Net Increase or</u> <u>Decrease.</u>
1924	88,787	83,759	+5,028
1925	101,324	105,254	-4,930
1926	114,421	121,083	-6,662
1927	125,739	123,581	+2,158
1928	138,157	122,465	+15,692

In other words, only 12286 Indians were added to the "free" Indian population in Ceylon during five years, or at the rate of 2,457 persons on an average per year, during the quinquennium

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under review. Only one deduction is possible from these figures, namely, that the rate at which the "free" Indian population has been increasing in Ceylon is a ~~mere~~ mere nothing compared with that at which Indian population on Ceylon plantations has been growing.

Mr. St. Sihal Singh points out that if, in vindication of Indian honour, the Government of India were to prevent the further migration of Indians to Ceylon, the effect upon the "free" Indian population in Ceylon would be comparatively small especially if it had the effect of decreasing the number of such Indians returning to the Motherland, for a time or permanently. The effect upon the volume of labour imported by the planters in Ceylon would, however, be exceedingly marked. Without further supplies from India it would be impossible for capitalists in the Island - British or Ceylonese - to extend the area of cultivation to any great extent. And, it must be remembered, some two-thirds of the Island is lying fallow. Much of this waste area produced bumper crops in times gone by. It would do so to-day if people with the capacity to work could be placed there and the Government performed its elementary duty by those people in the way of reconstructing irrigation works and protecting the health of the population. Stoppage of recruitment would, in any case, create immediate difficulties in carrying on planting work even on the existing scale. Under the present system the planters are able to unload upon India most, if not all, of the Indians who become more or less useless to them, <sup>by</sup> those Indians become a charge upon the working members of their families, in Ceylon, while fresh Indians are brought to take

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their place.

The wastage, unreplaced for a few years, would tell. In addition to creating for the Superintendents vexations problems as to how to get the work done, it would inevitably push the price of labour up. Planters would certainly be unable to get Indians to put in a hard day's work for a money wage of approximately eight annas.

As the result of close study of the situation and discussions with leading Ceylon planters, Mr. St. Nihal Singh is of opinion that in the power to adopt a policy of prohibition of further migration of Indian labour to Ceylon, the Government of India possess a weapon to hit the tea, ~~km~~ and to a lesser extent, the rubber industry in Ceylon and thus induce the Ceylon planters to uphold the Indian cause. It is interesting to note in this connection that the vested interest of Ceylon planters are estimated at Rs.390 millions by Mr. St. Nihal Singh.