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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

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Report for December 1931.

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References to the I. L. O.

The Hindu of 9-12-31, and the Pioneer and the Hindustan Times of 10-12-31 publish a communique issued by the Government of India on 8-12-31 announcing the Agenda and date of opening of the next Maritime Session of the International Labour Conference.

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The Hindu of 11-12-31, the Pioneer and the Times of India of 12-22-31, the Hindustan Times of 13-12-31, the December 1931 issue of the Trade Union Record (Vol.II.No.10) and the November 1931 issue of the M. & S.M.Railwayman (Vol.3 No.5) publish a communique issued by the Government of India on 10-12-31 announcing the items on the Agenda and the date of the 16th session of the International Labour Conference and inviting recommendations from organisations of employers and workers regarding the personnel of the Indian employers' and workers' delegations to the Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India of 12-12-1931 publishes an article under the caption "Labour in the East : The Need for an Asiatic Conference" contributed to it by Dr.Lanka Sundaram. In the article, Dr.Sundaram traces briefly the history of the move for holding an Asiatic Labour Conference. The article concludes with a detailed exposition of the advantages that are likely to be derived from holding such a conference. Describing the advantages, Dr. Sundaram says:

" A regional labour organisation in the East is a healthy proposal. Special problems affecting Asiatic countries can be dealt with by that organisation in a satisfactory manner. I would only instance the question of plantation labour conditions in the East on which no international labour legislation is so far available. An Asiatic Labour Conference can adequately tackle this question. Incidentally, overproduction of rubber, tea and other

agricultural products in the East can be restricted, prices stabilised; and the wages of plantation workers, already low, need not be threatened. Further, an Asiatic Labour Conference is much more convenient for the attendance of the governments concerned, and an agreement reached at such a conference can be easily endorsed by the Geneva Conference without delay, trouble and expense, and without saddling countries not interested in the specific problem on which such local agreement is reached."

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 6-12-31 publishes under the caption "India's Entry into the League" a fairly long summary of Dr. Lanka Sundaram's article: "India and the International Labour Organisation", originally published in the October 1931 issue of the Asiatic Review (Vol.XXVII New Series No.92).

\* \* \*

The October, November and December 1931 (combined) issue of "Equity" (Vol.II Nos. 5,6 & 7), the Organ of the Assam Bengal Railway Indian Employees Association, publishes a summary of the statement made in the Council of State on 5-10-1931 by the Law Member of the Government of India, regarding the Recommendation concerning the prevention of industrial accidents adopted by the 12th International Labour Conference.

(A summary of the statement was given at page 16 of the report of this Office for October 1931).

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The 6th session of the All-India Women's Conference which was held at Madras from 28-12-31 to 1-1-32 passed, among other resolutions, resolutions dealing with traffic in women and children, disarmament, and representation of women in Indian delegations to

3. 3  
Geneva Conferences; The full text of the resolutions passed by the Conference is given at pages 54-57 of this report in the section dealing with women and children.

(The full report of the Conference is published in the Hindu of 29, 30 and 31-12-1931).

\* \* \*

The Pioneer and the Statesman of 25-12-31 publish summarised reports of a speech delivered by Sir B.L.Mitter, Law Member, Government of India, and a delegate to the 1931 session of the League Assembly, on the subject of "India and the League of Nations". In the course of the speech, Sir B.L.Mitter referred to India's position in the International Labour Organisation and to the difficulties connected with the ratification of I.L.Conventions by Indian States.

\* \* \*

According to the Pioneer of 24-12-31, the 12th Madras Provincial Conference of Postmen and Lower Grade Staff, which was held on 19-12-31, recommended the name of Mr. Basudev, M.L.C., President of the Madras Provincial Central Labour Board, to be included in the personnel of the Indian workers' delegation to the 16th I. L. Conference.

\* \* \*

In the course of a memorandum submitted to the Railway authorities on the subject of retrenchment in Eastern Bengal Railway by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, the Federation points out that the application to Indian railways of the Washing-  
-ton

and Geneva Conventions on hours of work and weekly rest has been unduly delayed. The memorandum states:-

"The introduction of the Washington and Geneva Conventions are long over due. It is being deferred year after year for reasons best known to the Administration. In 1930-31, the E. B. Railway spent about Rs.2 lakhs for building quarters for the additional staff that would be required with the introduction of the Convention regulations, Still, the application of Conventions was held in abeyance. According to the calculation made by the Administration prior to Retrenchment, about 800 additional staff would be required to give effect to these Conventions. This number represents the lowest estimation. The Federation is advised that the number should have been in the neighbourhood of 1500. However, it is an undoubted fact that had the Washington and Geneva Conventions been put into operation, as it should have been, considerable numbers of the so-called surplus men could have easily been absorbed."

(The text of the memorandum is published at pages 14 - 20 of the November 1931 (Vol.IV, No.35) issue of the E.B.Railway Labour Review).

\* \* \*

The Servant of India of 10-12-31 (Vol.XIV No.49) publishes in full the speech delivered by Mr. N.M.Joshi in the Federal Structure Sub-Committee of the Indian Round Table Conference on 17-11-31 pleading for the listing of labour legislation as a Federal Subject. In support of his plea for making labour a federal subject, Mr. Joshi points out that if labour legislation is <sup>not</sup> made federal, the present protection given by the I.L.O. to labour in India will be reduced to a material extent. At present, India is in a position to ratify the Conventions passed by the various sessions of the I.L.Conference and to that extent workers in India secure protection. If India is to have a Federal Constitution and the Federal Government is not given power to ratify Geneva Conventions the protection afforded to labour in the country will be diminished. Mr. Joshi impressed upon the Conference

the importance of the problem by referring to Article 405 of the Peace Treaty and pointing out the difference between a Recommendation and a Convention. Speaking about the ratification of Geneva Conventions by India as a whole, and not by British India alone, as is now the case, Mr. Joshi said:

"The present position is that India as a whole is a member of the League of Nations. But it is only British India that takes part in the Conferences of the International Labour Organisation. Although India as a whole is a member of the League of Nations, it is British India alone that ratifies the Conventions. My Lord Chancellor, this procedure is an irregular one. British India alone cannot ratify Conventions. If Conventions of the International Labour Organisation are to be ratified, they must be ratified by the whole of India. But although this procedure is an irregular one, the irregularity is tolerated because it is neither the interest of the International Labour Organisation nor the interest of the workers in India to create a difficulty and prevent ratifications, a result which will happen if we insist upon the whole of India ratifying Conventions. But this difficulty will be removed when we have a Federal Government and a Federal Legislature. We shall have a Government and a Legislature that will deal with the whole of India. The present difficulty caused by the Government of India not having power to deal with labour matters as regards the Indian States will be removed when we have to deal with labour matters. Therefore, the present anomaly of British India alone ratifying the Conventions need not be continued."

"Under the present constitution proposed by the Federal Structure Committee there is no mention made as to which is the authority which is to ratify the Conventions of the International Labour Organisation; but I take it that, as external matters are left to the Crown to be dealt with, the ratification of the International Conventions will be a Crown subject. Lord Chancellor, this creates a difficulty. The Crown will have the power of ratifying the Conventions passed at the International Labour Conference, but we are not leaving it to the Crown to legislate on labour matters. The Crown cannot ratify Conventions and not be able to implement these Conventions, because the Crown will have no power to legislate on labour matters. Therefore, the proper authority for ratifying Conventions is the Federal Government and the Federal Legislature, which should be empowered to pass legislation on labour matters. Lord Chancellor, if India, on account of the present constitution as proposed, is unable to ratify the Conventions of the International Labour Conference - which will happen if we leave the ratification in the hands of the Crown, which will have no power to legislate on labour matters -

India will lose very much of its prestige in the International World. At present, especially in the International Labour Organisation, India has got some prestige as leading the Asiatic countries in the matter of labour legislation; but if India is unable to ratify a Convention, India will lose that prestige; and, not only that, but on account of India being unable to ratify Conventions of the International Labour Organisation, both Japan and China will not ratify Conventions of the International Labour Organisation."

\* \* \*

New India of 17-12-31 (Vol.V.New Series No.38) publishes at pages 7-9 an article contributed by Mr. N.M.Joshi under the caption "Labour under the Future Constitution". The article is an exposition of his point of view on the subject expressed as a representative of Indian labour at the Federal Structure Sub-Committee of the Indian Round Table Conference.

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The Hindu of 26-12-31 and the December 1931 issue of Indian Labour Journal, (Vol.IX,No.3) publish in full the speech delivered by Mr. V.V.Giri, Barrister-at-Law, the Secretary of the All-India, Railwaymen's Federation, at the plenary session of the Round Table Conference on 30-11-31 on the subject of the place of labour in the contemplated federal scheme. Mr. Giri supported Mr. N.M. Joshi's plea for making labour a federal subject and referred, in the course of his speech, to the difficulties that are likely to arise in the matter of ratification of I. L. O. Conventions if labour is not made a federal subject.

\* \* \*

The following three references to the I. L. O. occur in the annual Report of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, for the year 1930:-



(1) The text of the speech of Mr. Amritlal Ojha, Indian Employers' Delegate to the 14th I.L. Conference, at the meeting of the Committee of the Indian Merchants Chamber on 20-9-1930, on his experiences at the Labour Conferences is given at pages 560-563.

(2) The correspondence between the Chamber and the Government of India regarding the justification for the statement made by Sir Geoffrey Corbett, an Indian Government Delegate to the 13th Conference, before the Credentials Committee of the Conference that the Government of India had been carrying on negotiations with the Indian and European Chambers of Commerce in India for several years for the purpose of securing agreement in selecting the employers' delegate to the sessions of the Conference is given at pages 563- 569.

(3) The recommendations of the Chamber regarding the personnel of the Indian Employers' delegation to the 15th I.L. Conference are given at pages 90 and 729-733.

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In the course of a review of two books "Labour and Textiles" and "Labour and Lumber" contributed by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this office, to the Servant of India and published in its issue of 31-12-31, reference is made to the great advantages that are likely to accrue to labour in the United States if the country were to become a member of the I.L.O.

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The Servant of India of 10-12-31, (Vol. XIV. No. 49) publishes at page 593 a short and appreciative review of the book "The Work of the International Labour Organisation" issued by the National Industrial Conference Board, New York (pp. 197 - price \$ 2.50).

8

National Labour Legislation.

Rules Framed Under the Indian Merchant Shipping Act.

The following notification is published in the Gazette of India, dated 5-12-1931, (No.49-part I, page 1146):-

No.80 M.II dated 5-12-1931.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (b) of sub-section (1) of section 37(J) of the Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, (XXI of 1923), the Governor General in Council is pleased to make the following rules prescribing the conditions of employment of young persons as trimmers ~~of~~ stokers in coasting-ships, namely:-

1. No young person employed as a trimmer or stoker shall be required to perform duty at sea for a total period exceeding six hours per day of twenty-four hours. A period of duty shall not exceed three hours at a time and the intervals between periods of duty shall not be less than eight hours.
2. No young person employed as a trimmer or stoker shall be required to perform duties in port, in the engine or boiler rooms, not being watchkeeping duties, for a longer period than seven hours per day excluding time off for meals. If the port duties include tending fires and ordinary watchkeeping duties, the hours of duty shall be as prescribed in Rule 1 for duty at sea.
3. A young person employed as a stoker shall not be required to tend more than two fires nor to clean and relay more than one fire during any one watch.
4. No young person shall be engaged as a stoker in a

ship where the stokehold temperature measured at the stokehold bulkhead at a point remote from ventilator shafts is or exceeds 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

5. A young person employed as a trimmer shall not be required to take part in the cleaning and relaying of fires.

6. A young person shall not be engaged as a trimmer in a ship where the bunker temperature is or exceeds 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

(The Gazette of India, 5-12-1924  
No. 49 Part I page 1146)

# CONDITIONS of LABOUR

10

## Immigrant Labour in Assam - 1930-31\*

HK. ✓

The Government of Assam has recently published the annual report on conditions of immigrant labour, mainly in the tea-gardens, for the year ending 30-6-31. The report is divided into two parts: (1) Immigrant labour in the Assam Valley Division, and (2) Immigrant labour in the Surma Valley & Hill Division. The following information relating to the conditions of life and work of the immigrant labour population is taken from the report:-

General - Depressed Condition of Tea Industry. - The Assam Government's resolution on the Report states that " acute and widespread trade depression severely affected the tea industry in the year under review. The loss of markets, over-production and the competition of foreign countries brought the price of tea so low that heavy losses were incurred. This necessitated a curtailment of work, but although there was ~~in~~ a fall in the average wages, the Governor in Council is glad to know that managers and agents have endeavoured, as far as possible, to save their labour forces from the effects of the general depression. Unless, however, some improvement in the industry soon occurs, a serious situation may arise. Estates, which have not sufficient reserves to enable them to carry on at a loss over a long period, may be compelled to close down. The situation is being closely

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\* Report on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1931 - Shillong: Printed at the Assam Government Press - 1931. - Price 1s.9d. - pp.24.

watched by the Indian Tea Association as well as by the Government, but the Governor in Council trusts that a serious collapse may be averted by a trade revival."

Fall in Recruitment & Wages. - The depression was responsible for a further reduction of recruitment especially in the Surma Valley where the number of immigrants was only 1,994, while in the Assam Valley the number fell from 53,370 to 51,525. The strength of the total resident labour force at the end of the year had fallen from 1,088,962 to 1,065,154.

The marked improvement in wages which had been the feature of recent years was inevitably checked in the year under review by the acute depression of the industry. There was an appreciable fall in the average cash earnings calculated on the average working strength of all classes, except men in the Assam Valley. In the Surma Valley the average earnings of men, women and children fell from Rs. 10-11-0 to Rs. 9-3-2, Rs. 8-6-1 to Rs. 7-10-5 and Rs. 5-6-2 to Rs. 5-3-6, respectively. In the Assam Valley the average earnings fell from Rs. 11-1-7 to Rs. 10-12-7 for women and from Rs. 7-8-6 to Rs. 7-4-7 for children, whereas men earned Rs. 14-0-11 as compared with Rs. 13-8-7.

The Government's resolution on the report states that:  
 "It is fortunate for the labour force that the fall in wages was accompanied by a decrease in the prices of food and other necessities, ~~xxxx~~ and that when allowance is made for the other concessions enjoyed by the labourers in the form of free housing, medical attendance, firewood, grazing and land for cultivation, their condition did not compare unfavourably with that of the village population of Assam."

HK.3.

Whitley Recommendations. - The Report of the Royal Commission on Labour was published after the close of the year and the recommendations of the Commission are engaging the earnest consideration of the Governor in Council.

Conditions in Assam Valley.

Recruitment & Labour Strength. - The number of labourers recruited during the year under report dropped from 53,370 to 51,525. The decrease is reported to be mainly due to the depressed condition of the industry.

At the close of the year, the garden population in Assam Valley was 743,014 against 753,362, a decrease of 10,348 or 1.37 per cent. on the population of the preceding year.

The total strength of the adult labour force was 434,593 (234,294 men, 190,299 women). There was no unusual change in the distribution of coolies over the provinces of origin. The coolies of the Division were, according to the Report, generally well off. The birth-rate was 31.95 against 32.60 and the death-rate was 22.59 against 21.77 in the previous year. There were no serious epidemics among the coolies during the year under report. No garden was reported as unhealthy during the year.

Wages & Concessions. - The average wages of men rose from Rs. 13-8-7 to Rs. 14-0-11 while those of women and children decreased from Rs. 11-1-7 and Rs. 7-8-6 to Rs. 10-12-7 and Rs. 7-4-7 respectively. It is explained that the decrease in average wages for women and children is due to the fact that under the crop restriction scheme the coolies were less frequently engaged in ticca work and gardens were less frequently hoed than in the past. These figures represent cash earnings only and exclude the value of other concessions in the shape of free housing, free medical attendance, free firewood and grazing ~~of~~ ground and land for cultivation free of rent or at a nominal rent. Besides these, many gardens allowed maternity leave with full or half pay for a period of four to six months. Though there has been a slight decrease in the average wages of women and children, no hardship however was felt as the prices of food-stuffs and other necessary articles also fell during the year. The standard of living of the coolies is not considered to be in any way inferior to that of the neighbouring villagers.

Land Held by Coolies and Ex-Coolies. - During the period under review, the coolies working in the gardens held 115,182 acres of land, of which 15,248 acres were held by coolies directly as settlement holders under Government, 91,581 acres as tenants of gardens, and 8,353 acres as tenants of other land-holders. During the same period, 317,396 acres were held by ex-tea garden coolies as settlement holders directly under Government and 18,934 acres as sub-tenants.

Relations with Employers. - Generally speaking, relations between employers and employed were good. According to the report, there was a decrease in the total number of complaints filed by labourers, <sup>and</sup> but an increase in the number of complaints brought by managers against labourers. The depression in the tea industry, which shows little sign of lifting, has resulted in a certain amount of unrest amongst the labour force. At the close of the year, several batches of labourers recruited from the Bombay Presidency left the gardens on which they were employed and demanded repatriation, complaining that Assam was unhealthy and that their earnings were too low.

Inspections. - The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 539 against 532 in the previous year. Of these, 278 were liable to inspection, but only 218 gardens were inspected during the year under report.

#### Conditions in Surma Valley & Hill Division.

Recruitment & Strength of Labour Force. - The total garden population, working and non-working, living in garden lines and on garden land at the close of the year was 322,140 as compared with 335,600 at the end of the year 1929-30. The number imported during the year fell from 6,426 in the previous year to 1,994. The condition of the industry is reported to be responsible for the fall. There was no unusual change in the distribution of the labour force over the provinces of origin and more than half the number of the adult labourers belonged to the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar as in the previous year. The adult labour force in the division consisted of 186,915 coolies (95,870 men, 91,045 women).

Health Conditions. - The report states that although the death-rate increased from 19.43 per mille per annum in the preceding year to 21.21, the general health of the coolie population continued to be good and no serious epidemic was reported during the year. The birth-rate increased from 31.11 to 32.55. The ratio per mille of deaths to strength among adult labourers was 22.11 against 19.83 in the previous year. The death-rate amongst the Assam coolies was highest of all (37.58) and that amongst the United Provinces, Bengal and Bihar coolies came second (21.25).

Land Held by Coolies. - The coolies on the gardens held 53,464 acres of land against 51,171 acres in the preceding year. Of the total area, 3,858 acres were held directly under Government, 46,827 acres as tenants of gardens and 2,779 acres as tenants of land-holders. The average rent realised per acre of land under the gardens was Re. 1-13-11 against Rs. 6-7-10 per acre by land-holders.

Relations with Employers. - The report states that generally the relations between employees & employers were satisfactory. There were 3 cases of disturbances in Cachar & 5 cases of disturbances in Sylhet.

(The conditions of Immigrant, <sup>are</sup> labour in Assam during 1929-30 ~~is~~ reviewed at pages 7-10 of the report of this Office for November 1930).

HK.

Recruitment of Labour for Assam :

Labour Board's Report, 1930-31\*

The following information regarding the recruitment of Indian labour for Assam during 1930-31 is taken from the Annual report on the working of the Assam Labour Board for the year ending 30th June 1931.

Local Agencies.- At the close of the year, 39 Local Agencies were at work, distributed as follows:- Bengal - 1, Bihar and Orissa - 16, United Provinces - 5, Central Provinces - 10, and Madras - 7. During the year, two local agencies of the Tea Districts Labour Association were opened and two local agencies were closed.

Recruitment. - The total number of persons recruited during the year under review, was 50,552, as against 58,150 in the previous year, and the number of garden sardars at work, was 32,544, as against 42,829 in the previous year. The average number of recruits per sardar was 1.55 as against 1.35 in the previous year. The supply of labour has been plentiful during the year under report, and the report states that the numbers recruited would have been even higher but for the fact that several gardens had to close down recruiting during the latter months of the year under review, owing to trade depression. A comparison with last year's figures, shows that the average of advances to sardars for each adult recruit, has fallen in 24 and risen in 9 agencies. No cases have occurred in which Local Agents have been found to be extravagant, or indiscreet, in the matter of giving advances to garden sardars.

The recruiting prospects for next year are not encouraging, as owing to the slump in the tea trade many gardens have closed down recruitment. The problem which confronts a great number of gardens, is rather to provide employment for their existing labour forces, than to increase the number of their workers.

Experimental Free Recruitment in C.P. - The Government of the Central Provinces introduced a system of free recruitment in certain districts as an experimental measure for 6 months from 15-11-1930, in order to afford greater freedom to movement of labour from these districts to the Assam tea gardens. The experiment proved very successful and the concession was extended for a further period of one year, with effect from the 15th May 1931. 1,687 persons were recruited by 1,349 recruiters and

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\* Annual Report on the Working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending 30-6-31. Resolution No.L-1723 dated New Delhi the 12th November 1931, of the ~~Ministry~~ Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India. - pp.9.



and Sardars from the 15th November 1930 to the 30th June 1931, under the Central Provinces free recruiting scheme. This works out at an average of 1.25 for each recruiter or sardar. Though the average is lower than in the old-established recruiting grounds, it is, ~~on the whole~~ reported to be satisfactory, considering that a new recruiting area was being opened up, and that, owing to trade depression, the demand for labour was not very keen. The report observes that, in spite of the large measure of freedom allowed, the experiment did not give rise to any abuses. This is a good augury for the success of a general system of freer recruiting, such as has been recommended by the Royal Commission on labour. The question of the introduction of a free recruiting scheme in Bengal and Madras is under consideration with the Governments of these provinces.

Illegal Recruitment. - The total number of garden sardars prosecuted for offences in connection with recruitment, was 69 as compared with 107 in the previous year. 23 garden sardars were returned to their gardens without prosecution, on account of minor irregularities, as against 88 in the previous year. Similar offences were, occasionally, differently treated from district to district.

(The Annual Report on the Working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending 30th June 1930 is reviewed at pages 26-27 of the Report of this Office for December 1930.)

### Quarterly Strike Statistics (British India)

#### Period ending 30-9-1931.

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has published in a press communiqué dated 22-12-1931, the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the quarter ending 30-9-31. During the period under review, there were 45 disputes involving 49,284 workers and entailing a loss of 480,661 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency, where 16 disputes involving 30,030 workers entailed a loss of 341,714 working days. Bengal comes next

with 12 disputes involving 8,110 workers and entailing a loss of 60,783 working days. There were 5 strikes in Assam involving 1,385 workers and entailing a loss of 2,125 working days; 4 strikes in the Punjab involving 1,300 workers and entailing a loss of 20,160 working days; 3 strikes in the United Provinces involving 1,669 workers and entailing a loss of 15,997 working days; 2 strikes each in the Central Provinces and the Madras Presidency involving 1,300 and 5,290 workers and entailing losses of 31,992 and 7,490 working days respectively and 1 in Burma involving 200 workers and entailing a loss of 400 working days.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 23 disputes involving 38,238 workers and entailing a loss of 445,517 working days. There were 3 disputes each in the engineering workshops and railways, including railway workshops, involving 802 and 1,630 workers and entailing losses of 3,814 and 3,654 working days respectively, 2 disputes in Jute Mills involving 211 workers and entailing a loss of 791 working days, 1 in Mines involving 400 workers and entailing a loss of 1,800 working days and 13 in other industries involving 8,003 workers and entailing a loss of 25,085 working days.

Of the 45 disputes during the quarter, 23 were due to questions of wages, 9 due to those of personnel, and 13 to other causes. In 7 disputes the workers were successful, in 16 partially successful and in 18 unsuccessful; 4 disputes were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(The statistics of industrial disputes for the quarter ending 30-6-1931 are summarised at page 42 of the August 1931 Report of this Office).

Labour Conditions in Kolar Gold Fields:

Enquiry Report.

Consequent on the labour troubles in April 1930 in the Kolar Gold Fields, to which reference was made in the April 1930 report of this Office (see pages 18-20), the Government of Mysore appointed in June 1930 a Special Officer to enquire into and report on the economic and social conditions of workers in the K\* Kolar Gold Fields (vide page 30 of the June, 1930 report of this Office). The Special Officer's report has recently been published by the Mysore Government. The following is a brief summary of the more important of the recommendations contained in the Report:-

Principal Recommendations.-(1) Payment of attendance bonus to contract labour, as is now being paid to company labour. (2) Weekly payment of wages. (3) Improvement of the income of families by promoting subsidiary occupations for unemployed and part-employed members by encouraging, among other things, of hand-spinning, making of bamboo hats, baskets, etc. required by the mines, and cultivation of vegetable plots and of plots of land in the neighbourhood. (4) Licensing of the profession of money lending, providing for the regulation of the rate of interest, the maintenance of clear accounts in Tamil or English, the suppression of "double-bonds", blank bonds and other reputed malpractices and the recovery of loans in easy instalments by deductions from wages. (5) Improvement of drainage system in cooly lines. (6) Building of concrete or masonry housing in place of the present "thatti" huts. (7) Improvement of the comforts and amenities of the lines by (a) providing electric lights, (b) planting of shade and fruit trees, (c) providing parks and playgrounds, (d) providing facilities for bathing and washing clothes near the lines and (e) encouraging well-kept backyard kitchen gardens. (8) Improvement of the sanitation, conservancy, lighting and water-supply arrangements of the cooly colonies in the Sanitary Board area and improving the amenities of these cooly colonies in the same manner as suggested above in respect of the lines. (9) Extension of the supply of milk to ill-nourished children, provision of creches for children of working women and grant of maternity benefit to women employees. (10) Inauguration of a provident fund for all employees. (11) Starting a technical school in the Fields with facilities for training in useful crafts, and vocations and in the use of mechanical appliances, including mining appliances. (12) Providing free cinema shows of approved instructional and devotional films, including those understood to be available & with the Indian Central and Provincial Governments, organising Kalakshepams, Bhajanas (prayer parties) lectures, etc. and music and folk plays suited to local tastes. (13) Revising the local Temperance Society and strengthening temperance

propaganda with the aid, if possible, of the Bangalore Temperance Federation. (14) Reorganisation of the Mine Panchayats on a more really elective basis and utilising them for the free representation of complaints and grievances and of suggestions for the improvement of working and living conditions.

Wages of the Labourers.- Discussing the question of wages in the Fields, the Report says that the wages, especially of the lowest paid class of underground company labourers, are by no means liberal. Underground work is particularly hard and risky and has been getting harder and riskier as the mines go ~~deeper~~ deeper and pressure and temperature mount up. Some of the mines are nearing a depth of 7,000 feet. Rock bursts are becoming more frequent. Yet the wage of the underground cooly has remained practically stationary except for attendance bonus ~~at~~ which was introduced in 1918 and increased in 1920. The report, however, does not recommend an immediate increase in wages, and in support of this attitude says:- "Taking the habits and circumstances of the labouring classes as they are, it might perhaps be doubted whether an all-round increase in wages would in itself lead to a better standard of living in any manner proportionate to the heavy burden which such increase would certainly place on the industry, the continuance of which means so much to the State and its people".

Economic and Social Conditions.- The report directs pointed attention to the chronic indebtedness of the workers and notes that the one disturbing factor that emerges from the statistics is that the expenditure of families in income groups below Rs. 40 a month is more than the income, resulting in a monthly deficit. The mitigation of the drain caused by interest charges, the report states, is a matter of the greatest importance. Referring to the drink evil, the report says:- "Drink is the largest item of unproductive expenditure in the labourers' budget, next only, perhaps to interest charges. The Kolar Gold Fields account for about 75 per cent. of the total consumption of country-brewed beer in the State, and hold the palm for toddy consumption. The provision of better housing and a more cheerful and attractive environment in the lines is itself a temperance measure of the first magnitude".

Analysing the wages bill, the report observes that the total wage bill of the Mining Companies for 1929 was nearly 7.25 million rupees. Indian labour accounted for nearly Rs. 5 millions or 68 per cent. of the total wage bill. Of this Rs. 5 millions, company labour got 56 per cent. and contract labour 44 per cent.

(The Hindu, 10-12-1931).

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Action on the Whitley Report: Proposed Legislative Measures.

Reference was made at pages 9-11 of the Report of this Office for November 1931 to a circular letter sent by the Government of India to all the local Governments and administrations asking them to examine the recommendations of the Whitley Commission and to indicate the lines on which it is proposed to implement them. According to an Associated Press message, it is understood that, among the legislative measures, that may be ready for consideration at the coming session of the Legislative Assembly to give effect to the Labour Commission's recommendations, may be those to repeal the Employers and Workers (Disputes) Act, 1860, and two bills amending the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Trade Disputes Act and a third ~~is~~ for the abolition of the Assam Labour Board and its replacement by ~~a~~ new machinery proposed for the purpose. It is also learned that the Government may sound the Assembly regarding the draft convention adopted at Geneva on the hours of work in mines.

(The Hindu, 16-12-31).

Forced Labour in Koti State (Simla Hills).

The following paragraph relating to the prevalence of forced labour in Koti State, one of the Simla Hill States, is taken from the Hindustan Times, Delhi, of 6-12-31:—

For sometime past there has been a great agitation

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amongst the Koti State Kolis (an untouchable class in the Simla Hills) with regard to begar (forced labour), which is levied from them by the State authorities. They had made several representations to the State authorities for the abolition of this practice, but without success. Finally, they appealed to the Rana Sahib of Koti State, and they requested the Rana to impose some tax upon them in lieu of begar, but that appeal also proved ~~unavailing~~.

On 2-12-31 a deputation of about 200 persons waited upon Mr. Salisbury, I.C.S., who has recently taken over charge as Deputy Commissioner and Superintendent, Hill States, Simla, and laid before him their grievances. Mr. Salisbury gave them a patient and sympathetic hearing and has promised to give the matter his early consideration.

#### Retrenchment on Railways:

##### Result of Federation's Discussion with Railway Board.

Reference was made at pages 30-33 of the Report of this Office for October 1931 to the meeting of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation with the Railway Board on 30-10-31 to discuss the decision of the latter to discharge 10,000 additional railwaymen. ~~Further discussions~~ (A printed copy of the report of the proceedings of the meeting of 30th October has been forwarded with this Office's minute D1/1364(31) dated 3-12-1931). Further discussions on the question took place between the Federation and the Railway Board at a meeting held on 2 and 3-12-31. The following communiqué

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has been issued by the Government regarding the result of the discussions:-

The subject of further discharges of railway employees was discussed between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation on the 2nd and 3rd December. The Railway Board explained that the surplus staff fell into two broad categories:- (a) staff forming, more or less, a distinct unit engaged in some particular form of work for which the need has either been totally eliminated or has temporarily disappeared in the present abnormal conditions; and

(b) staff of which the number required for the ordinary day-to-day working depends on the volume of business offering.

The above categories do not include staff engaged for purely temporary purposes whose services must necessarily terminate on the completion of the work for which they were employed.

After full discussion the following formula was arrived at: While maintaining their preliminary objection on principle to any further discharges being made while the Court of Enquiry is still sitting and adhering to their view that the proposed cuts in pay should offset the necessity for any further discharges of staff, the Federation will not further press their objection to the discharge of about 1,200 men out of the 1,600 in category (a).

The 1,200 include:- 134 ferry staff on the North Western Railway whose work has ceased on the abandonment of the ferry; 100 workshop staff on the Burma Railways with which neither the Federation nor the Court of Enquiry is concerned; 775 men from the closing down of the Tatanager work-shops; about 140 men in the Matunga workshops, G.I.P. Railway; and about 150 accounts staff who have been employed on experiments which are being discontinued and on special work which has ceased.

The Railway Board could hold out no hope that 775 men, rendered surplus by the closing down of Tatanager workshops, could be absorbed elsewhere and the discharge of the full number will be proceeded with forthwith; but efforts will be made to absorb the surplus G.I.P. Railway workmen and the surplus accounts staff and the remaining 400 men who fall under category (a). Though not influenced by the argument of the Federation in regard to the Court of Enquiry, the Railway Board are prepared to take no further action until the end of January 1932 in the matter of discharge of the 3,400 men in category (b) so far as State-managed Railways which are concerned. ~~to adopt the same procedure.~~ The Railway Board are also prepared to have a discussion with the President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation before the end of January 1932.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President of the A.I.R. Federation, issued on 7-12-31 a statement to the press setting forth the views of the Federation regarding retrenchment of railway employees. Mr. Mehta declares in the statement that the Federation was opposed to any kind of retrenchment whatsoever and that it agreed under protest to a cut on a graduated scale, exempting salaries below Rs.10, only if no staff retrenchment is effected in the meanwhile. Mr. Mehta makes it clear that the Federation cannot countenance both staff retrenchment and wage cuts simultaneously under any circumstances. The statement further says that the General Council of the Federation has resolved to call upon the affiliated unions to consider the situation and to formulate proposals for resisting retrenchment; and that the Federation is prepared to support all reasonable proposals, including a general strike, if the majority of the unions is in favour of such action. Regarding the future plans of the Federation Mr. Mehta says: "I am sure in any resistance that we of the railways might put forward, we shall get the cordial co-operation and support of the postal employees. I propose as soon as I return to Bombay to call a Joint Conference of the Central organisations of the postal and railway employees, to devise ways and means for the fight that is ahead".

(The Pioneer, 11-12-31).



Retrenchment in Railways;  
Proceedings of Court of Enquiry.

Reference was made at pages 29-30 of the October 1931 report of this Office to the proceedings of the Court of Enquiry appointed to enquire into the question of retrenchment in railways. The Court began its sittings at Bombay on 9-9-31 and after collecting evidence regarding retrenchment in the Great Indian Peninsula and the Bombay Baroda and Central India Railways, ~~re~~-assembled at Madras on 12-10-31 to conduct its enquiries with regard to retrenchment on the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway and the South Indian Railway. After the Madras sittings, the Court re-assembled on 3-11-31 at Calcutta where retrenchment measures adopted in the East Indian, Assam Bengal, Bengal Nagpur, Eastern Bengal and Rohilkhand and Kumaon Railways were enquired into. After its sittings at Calcutta, the Court re-assembled at Lahore and resumed sittings from 4-12-1931, collecting evidence regarding retrenchment in the North Western Railway. The tour of the Court of Enquiry concluded with Lahore.

The Court returned to Bombay and resumed its sittings on 24-12-31 when Counsel for the various Railway administrations and Counsel for the workers addressed the Court. The Railway administrations were represented by Sir Jamshedji Kanga, Advocate-General, Bombay, Major Wagstaff of the Railway Board, and Mr. T.G. Bhagat instructed by Little and Co., solicitors. The All-India Railwaymen's Federation was represented by Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta, President, ~~and~~ S.C. Joshi, Vice-President, and V.R. Kalappa, Acting General Secretary of the A.I.R. Federation. The Court expects to close its public sittings by the end of December 1931 and then to begin drafting its report. •

Mofussil Labour & Wages (Bombay Presidency) -1930-31.

Attention is drawn to an article on "Mofussil Labour & Wages - 1930-31" (Bombay Presidency) published at pages 371 - 377 of the December 1931 (Vol XI, No.4) issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

Mill Workers' Welfare in Calcutta: Survey by Dr. Balfour

Dr. Balfour, a lady doctor, from Bombay, has commenced a survey of the Calcutta mill areas at the request of the Indian Jute Mills Association. The object of the survey is to determine the welfare needs of the women and children of the district and to suggest groupings of various mills for this purpose. It is estimated that Dr. Balfour's work will take about four months to complete. ~~and~~ It must be regarded as a step in one of the directions indicated in the Whitley Report.

( "Capital" - (Calcutta), 19-11-31)

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Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisation.

Annual Meeting of Associated Chambers of <sup>Commerce of</sup> India  
& Ceylon, Calcutta, 1931.

The annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon for 1931 was held at Calcutta in the Royal Exchange Hall on 14 & 15-12-31. The Governor of Bengal opened the the proceedings before a large gathering of delegates and prominent business men of Calcutta. Among the distinguished visitors present were, Sir George Schuster, Sir George Rainy and Sir Joseph Bhore (members of the Viceroy's Executive Council), and the Executive Councillors and Ministers of the Bengal Government. Referring to the campaign for boycott of British goods, initiated by the Congress, Sir Stanly Jackson, the Governor of Bengal, in his opening speech said:

"The Premier's statement in the matter of discrimination against British interests must, I think, have given you a large measure of satisfaction. Thousands of millions of British capital have been sunk in India in the development of trade, with what advantage to the country and its inhabitants is patent, save to those who for their own reasons, venture to question the obvious. The satisfactory utilisation of this capital and the attraction of more, necessary for development, can only be assured by confidence and sense of security and assurance of equality of opportunity and fair dealing in trade. The roots of British trading have gone deep down into the soil of India. The magnificent tree which stands today, sound and strong without any sign of decay or corruption, could only have attained its wonderful proportions through the stimulation of British enterprise and the fostering of traditional British fair-dealing and integrity. Who would venture to try to uproot it?"

The following is the text of some of the more important of the resolutions passed at the meeting:

Need for Further Economy. - While admitting that the financial position calls for emergent measures and recognising the action taken by Government in the direction of retrenchment, the Association contemplates with apprehension the heavy burden that is thrown by the Indian Finance (Supplementary and Extending) Act upon the commerce, industry and trade of India and indeed upon every interest and community in the country, and earnestly represents to the Government of India the supreme importance of exercising, and of continuing to exercise, every possible economy in expenditure consistent with good government and efficiency.

The Delhi Pact & British Trade. - This Association is of opinion that, as the economic principles embodied in the Delhi ~~Pact~~ Agreement of March 5, 1931 between the Government of India and Congress have proved susceptible to continued misapplication in restraint of trade, it is incumbent upon the Government to take such measures as may be necessary to ensure that the trade of the country shall in future be carried on by all classes of the community with that freedom which the provisions of the Delhi Agreement appear to have been intended to secure.

Income Tax on Provident Funds. - This Association draws attention to the inequitable effect of the Provisions of the Income Tax (Provident Funds Relief) Act, 1929, inasmuch as these in practice result, in certain cases, in subjecting to incometax employees who would not otherwise be liable, or in making them liable at higher rates, to such an extent that employers have seriously to consider whether in the interests of these employees they are justified in applying for recognition.

Double Super-Tax. - This Association has examined the Government of India's suggestions for the exemption of certain companies from double super-tax, and considers that the proposal to refuse the concession to all holding companies should be withdrawn.

Taxation of Foreign Liquor. - That as a corollary to the resolution adopted at the Annual General Meeting of the Association in 1930 recommending that arrangements be made to secure uniformity in the taxation of foreign liquor in India, this Association now recommends that it is desirable that the Government of India should take steps to obtain uniformity in the various Provincial excise rules, and particularly in those relating to the import, export, and transport, of Indian made foreign spirit, as between Provinces.

Profession Tax. - That this Association, while recognising that the imposition of a profession tax as now levied by municipalities in the Madras Presidency and as proposed in Bombay may be regarded as a widening of the basis of taxation in the municipal sphere, and as such may be recommended in preference to increasing

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the rates of taxation upon existing sources of revenue, considers that, inasmuch as the tax is based primarily upon the income of the individual or upon the profits or turnover of business, it is encroaching upon a source of revenue, which at present belongs to the Central Government. This Association considers that this aspect of municipal taxation should receive the attention of the Central Government before vested interests have been allowed to grow and become a source of embarrassment to their resources.

Law re. Hire-Purchase System. - With a view to encouraging sales under agreements such as hire-purchase agreements, or sales subject to payment by instalments, this Association recommends to the Government of India that legislation should be introduced which will effectively protect the rights of the seller until he has received payment in full, particularly in cases where the sale is of machinery which has to be attached to the freehold.

Plea for Specific Duties. - Seeing that various interpretations have been placed on Sections 29 and 30 of the Sea Customs Act and that difficulty has arisen in ascertaining the meaning of "real value" necessitating a reference to the Privy Council, and (2) Seeing that Section 10 of the Indian Tariff Act does not give importers full protection in the case of changes in tariff valuations, the Association recommends that, whenever practicable, the Government of India should adopt specific duties in place of tariff valuations.

(The Statesman, 17-12-31)

(For a brief account of the proceedings of the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce for 1930 vide pages 45-46 of the report of this Office for December 1930).

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Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisation.A.I.T.U.C. Executive Council Meeting, Bombay.

The following details about the meeting of the Executive Council of the All India Trade Union Congress held at Bombay on 28-12-1931 are taken from a communique issued to the press on 28-12-1931 by the General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.Congress:-

"The Executive Council of the All-India Trade Union Congress met in the office rooms of the Girni Kamgar Union at Bombay on the 28th December 1931. A large number of Unions from Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, Central Provinces and Berar, and Bombay, were represented at the meeting.

"The prominent among those present were Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Dr. J.N. Choksey, Mr. Mukundalal Sarkar, Mr. P.M. Naidu, Mr. V.B. Karnik, Mr. V.H. Joshi, Dr. Gavande, Dr. S. Rangaswami, Mrs. Ushabai Dange, Mr. Zulmiram Chowdhury, Mr. S.N. Mookerjee of Jamshedpur, Mr. N.K. Sarkar and Mr. T.N. Datta of Calcutta and several other leaders of labour Unions.

"Mr. R.S. Ruikar, Chairman of the Council, in opening the proceedings, reviewed the situation that has arisen in the country owing, among other things, to ruthless retrenchment, wage-cut, new taxation and repressive measures taken by the Government and the capitalists against the labour movement. The Chairman reminded the members that the time had come when the working class movement should put up a strong fight against the repeated attacks launched upon it and for that a programme of joint action had become a matter of immediate necessity. He strongly pleaded for a united front.

Activities since Calcutta Session.- ~~Mr. R.S. Ruikar, Chairman~~  
~~Mr. S. Mukundalal~~ Mr.S. Mukundalal, General Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C., then submitted a short survey of the activities of the A.I.T.U.C. since the last session held in Calcutta (For particulars, vide pages 49-54 of the report of this Office for July 1931). The General Secretary's report shows that the A.I.T.U.C. now represents 104,500 organised workers in India and it records that, since a clear cut policy and programme for the Congress was laid down in the Calcutta session, a large number of Unions has now rallied round the All-India Trade Union Congress and thus it <sup>can</sup> claim to be the most representative body of labour in India. The report further states that since July 1931 there have been about 25 strikes in different industries of the country, and the causes in most of the cases have been attributed to retrenchment, wage cuts and short working hours and days. After the General Secretary's report was noted, the Bombay Hawkers' Union and the Bombay Bank Peons' Union were affiliated to the A.I.T.U.C.

Resolution regarding Unity.- The question of outstanding importance, viz., unity among the different groups of Trade Unions

was then taken up. A lengthy discussion then centred round the report submitted by the "Unity" Committee which was appointed at the Calcutta Session and the following resolution was unanimously carried:-

"This Committee is of opinion that the Executive Council should depute three persons on behalf of the All-India Trade Union Congress to carry on negotiations with the All-India Trade Unions Federation and other groups of the trade union movement for bringing about structural unity and in the meantime this Committee be authorised to carry out a joint programme of action as regards opposition to wage-cuts, retrenchment, ~~xxx~~ new taxation, unemployment and repressive measures, against trade union movement either by the Government or by the employers, in consonance with the spirit of the resolutions that may be passed by the Executive Council in this connection".

"A Committee consisting of Messrs. R.S. Ruiker, S. Mukunda Lall, Kumar Brojesh Singh, M. John, Suboash Chandra Bose, V.H. Joshi, Zulmiram Chowdhury, Dr. J.N. Choksey, Mr. V.E. Karnik, was appointed to carry out into effect the Unity resolution".

(The Hindu, 31-12-1931).

Other Resolutions.- At the adjourned meeting of the A.I.T.U. Congress held on 29-12-1931, a number of other resolutions were passed. The Council considered several questions bearing on wage-cuts and the present situation in the country and passed several resolutions. It entered its strong protest against the retrenchment in the railways and the "victimisation" of 5,000 G.I.P. railway strikers, and noted with regret that the efforts of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation had not been able to redress their grievances. Therefore, the Council considered that the time had come when a joint protest by the All-India Trade Union Congress, the Railwaymen's Federation and other railway unions should be immediately made in an effective manner by resorting to an all-India one-day strike, preferably on 4-2-1932, to be followed by a general strike in all railways ~~xx~~ if necessary.

The Council also protested against the enhanced taxation and retrenchment and wage-cuts in all Government departments. It opined that cuts in wages and retrenchment were no remedy for the present

economic depression. On the contrary, higher wages, short hours of work and insurance against unemployment should be the policy of the Government, and the Council appealed to all working classes and trade unions in India, including the Railwaymen's Federation, All-India Government Employees' Unions and the Central Unions in the Posts and Telegraphs Department to resist these "attacks" and to observe an all-India one-day strike on 4-2-1932. (The Times of India, 31-12-31)

The claim of the A.I.T.U. Congress that it represents the majority of workers in this country, as well as the decision to declare a one-day strike are strongly repudiated by moderate labour opinion. The following extracts from an editorial comment on the subject published in the December 1931 issue of the Indian Labour Journal (Nagpur), the Official Organ of the B.N. Railway Indian Labour Union, are illustrative of the attitude of the moderate section of Indian labour:-

"Workers have never seen a greater betrayal of bankruptcy of trade union action than the talk of one day's hartal. The president of the Trade Union Congress who held a conference in Bombay on the 29th December wants to fight retrenchment and wage-cut with a hartal for 24 hours. That his representative character is questionable is another story. Whether there can be two All India Trade Union Congresses, whether one of them is not bogus, and whether or not one of the Presidents is an impostor, are matters that we do not propose to deal with here. .... We have, however, no misgivings as to the bluff and bluster underlying the hope held out that in the 24 hours' strike the deep-rooted capitalist exploitation will come to an end. We do not ignore the fact that by a series of political hartals a dormant nation has been made a live wire. But those hartals which are meant to rouse indifferent folks to political consciousness are altogether different from industrial strikes. .... The implication of an industrial strike is to paralise the industry concerned and the cessation of work until a satisfactory settlement is reached. If the workers who go on strike, resume before any settlement is effected, they are doomed. .... Therefore, a one day's strike is out of question in trade union politics, a well organised strike to the finish, or no strike at all. Let not railwaymen allow themselves to be used as pawns in the deep game for leadership".

(Extracted from pages 55-56 of the December 1931 issue of Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, Vol. IX, No.3).



The Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress, 1930-31.

The following information regarding the working of the Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress during 1930-31 is taken from the annual Report of the Congress for the above period. The Punjab Provincial Trades Union Congress, Lahore, is claimed<sup>\*</sup> to be the only central and federated body of the "active" and "functioning" trade unions and labour organizations of the Punjab. It was organised in 1928 and was registered on 10-10-1929 under the Indian Trade Unions Act. According to the Report, the object of the Congress is to promote healthy trade unionism in the Punjab, which has been much neglected hitherto. This object has been endorsed by the Royal Commission on Labour in India in their Report.

The total number of trade unions and labour organizations affiliated to the Congress at the end of the year under report was 13 as compared with 10 in the previous year. Six of these unions have already been registered under the Trade Unions Act and the registration of the rest is under consideration.

The following is a list of the affiliated unions:

1. The Scavengers Union, Lahore ;
2. Ratepayers Association, Lahore ;
3. The Upper India Homeopathic Association, Lahore;
4. The Municipal Employees Union, Lahore;
5. The Carpenters Union, Lahore;
6. The Municipal Union, Sargodha;
7. The Mechanics Union, Lahore;
8. The Tailors Union, Lahore;
9. The Masons Union, Lahore;
10. The Katibs Union, Lahore;
11. The Punjab Process Servers Union, Lahore;
12. The Tonga Workers Union, Amritsar and
13. The Punjab Labour Bureau.

Some of the unions have more than 800 members.

The Congress is duly recognised by the Punjab Government and the Government of India as required under the Trade Unions Act. In the year under report no strike was sanctioned by the Congress under the rules, although the Tonga workers Union, Amritsar, and the Scavengers Union, Lahore, were on the verge of going on general strikes, which were however, averted by the timely intervention of the Congress.

The Report complains that the old prejudice against trade unions is still persisting among a few officials of the Government Railway Department, and Local Bodies and among millowners.

(The E.B. Railway, Labour Review,  
November 1931, Vol. IV No. 35, pages 20-21)

*There is no genuine trade unionism in Punjab except among the Railwaymen and the Khewra Salt miners. This "Congress" is a mouthed body. P. A. S.*

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Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, 1930-31.

According to the annual report of the Press Employees' Association, Calcutta, for the year 1930-31, there was a fall in membership during the period under review due to various reasons, the most important being the drastic retrenchment in some of the bigger presses, including the Government and railway presses. While in the preceding year the membership of the Union was 1,973, at the close of the year under report it was 1,569. As a result of ~~the~~ representations <sup>made by</sup> of the Association, the Eastern Bengal and East Indian Railway authorities abandoned the piece system in favour of monthly salary system in their printing presses. The efforts of the Association in the direction of raising the scale of remuneration of the piece-workers in the Government of India Press and in getting the rules regarding leave and holidays in the Government as well as railway presses, <sup>suitably altered</sup> were successful. An effort to bring about an improvement in the sanitary conditions of the printing rooms of presses was also made. The most crying grievance of the press workers was found to be the insecurity of the tenure of service. During the year under review, the Association tried to put a stop to the practice of making delay in the payment of wages by taking legal action against a few proprietors. Several meetings were arranged for educating the workers in their rights and responsibilities. Steps were taken to help those members who were needy in arranging for the education of their children. During the year under review, a sum of Rs. 122-8-0 was paid out under the provisions of the death benefit scheme. The Association also rendered service to its members as an employment bureau. Besides doing propaganda to prevent lead poisoning, help was given to get

compensation for accidents and occupational diseases. During the year under review, representations were made for reduction of hours of work of compositors, especially those who operate on mono or lino machines. As in previous years, the Association tried to settle, as far as possible amicably, disputes between the workers and their employers. The Association also made efforts for getting the Factories Act amended so as to include those factories which employ less than 20 persons. In spite of economic depression the collection of subscription on the whole is reported to be satisfactory.

(The Trade Union Record, December 1931, Vol.II, No.10).

(For earlier references to conditions of labour of press employees vide, pages 41-43 of the July 1931 report (Conditions of Labour of Printing Press Employees in India); page 19 of the June 1931 report (Wages and Hours of Work in Printing Presses in Bombay City, 1929); and pages 52-53 of the July 1930 report (Conditions of Work of Press Employees, Central Provinces)).

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Intellectual Workers.

7th A. I. Educational Conference, Bangalore, 1931.

The 7th session of the All India Educational Conference was held at Bangalore (Mysore State) from 28 to 30-12-31. In the absence of Sir C.V.Raman, the president-elect, Mr. N.S.Subba Rao, Director of Public Instruction, Mysore State, presided over the Conference. The Conference, it may be noted, is annually organised by the All-India Federation of Teachers' Associations which is affiliated to the World Federation of Education Associations and which was responsible for organising the First All-Asia Educational Conference, Benares in 1930. The Conference is open to teachers, educationists and educational administrators and inspectors of all types - the University, the secondary and primary and the technical - both men and women of the country, and is the only indigenous organisation in the country which keeps education in the forefront of its programme.

Besides sectional meetings, pedagogical papers and resolutions, an All-India Educational Exhibition was also held in connection with this year's Conference. The following subjects received special attention this year: (1) Primary and pre-Primary Education. (2) Secondary Education. (3) University Education. (4) Adult Education. (5) Women's Education. (6) Experimental Psychology and Education. (7) Educational Administration. (8) Education of Defectives. (9) Art Education. (10) Health Education. (11) Teachers' Training. (12) Business Education. (13) Religious and Moral Instruction. (14) School Inspection. (15) Professional solidarity and how to achieve it. (16) Vocational training.

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

That in view of the serious un-employment among the educated classes, all Governments be requested to institute enquiries regarding the solutions to be adopted to relieve the situation.

Universities should pay more attention to the technological aspects of education than to literary studies.

Resolved that instruction in High Schools and colleges be in the vernacular.

That while this conference views with horror the anarchical crimes of which some students have been involved, this conference puts on record the extreme desirability of maintaining the sanctity of educational institutions.

The next session of the Conference will be held at Lahore in 1932.

(The Hindu 31-12-31).

Recognition of A.I.Postal & R.M.S.Union Withdrawn.

References have been made at pages 23-26 of the November 1931 report of this Office to the progress of the All-India ~~and~~ Postal and R.M.S. Union during 1930-31 and to the resolutions passed at the 11th session of the A.I.Postal Conference, 1931, held at Delhi on 31st October and 1st & 2nd November 1931. Among the subjects which are engaging the anxious attention of Indian postal employees are the decisions re. retrenchment, and cuts in salaries <sup>made</sup> ~~decided upon~~ by the authorities (see pages 29-30 of the November 1931 report of this Office). At the 11th session of the A.I.Postal Conference it was decided to appoint a special committee

to study the Retrenchment Committee's recommendations and also to take a referendum on the advisability of initiating joint action on the following lines:

- (1) Not to work beyond the hours presented by the Time-Test.
  - (2) Not to work more than eight hours a day, and (3) attending office with minimum address (see page 26 of November 1931 report).
- The Conference, at the suggestion of Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President, also decided to take a referendum on the desirability of wearing a Black badge on the right arm  $\phi$  by way of protest against the cuts in salaries. (page 556, December 1931 issue of Indian Post, Vol.2, No.12).

On 28-12-31 Mr. T.Ryan, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs, intimated Mr. N.C.Sen Gupta, the General Secretary of the A.I.Postal & R.M.S.Union, that the Official recognition hitherto accorded to the Union could not be continued any longer, and stated that it was not proposed to proceed further in the matter for 15 days within which period further representations on the subject may be made to the Director General. The principal reasons for the withdrawal of recognition of the Union were:-

- (1) The General Secretary of the A.I.Postal Union substantially misrepresented the situation resulting from the cuts in salaries in the course of a speech made at Calcutta on 26-11-31 and was thus guilty of misleading postal employees.
- (2) That the proposed referendum on the four points mentioned earlier was objectionable.

On 6-1-32 the General Secretary of the A.I.Postal Union replied to the Director General. The following are the main points in the letter:-

- (1) That the 15 days period allowed in the letter dated 28-12-31 should be extended to 20-1-32 so that the General Secretary may call a Council Meeting of the Union.
- (2) ~~The~~ <sup>The</sup> (The General Secretary) repudiated the statements attributed to ~~have been made by~~ him in his speech of 26-11-31 (the cutting of a report of the speech published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika (Calcutta) dated 26-11-31 was enclosed to substantiate the repudiation), and
- (3) that the decision to issue a referendum on certain questions was not tantamount to their adoption.

On 7-1-32, the General Secretary sent a letter requesting that the time limit may be extended to 31-1-32 to enable Mr.

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Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President of the Union, to attend the Council meeting.

On 11-1-32 the Director General sent his reply to the General Secretary of the Union to the following effect:-

(1) No extension of the time-limit originally prescribed can be agreed to, as he (the Director-General) has reasons to believe that the extended period would be used by the Office-bearers of the Union for further agitation. (2) The General Secretary's repudiation of the statements made by him in his speech on 26-11-31 does not carry conviction, that the cutting of the report from the Amrita Bazar Patrika is a very brief one, and that the Director General has no reason to doubt the accuracy of the detailed report of the speech that has reached him, (3) that the tone of certain speeches etc. published in the November and December 1931 issues of the Indian Post, the Official Organ of the Union, furnishes sufficient evidence of the desire of the Union to foment disaffection among postal employees, (4) that the official recognition accorded to the Union and all ~~provincial~~ provincial branches affiliated to it is withdrawn and will not be restored unless certain conditions are fulfilled, (5) that, in the circumstances, no further correspondence on the subject can be held with the Union, (6) that Government, while having no desire to interfere with the legitimate and constitutional activities of the Union, will no longer tolerate the agitation of the staff and their deception by misleading addresses by outsiders, and (7) that Government is prepared to welcome application for recognition of either the existing Union or another in its place, provided it is officered by responsible members of the staff and is prepared to conduct its activities with a proper sense of responsibility.

On the same date 11-1-32 the Director-General issued a special General Circular (General Circular No.40) inviting the attention of all postal employees to the correspondence between himself and the General Secretary. The following are relevant extracts from the Circular:-

The staff will see that as the outcome of a campaign led by non-official persons and persistently supported by false and misleading statements and by inflammatory incitements to the staff concerned to be false to their duties, it has been found necessary to withdraw official recognition from the above-mentioned Union and its branches.

I trust, therefore, that it will not be long before the staff will find it possible to secure fresh recognition either of the existing Union or of a newly constituted one to be established

in its place, the objects of which will be such as are generally recognised as legitimate for such a body and the constitution of which will be entirely acceptable to the Department. I must say however that I should be bound to regard continued membership of an Association such as the All-India Union, if it persists in allowing itself to be dominated as hitherto by non-officials and administered in the manner to which exception has now been taken, as inconsistent with the duties of Government officials.

The Heads of Postal and Telegraphs Circles are already in possession of full instructions as to the action they should take in the event of any concerted attempt by the staff to impair the orderly working of this important public utility Department. I have already indicated that some of the retrenchment measures approved by Government, or recommended by the Retrenchment Sub-Committee for adoption, are not intended to affect the existing staff of the Department but to apply only to new entrants. Should, however, particular members of the staff, notwithstanding the explanations which have now been afforded to them, allow themselves still to be misled into adopting such measures as those contemplated by the terms of the Referendum it is obvious that they will have no ground for complaint if action should be taken by the administration which will result in their being replaced by outside candidates for employment, of whom there is no lack.



Economic Conditions.

Cotton Mills in India - Statistics for 1931.

The Bombay Millowners' Association have issued their Mill Statement for the year ending August 31, 1931. The Statement contains the names of cotton spinning and weaving mills, working and in course of erection, with the names of agents and owners, the capital paid-up, number of spindles and looms, the quantity of cotton consumed, the average number of hands working daily, and the number of days worked by each mill from 1st September, 1930 to 31st August, 1931. The Statement, which had been published formerly in two parts, has this year been published in three parts. The first part contains, as usual, particulars of mills in Bombay City and Island, and of mills in course of erection recently registered, and a statistical survey of the progress of the industry since 1890. The second part contains particulars of mills in Ahmedabad and other mills in the Bombay Presidency, and the third part contains particulars of mills outside the Bombay Presidency. The separation of mills in Ahmedabad from mills in other parts of the Presidency has been effected so as to facilitate comparisons with Bombay City and Island and other important centres of the industry.

Idle & Working Mills. - Out of the 339 equipped mills in India, 25 were completely idle during the year, of which 8 were located in Bombay City and Island, 3 in Ahmedabad, 7 in other parts of the Presidency, and 7 outside Bombay Presidency. In addition, a number of mills were either completely or partially closed for temporary periods during the year, particulars of which

will be found in the remarks column. Of the 17 mills reported to be in course of erection last year, 6 have now started working, and out of the 24 mills reported to be in course of erection this year, 13 are expected to be working shortly.

Total Spindles and Looms. - Of the 3,427,000 spindles erected in Bombay City and Island Mills, an average of 2,703,000 were working daily. Of the 77,000 looms erected in Bombay City and Island Mills, an average of nearly 63,000 worked daily during the year. The average number of work-people employed daily in the City and Island was 129,000. These figures do not include particulars of night work. In Ahmedabad, the proportion of spindles and looms working was considerably higher than in Bombay City and Island. On the average, out of 1,744,000 spindles, 1,619,000 worked daily, and out of 40,000 looms, 37,520 worked daily. The total number of spindles in the country as a whole amounted to 9,312,000, of which, on the average, 8,094,000 were working daily. The total number of looms in the country amounted to 182,000, of which, on the average, nearly 158,000 worked daily. The mills consumed during the year 1,317,000 candies of cotton.

Paid-up Capital. - The paid-up capital of the industry decreased as compared with last year from Rs.40,4.3 millions to Rs.402 millions, or .54%. The number of spindles increased by about 200,000, and the number of power looms increased by 3,200 during the year.

The Railway Budget:  
Board Faces Serious Deficit.

The Railway Board is now taking stock of the financial position of the railways with a view to prepare a budget statement for presentation at the next session of the Assembly. It is apprehended that railway earnings may be at least Rs. 120 millions down compared with the estimates. Economy to the extent of Rs. 50 million is to be effected so that the deficit would be brought down to about Rs.70 millions. But the serious aspect of the situation is that the railways will not be able to honour the convention under which they are required to pay to the general revenue Rs. 50 million of contribution. The railway authorities claim that this contribution was payable either from profits, which do not exist, <sup>now</sup> or from the Railway Reserve Fund, which has already been wiped out, and now that the railways cannot meet even their full interest charges on capital invested, there is no question of paying a contribution to the general revenues.

(The Times of India, 31-12-31).

Banking Committee Report: Mysore to Consider Adaptation.

The Government of Mysore have appointed a Committee consisting of three representatives of the Mysore Bank and three Government Officers to study the material furnished in the report of the Indian Central Banking Inquiry Committee and the recommendation made therein, (For summary of the recommendations in the Report relating to Provisions re. money-lending and co-operation,

see pages 45-49 of the September 1931 Report of this Office), to examine how far they are applicable to conditions in Mysore and to formulate proposals for developing the organisation and expanding the operations of the Mysore Bank in close association with Government for the general improvement of banking service in the State. The Finance Secretary to Government will be the convener of the Committee, which is required to meet as early as possible and submit a report of the result of its deliberations to Government in four months.

(The Hindu 10-12-31)

15th Session of Indian Economic Conference, Bombay:

Papers on Indian Labour Problems.

One of the important features of the 15th session of the Indian Economic Conference, which is to open at Bombay under the auspices of the University of Bombay on 2-1-32, will be the reading of several papers on Indian labour problems. Besides a general discussion on Indian labour problems, papers will be read on the following subjects: Mr. Jaffar Hassan - "Labourers and the Standard of Living in India", Mr. Radha Kamal Mukerjee - "Food & Food Requirements of Indian Labourers", Mr. B.R. Subba Rao - "Labour Turnover & Productive Cost", and Mr. E.V. Narain Swami - "Towards Industrial Peace". The delegates will also visit the Wadia Maternity Hospital, Children's Home and Dispensary connected with the Spring Mill at Dadar, Bombay.

(The Times of India,  
25-12-31).

U.P. Cottage Industries:  
Committee of Investigation.

The Government of the United Provinces have decided to appoint a small committee with the Director of Industries as Chairman to investigate the possibilities of developing cottage industries in those districts of the Province where, as a result of the completion of hydro-electric projects, cheap electric power is now available. The personnel of the committee is as follows:-

Director of Industries, Chairman; Mr. Hickey, Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Department; Mr. Duke, Oil Expert to the Government; the Registrar, Co-Operative Societies (for his nominee); the Sugar Technologist, Cawnpore; Mr. Vishwanathan, Third Agricultural Engineer to the Government; Mr. Alcock, Consulting Engineer of Calcutta; Mr. Bolam, of the United Provinces Electric Supply Company; and Mr. Murthy, Principal of the Cawnpore Textile School.

The Committee, which is expected to carry out a detailed survey, both as regards existing industries and new ones which can be started in view of cheapness of power available, will shortly assemble at Cawnpore for preliminary work and then visit the Grid area in order to secure first-hand knowledge of local conditions before formulating its proposals.

(The Statesman, 2-12-34).

Agrarian Unrest in U.P.: Issue of Ordinance.

Reference was made at pages 40-41 of the report of this Office for November 1931 to the breaking off of negotiations between the United Provinces Provincial Congress Committee and the U.P. Government regarding the remissions to be allowed in payment of rents by the tenants. The final rupture was brought about

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by the Government informing the Congress leaders that, in view of the resolutions passed at the meeting of the Council of the U.P. Congress Committee on 15 & 16-11-31 (Vide pages 40 -41 of November 1931 report) no further discussion with Government officials on the subject of reduction of rent in Allahabad district could take place. Sardar Vallabhai Patel, President of the All-India Congress, declared that as far as the Congress was concerned the door was still open for negotiations and that the Congress would suspend the operation of the resolution passed by the U.P. Congress Council if the Government on its side would suspend the collection of rents pending the result of further discussions. Since Government did not show any desire to resume negotiations, the Congress began to organise mass meetings throughout Allahabad District at which, according to Congress reports of 11-12-31 more than 100,000 tenants of the District took a pledge not to pay rents. (The Hindu, 11-12-31) On 12-12-31, such meetings of tenants organised by the Congress were banned by the U.P. Government and the Congress leaders were prohibited from addressing public meetings. On 14-12-31 the Viceroy promulgated an Ordinance "The U.P. Emergency Powers Ordinance, 1931" - with a view to providing against instigation to illegal refusal of payment of revenue liabilities and to confer special powers on the Government of the U.P. and its officers for the purpose of maintaining law and order in the province.

Soon after the passing of the Ordinance, the U.P. Government began a series of arrests of Congressmen in the province, including Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru. This Ordinance as well as the recent Bengal Ordinance for the suppression of terrorism, precipitated the present political crisis and the resumption of hostilities between the Congress and the Government of India.

Employment and Unemployment.

Statistics of Unemployment in Delhi Province: Plan for Register.

It is understood that, as a means of dealing with the unemployment problem in Delhi Province, the Local Government is making arrangements to collect up-to-date statistics of the unemployed, and an unemployment register will be kept at the Industrial Surveyor's Office. The co-operation of employers of labour will also be sought. Besides helping the unemployed in getting work, the Government is considering a programme of industrial education, for it has been recognized that cottage industries afford a solution of the unemployment problem, especially in rural areas where workers have no subsidiary occupation in seasons when there are no crops.

Although Delhi is one of the most important trading centres in Northern India, it has hitherto lacked a suitable agency for the collection of trade statistics. To meet the increasing demand for statistical intelligence, a comprehensive scheme for the collection of statistics relating to trade, production, prices of commodities and employment was sanctioned by the Government towards the close of 1929. The work of collection, compilation and publication of the statistics was undertaken by the Industrial Surveyor, Delhi, from the commencement of the year 1930.

The most difficult branch of statistical work, it is stated, related to labour in the Province. Figures of employment in the principal productive industries, numbering 8 and involving 24,516 workpeople, were collected during the year. The number of operatives at work was 22,326 and average absenteeism in industry as a whole amounted to 7.2 per cent. The number of industrial disputes involving stoppages of work reported during the year was 3. The total number of workpeople involved in these disputes was 11,192.

(The Statesman, 20-12-1931).

Public Health.

Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1930-1931.\*

The following information regarding the health conditions of the mining population in the Asansol Coal Mines during 1930-31 is taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1930-31. The area of the mining settlement under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health is 413 sq. miles and the population in 1930 in the settlement was 329,353, of which 41,035 people were living in municipal areas.

Vital Statistics. - Births & Deaths. - During the year 8,032 births were registered, being 902 less than those of the previous year. The birth rate per 1,000 of population was 24.3 against 28.0 in 1929 and 24.2 in 1928. The birth rate was lower than that of the province as a whole which stood at 29.3 and 26.6 in 1929 and 1930 respectively. There were 99 still births registered during the year against 75 in the preceding year. Male births exceeded female births by 182. The proportion was 105 to 100. The number of deaths registered during the year from all causes was 6,980, against 7,896 in 1929. The death rate per 1,000 of population was 21.1 against 23.2 in the previous year. The rate of mortality for the province for the year under report was 22.4 per 1,000.

Infant Mortality. - The number of deaths among infants under 1 year was 1,038 and the mortality rate per 1,000 births was 129.2 against 145.0 in the preceding year. The provincial infant mortality rates for the corresponding years were 179.9 and 187.3 respectively. As much as 56% of total infant deaths occurred among babies under 1 month.

Principal Causes of Deaths. - The principal causes of deaths in the Settlement were (1) fevers, (2) respiratory diseases, (3) dysentery and diarrhoea, (4) Cholera, and (5) small-pox.

The number of deaths returned as due to fevers other than influenza during 1930 was 1,694, with a death rate of 5 per mille. This figure is reported to be the highest on record for the last ten years. Respiratory diseases were responsible for 1,214 deaths

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\* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1930-31.- 1931 - Saraswati Press Asansol. - pp. 19.



during the year under review, with a death rate of 3.6 per mille. There were 264 deaths with a death rate of .8 due to dysentery and diarrhoea, against 190 deaths with a death rate of .5 per mille in 1929. In the year under report, there were 453 attacks of cholera and 207 deaths, against 1,076 attacks and 518 deaths in 1929. The death rate due to cholera during the year was .63 per mille. The incidence of death due to small-pox also showed a decline during the year under review. There were 170 cases of small-pox with 20 deaths during the year, as against 354 with 42 deaths in 1929. 44 deaths were recorded from child-birth during or within 14 days of labour against 51 in the preceding year.

Vaccination. - The total number of vaccinations performed during the year 1930-31 was 63,798, as against 29,880 during the previous year. Of these, 16,394 were primary and 47,404 re-vaccinations, compared with 14,017 and 15,863 respectively in the previous year.

Improvement of Water-Supply. - Collieries depend for their drinking water supply on wells suitably distributed on the coal field. In a few cases only is 'pit water' used for domestic purposes and chlorination is insisted on. Wells have been provided in the more important villages by the Local Board. Those not so provided depend exclusively on ground tanks. Both these sources of village supply are supervised by the staff of the Board of Health. During the cholera season ground tanks in villages are reserved with the owner's permission by the Chief Sanitary Officer for drinking and other purposes. Wells and tanks, suspected to be infected with cholera vibrio, are sterilised and guarded at Board's expense.

Health Propaganda and School Hygiene. - A whole-time propaganda officer was appointed as an experimental measure in July 1930. He visited different collieries and villages and during the second half of the year, delivered 54 lantern lectures on epidemic diseases, general sanitation, personal hygiene, infant welfare and other allied subjects. In addition, the Sanitary Assistants delivered weekly lectures throughout the year in primary schools - the lectures being based on a primer on elementary hygiene. The School Medical Officer employed by the Board carried on medical inspection of school children in Primary and High schools throughout the year. Altogether 69 schools were visited and 3,060 school children examined out of a total of 3,799 on the rolls.

Medical Aid to Women. - The Board maintained 3 midwives during the year. Their duties comprised free maternity service during labour, attendance on simple gynaecological cases, advice to expectant mothers and post-natal supervision, health talk to women folk in villages and collieries. In all, 139 labour cases were conducted, 304 gynaecological cases attended and 490 lectures delivered by midwives during the year. Two classes were held by one midwife for training of "dais" (country midwives), a suitable reward having been offered to attract them to the classes. 18 country dais were trained during the year.

Finances of the Board.- The financial position of the Board was on the whole sound and satisfactory during the year under review. There was no loan outstanding. No grant was received from Government or any public body during the year under report. The expenses of the Board were met by a cess levied at the following rates:-

On mine-owners at Re.1-12-0 per 100 tons on the average raisings of coal during the past 3 calendar years. On royalty-receivers at 22% of the annual average road cess payable for the past 3 financial years. The cess assessed on mine-owners for the year under report amounted to Rs. 97,890-2-0 as compared with Rs. 100,917-10-0 for the preceding year. The decrease was due to decrease in the rate of assessment by Re. 0-2-0 per 100 tons during the year under report. The cess assessed on royalty-receivers for the year under report amounted to Rs. 16,148-5-0 as compared with Rs. 17,820-9-0 in the previous year.

(The Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 71-74 of the Report of this Office for July 1931.).

Safety First Association of India, Bombay:

Industrial Safety Sub-Committee.

Reference was made at pages 7-9 of the November 1931 report of this Office to the formation of a Safety First Association in Bombay. The first meeting of the provisional committee of the Association was held on 3-12-1931 when the programme of work of the Association was formulated.

The meeting appointed the following sub-committees:-

General Purposes and Financial Committee, Industrial Safety Committee, Public Safety Committee, Road Safety Committee, School Propaganda Committee, and Press Bureau Committee.

The following Office-bearers were elected for the Association which will have its offices in the W.I.A.A. Magazine office, Temple Bar Building, Esplanade, Bombay:-

Chairman - Mr. G.C. Seers, Manager of General Motors  
India Ltd., Hon. Secretary - Mr. W.B. Burford.

(The Times of India, 8-12-31).

Slum Clearing in Madras.

Reference was made at pages 66-68 of the Report of this Office for October 1931 to the inauguration of the Bogipalayam housing scheme in Madras. Since the opening of the scheme, Madras citizens have taken a keen interest in the eradication of slums in the city. The Madras Sanitary Welfare League, which recently conducted an enquiry into the slums of Madras, and Mr. Dann, Director of Town planning, have been chiefly responsible for arousing public interest in this subject.

In the course of a speech on Madras slums recently delivered by Mr. Dann before a public meeting in Madras, he pointed out that the Madras Corporation was trying mainly the three following methods in its efforts to abolish the slums of the city:-

Acquiring the slums and providing pucca houses and renting them to the poor. Mr. Dann is of opinion that this system cannot be adopted by any large scale for financial reasons.

Near Cochrane Basin, the Corporation is providing roads and drains and sanitary plinths, leaving the tenant to build his house thereon. Under this scheme also a considerable deficit is expected. The scheme is on an experimental basis at present.

The third method is that of providing roads and drains, leaving the existing huts untouched where they do not encroach on the roadways. If this method is continued, large expenditure has to be incurred with no adequate return on the money expended. This method, according to Mr. Dann is unsatisfactory, as it leaves the housing conditions as they are, improving the surroundings only.

(The Times of India, 31-12-31).

Anglo-Indian Colonisation Schemes:

Report of Bishops' Conference.

References have been made at pages 37-38 of the February 1931 report and 47-48 of the ~~English~~ November 1931 report of this Office to a co-operative colonisation scheme for Anglo-Indians sponsored by Mr. E.T. Mc Cluskie, M.L.A. The Anglo-Indian Community is at present passing through a time of great difficulty owing first, to the general economic depression and, secondly, to the growing pace of Indianisation in the services due to which the youths of the community are not able to enter in large numbers into such services as the railway and telegraph services which hitherto used to be special preserves for them. The closing of these avenues of employment has placed the Anglo-Indians in a position of great economic difficulty, and colonisation schemes, on a co-operative basis, like the one sponsored by Mr. Mc Cluskie, are being formulated by leaders of the community <sup>to</sup> find employment for <sup>the</sup> unemployed members of the community. At the same time the opinion is entertained in certain quarters that Anglo-Indians are not fitted for agricultural pursuits and that, therefore, great caution has to be exercised before any considerable capital is invested in such enterprises. Colonisation schemes are also being advocated as a means for providing employment for the growing body of educated unemployed among Indians generally. Mr. Hassan Imam, a leading barrister of Patna and a former judge of the Calcutta High Court, it is understood, has a scheme for offering 40,000 acres of land on his estate at Japla, Shahabad District, Bihar & Orissa, to build up an agricultural colony for educated Indian youths out for an agricultural career. (The Pioneer: 1933-12-31)

In view of the increasing importance of such colonisation schemes and the contribution that it is hoped they would make for mitigating the incidence of unemployment, the report dealing with colonisation schemes for the Anglo-Indian community drawn up by the Bishops' Conference on the Present Distress in the Domiciled Community which held its sitting in Calcutta early in December 1931 is given below:-

General. - The subject of colonization has been brought forward from time to time ever since 1860. The present crisis has revived this old project. We do not regard ourselves as competent to pass judgment on any individual schemes; we have neither the data nor the qualifications essential to the formation of a competent opinion, but there are certain general considerations which should be borne in mind when determining whether the salvation of the community is to be sought in this direction or elsewhere, which we feel bound to suggest. It will be time enough to examine individual schemes when we are satisfied from a preliminary inquiry, that the project is a feasible one.

Essentials of Success. - In our opinion no such scheme can secure success unless it has behind it a strong, sustained co-operative effort. Hard toil, loneliness, frugal living, keen competition have to be faced. In the past, experiments of this character have not revealed the existence of such a spirit in the Anglo-Indian Community, and failure has resulted. But past failure need not necessarily hinder us from making a fresh attempt.

The Colonies. -

Selection of a Site . - (a) ~~In our~~ Assuming then the existence of a stout heart to face the inevitable difficulties, in which direction ought we to turn to find a suitable site? Should we look outside of India or within her borders? Turning to countries abroad, we naturally look first at the Colonies within the Empire. Here we are bound to recognize the existence of a strong colour prejudice which has closed the doors of most of the colonies, to those who are not of pure European antecedents. A few individual members of the domiciled European Community, especially boys from Kalimpong, have found their way to the Dominions and made good, but the settlers desired are those of the British farmer class and men with some capital of their own which will save them from becoming a drag on the Community. We know of no Colony which will welcome the settlers of mixed parentage.

(b) Outside British Empire. - Turning to other countries, we know that in the past a number of Sikhs settled in Argentina, but such colonists are no longer welcome. We have not examined the possibilities of sites in countries nearer India such as the Seychelles, the Mergui Islands or Siam, but we doubt whether openings would be found there.

(c) The Andamans. - The Andamans, which were once the scene of an attempted colony, have certain advantages which will keep it to the front as a possible site; it is at once near to markets including those in India whence the colonists would go, who would thus feel less cut off from their old home and many of their friends and relations.

(d) Within India. - Within India difficulties have to be faced from which a colony outside of India would be free. We have here the conflict of cultures, which if no longer on purely racial lines, does issue from the fact that the great bulk of those who win their living by manual toil are content with a far lower standard of comfort than that which the Anglo-Indian regards as his right. It is with this class that the colonists would be largely brought into competition; their success would depend upon their being able to win from the soil a larger outturn than their Indian competitors. To do this their methods would have to be mechanized and this would only be possible where large fields could be obtained. That, in most cases, involves work in a climate which is not conducive to hard labour, and the cultivation of crops which leave only a small margin of profit after the actual cost of production has been met. In Eastern Bengal, to mention but one instance, a careful investigation shewed that the profit, taking the average over a period of five years, varied from Rs.37-8 per acre in the case of rice to Rs.70 in that of jute, which was at that time the most profitable crop. How many acres would a family have to cultivate to be able to maintain a standard of comfort such as that to which the average Anglo-Indian has been accustomed? It must be remembered too that in the above instance the cost of production was for Indian labour.

Other Forms of Work. - Other forms of work than agriculture might be adopted by the colonists. Fruit farming has been mentioned, but it is well to remember that at the present time, fruit from the United States and South Africa is in Calcutta underselling the produce of Kulu and Kashmir. Up country this may not be the case, but the matter would need investigation.

Inclusion of Indians. - ~~And~~ In India too, the question of the inclusion or exclusion of Indians from the colony would have to be faced. Their inclusion would be desirable from the point of view of breaking down racial barriers and shewing that absence of racial feeling which is essential if all are to live together in true amity as fellow citizens of their common mother-land, but unless they share the same ideals or the standard of comfort to be attained and the same ideal of life and conduct to be followed, the colony will lack the unity which should characterize it, if it is to be successful and retain its members.

Finances. - The question of financing the scheme will require ~~early~~ consideration. There are four possible sources - Bank credit - Public investment - the Colonists' own capital and the contributions of the charitable public. We should be inclined to say that unless a scheme was such as could secure

the assistance of bank credit, the Colonist would be ill advised to risk his savings in it and the investor might well hesitate to take up the shares. We doubt whether much in the way of charitable contributions would be forthcoming for such a scheme, nor indeed do we think that such should be sought. A colonization scheme to be successful should be self-supporting.

Conclusion. - Our conclusion then, based upon these general considerations, is that while we do not wish to rule out absolutely any carefully thought out scheme which may be put forward, we do most earnestly advise no one to participate in any scheme which has not been submitted to most careful scrutiny by competent critics and, after examination from every point of view, proved itself in their judgment to be industrially and economically practicable and from the financial point of view sound. Apart from such a competent and unbiassed opinion, we cannot advise our friends to seek the solution of their difficulties in this direction. Sd/- Fossa, Calcutta, President of the Bishops Conference on the Present Distress in the Domiciled Community.

(The Statesman, 16-12-31).

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Women & Children.

6th A.I. Women's Conference, Madras, 1931.

The sixth session of the All India Women's Conference on Educational and Social Reform was held at Madras, from 28-12-31 to 1-1-1932 under the presidentship of Mrs. P.K.Roy. Started originally as an organisation for the advancement of women's education, it has within the short period of six years come to occupy a very prominent place among those <sup>bodies</sup> which speak authoritatively on all matters concerning women. The Conference passed a number of resolutions advocating (1) the immediate introduction of compulsory primary education for all girls as well as boys, (2) the wider diffusion of physical culture, with special stress on the importance of popularising indigenous games and systems of training, (3) the extended and systematic introduction of medical inspection, (4) provision of increased facilities for adult education, (5) that there should be a nice balance of the practical, the aesthetic and the cultural sides of life represented in the curricula of girls' schools and <sup>that</sup> special attention should be paid to domestic science and the cultivation of the mother tongue, (6) and adequate representation of women on all public and private educational bodies. With regard to political matters, the Conference stuck to its memorandum presented to the Round Table Conference, which enunciated the principle of a fair field and no favour and asked for adult suffrage, mixed general electorates and no nomination, reservation or co-option for women.

The following is the full text of some of the more important



resolutions passed by the Conference:-

Protest against Retrenchment. - This Conference places on record its deep concern that all over India the reductions proposed because of the present financial stringency have fallen most heavily on Education and Public Health, and appeals to all Governments to refrain from retrenchment in the sphere of women's education, on which the progress of the nation largely depends.

Compulsory Primary Education. - This Conference reiterates its demands for immediate compulsory primary education for all girls as well as boys of every community. It calls upon all Governments and local bodies to work out a scheme for a steady and rapid expansion of this education, and it urges all local committees to agitate until this is achieved and primary education is put on a sound financial basis both by private and public endowments.

Representation on Educational Bodies. - This Conference is of the opinion that in the interest of girls' education, women should be appointed on all private and public bodies dealing with education.

Adult Education. - This Conference is of the opinion that in view of the appalling illiteracy prevalent among the masses, the Constituent Conferences should organise classes for adult education and encourage every activity in this direction by all possible means.

Abolition of Caste Distinctions. - This Conference, which has always stood for unity, urges all its members to work for this great cause. It feels that to achieve this (a) in separate schools for different denominations of communities or castes such distinctions should be gradually abolished; (b) ~~it feels very strongly that~~ caste distinction in the application forms for admission into educational institutions should be discontinued; and (c) it calls on the Department of Education and the heads of schools and colleges and hostels to abolish these distinctions in all hostels under their management.

Disarmament. - This Conference, realising the vital importance of Disarmament for the peace and happiness of the world, urges the women of India to give their wholehearted support and sympathy to the World Disarmament Conference to be held in Geneva in February 1932, and calls upon all Governments to reduce their Army and Navy.

Devadasi System. - This Conference urges the trustees of temples in Madras City to abolish the Devadasi service and congratulates the Durbars of Mysore, Travancore, Cochin and Pudukottah States for having taken a lead in this matter.

Maternity Welfare. - This Conference reiterates its previous resolutions on the need for extensive increase of maternity and child welfare work, and presses for the training and registration of midwives and for propaganda on public health and sanitation.

Representation on League Delegations.- This Conference realising the importance of questions like child labour, traffic in women and children and child mortality which form part of the discussions in the League of Nations and Imperial Conference, requests the Government to include women representatives of the All-India Women's Conference in the Indian Delegations to the League of Nations and the Imperial Conference.

Juvenile Delinquency. - This Conference draws the attention of the Women's Organisations throughout India, (including the States), to the problem of juvenile delinquency and urges them to make a study of the subject in all its aspects, as well as to organise clubs and shelters for delinquent, neglected and destitute children so as to prevent juvenile delinquency.

Miss Shorne (Calcutta) in moving the resolution referred to the Reformatory Schools Act of 1891 and the Children Acts of Bombay, Bengal and Madras. The main drawback of these acts was that they were worked only in the presidency towns and the immediate suburbs. It was therefore necessary that the women's conference should press upon the Government to have an All-India Children's Act provision being made for (1) separate remand homes for children, (2) children's courts with women magistrates (3) appointment of suitable probation officers, preferably women, to befriend and supervise the children, (4) establishment of separate sections for juniors and seniors, and (5) special treatment for the mentally defective.

Beggar Problem. - This Conference, while strongly disapproving of the prevalence of professional begging, urges Legislation for its prevention, and calls upon (a) the public to co-operate by diverting their charities in this sphere towards the creation and support of institutions and for the provision of beggar-homes, work-houses, infirmaries and leper asylums; (b) calls upon the local bodies to provide such homes where they do not exist and to enforce any legislation for the eradication of this evil.

Training of Social Workers. - This Conference is of opinion that centres should be established for training social workers, particularly with a view to work in rural areas.

Birth Control. - Mrs. Rajwade (Bombay) moved: - In view of the immense increase in the population of the country and having regard to the poverty and the low physical standard of the people this conference is in favour of appointing a committee of medical women to study and recommend ways and means of educating the public to regulate the size of their families.

Miss Kemchand (Bombay) and Miss Ouerkirk (Travancore) opposed

the resolution on religious , moral and other grounds.

Mrs. Hensman (Madras) moved the following amendment:

In view of the immense increase in the population of the country and having regard to the poverty and the low physical standard of the people, this Conference is in favour of educating the public to realise the economic menace of overpopulation.

Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi moved <sup>an</sup> the following amendment to

the effect that efforts should be made to educate the public through the spread of health and moral education, through the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres and special mother and father-craft clinics.

After lengthy discussion the Conference resolved:—  
"to appoint a committee of women to educate the public through a larger number of health, maternity and child welfare and special mother-craft and father-craft centres."

Industrial Workers. - This Conference calls upon the Government of India immediately to take necessary steps to implement the Report of the Whitley Commission with regard to labour conditions of women and children in India.

This Conference calls upon its local committees and upon all women in industrial areas to do whatever voluntary work may be possible to help women and children so as to improve their conditions.

Miss Copeland, who moved the above two resolutions, said: The recommendations of the Commission were, born of deep sympathy with the labourers, and a careful study of their problems. There were a large number of recommendations affecting women employees in industrial centres and almost all of them were yet to be implemented by the Government. Legislation, should be undertaken on the basis of some of the recommendations and the great work turned out by the Commission should not be wasted.

Traffic in Women & Children. - This Conference condemns the existence of Traffic in Women and Children, an evil which should be eradicated at all costs, and appeals to the women to work for the establishment of a larger number of rescue homes, and strongly recommends the appointment of women as police officers, doctors, and probation officers, to help in the enforcement of the act for the ~~suppression~~ suppression of traffic in women and children.

Office-Bearers for 1932. - Rajakumari Amrit Kaur, Chair-woman; Rani Lakshmi Bai Rajwade, Honorary Organising Secretary; Mrs. Malini Sukthankar, Secretary for Social Reform Section; Mrs. Menon, Secretary, Educational Section; Mrs. Maneklal Premchand, Treasurer; Dr. Muthulakshmi Reddi, Begum Shah Nawaz, Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji, Mrs. Miles Irving, Mrs. Ammu Swaminathan, and Mrs. P.K. Sen, Vice-Presidents.

(Summarised from reports in the Hindu of 29, 30 & 31st December 1931 and 1st & 2nd January 1932).

National Council of Women in India:

Forthcoming Labour Conference.

A special conference of the National Council of Women in India is to be held sometime in February 1932 in connection with the Biennial Conference of the Council to discuss some of the outstanding problems of industry in so far as they affect women and children. A standing sectional Committee on Labour of the National Council of Women in India, which is affiliated to the International Council of Women, was first formed in July 1931 with representatives from Provincial Councils and the Council's affiliated bodies. The Committee arose out of the general interest taken by the Council on industrial questions. While the object of the National Council of Women in India is to promote the welfare of women and children in the country in all its aspects, socially, morally, and educationally, the Council takes special interest in all industrial problems affecting women and children. It has a special standing sectional committee on legislation which has for its object the <sup>stimulation of</sup> legislation to improve the social and economic conditions of women and children.

The standing sectional committee on labour of the National Council of Women in India supplies information on labour questions referred to it by the International Council of Women and co-operates with other countries on industrial questions affecting women through the headquarters of the International Council of women. Besides this, the labour committee is constantly engaged in studying labour conditions in unregulated industries and visiting industrial areas in the country in order to gain first hand information on labour conditions.

(Indian Social Reformer, 5,12-1931, Vol.XLII, No.14).

Agriculture.

New Branch for Study of Agricultural

Meteorology.

The Times of India, Bombay, dated 15-12-31 gives the following summary of a Special Note regarding a scheme for the opening of a branch of Agricultural Meteorology published in the latest annual report of the Meteorological Department of the Government of India:-

The scheme may be said to owe its origin to the report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture of 1928 and was elaborated by the department in consultation with a few agricultural experts. It proposed the creation of a temporary branch of agricultural meteorology to study the subject statistically and experimentally. About statistical studies, it may be observed that if satisfactory correlation between weather conditions and crop yield and crop areas can be established, crop forecasting and the final estimates of production will be improved.

Details of the Scheme. - Since there is no better deterrent to uncontrolled speculation in agricultural commodities than a good supply of agricultural statistics and, since the cultivator eventually gains by all improvements in marketing, he stands to benefit in the long run from the results of investigations on such subjects. As regard the experimental and biological parts, the proposal was made under two heads - routine and research. Under routine comes the standardisation of the meteorological and physical data collected at experimental farms. Under research the proposal aimed at selecting and standardising the best methods for the measurement of radiation, evaporation, soil temperature and so on. Soil temperature, ultra-violet radiation and other kinds of radiation, the amount and quality of sunlight, the temperature of the leaves, and stems of the plants, the wind forces on the plants are all, as one can readily conceive, phenomena which a research worker may want to know when correlating the results obtained on experimental farms.

Financial Aspect. - The aim is to be able to specify the

local weather and climate of each crop, or, as some modern workers now call it, the micro-climate of each crop. The employment of two agricultural meteorologists and subordinate staff is contemplated for a period, primarily, of five years, involving an annual recurring expenditure of about Rs.40,000. The proposal was placed before the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research who agreed to give the grant that was required. It is intended that the officers when appointed should be in constant touch with agriculturists and meteorologists and be able to give advice in course of time to agriculturists about meteorology and to the meteorological department about types of forecasting that could profitably be undertaken on behalf of agriculture.

(The Times of India, 15-12-31).

Maritime Affairs.

Opening of Indian Sailors' Home, Bombay.

Reference was made at page 54 of the report of this Office for January 1931 to the laying of the foundation stone of the Indian Sailors' Home, Bombay, on 14-1-31 by the Governor of Bombay. The building which has been completed now was opened by Sir Frederick Sykes, the Governor of Bombay, on 16-12-31. The following information about the objects of the Seamen's Home, the class of sailors which it is intended to cater for, and the financial arrangements made for the working expenses of the Home is taken from the speech delivered by Mr. W.R.S. Sharpe, Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust, on the occasion of the opening of the Home:-

Objects of the Home. - The total floor area is nearly 17,000 square feet and the building will provide accommodation for 400 ~~and~~ to 500 visitors. The floating population of Indian seamen in the Port of Bombay is estimated to average about 5,000; about 75 per cent are Mahomedans, 20 per cent Goanese and the remainder Hindus. The Goanese possess their own clubs with adequate living accommodation; the Hindu and Mahomedan deck-crews are recruited mostly from the coastal districts of the Presidency and generally proceed to their homes immediately ~~as~~ being paid off, not returning to Bombay until they are required to join up again. They have their own particular ~~chawls~~ and rooms reserved for temporary residence, when passing through Bombay. It is the Mahomedan engine-room and stoke-hold crews recruited in distant parts of India who are most in need of housing accommodation. These men, - Pathans, Peshawaris and Pubjabis, - form a large proportion of the floating seafaring population and there are often from 800 to 1,000 of them in Bombay waiting their turn for employment and living mostly in the Nagpada district under deplorably squalid and insanitary conditions. The chief object of this Home, - though it will of course be open to Indian seamen of all castes and creeds, - is to ameliorate the living conditions of these particular classes who are forced to remain in Bombay for lengthy periods and for whom nothing in the shape of social welfare has yet been attempted.

Management and Finances. - The original estimated cost of the building was Rs. 312,000; the final revised estimate is Rs. 269,000. As regards the future management of the Home, the Committee responsible for its construction will hand over to a

representative Committee of Management appointed by the Government of India. This Committee, which includes representatives of the Government of India, the Government of Bombay, the Port Trust, the Bombay and Indian Merchants' Chambers, the National Seamen's Union, the Royal Bombay Seamen's Society and the Shipping Master, will also undertake social welfare work among those who make use of the Home. As regards the working cost, the balance available from the capital investments will be about Rs.75,000 of 5 per cent. Government of India Bonds. The Government of India has undertaken to contribute Rs. 10,000 annually and the Bombay Port Trust Rs.5,000 annually. These sums will yield an income of over Rs.1,500 a month which, together with any small charges levied for the accommodation provided, should be sufficient to cover the working expenses without the necessity of appealing to public charity. Financially, therefore, the institution starts its career under very favourable conditions.

(The Times of India, 18-12-31).

#### Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay:

##### Employers insist on Right of Selection.

References have been made at page 81 of the July 1931 report and page 71 of the August 1931 report of this Office to the demand made by the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, of the various shipping companies in the city, that, with a view to alleviate unemployment among Indian Seamen, shipping companies should change crews every year and give a chance to seamen on the unemployed list by engaging them. It was also mentioned in the July 1931 report that, while several shipping companies agreed to the Union's demand, the British India Steam Navigation Company refused to do so and that as a result the Union had started picketing at the gate of the office of the Company. The differences between shipping firms and the Union have been accentuated in the intervening period. The following Note on the



subject of Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay published in the printed Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during November 1931 sets forth the views of shipping companies which claim the right to select their own saloon crew:-

Recruitment of Seamen in Bombay.

Representations were received recently by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce from certain Steamship Companies employing Indian seamen in regard to the difficulty that had been experienced by them in obtaining suitable saloon crews for their passenger steamers.

Defects of Rotational Employment: Unsuitability of Recruits. - From inquiries made by the Committee it appeared that there was undoubtedly, at the moment, a certain amount of unemployment among seamen, but the existing state of affairs had to a great extent been brought about by the increased number of men who were desirous of taking up a seafaring life, the number being far in excess of the demand. This applied particularly to the type of men employed in the Steward's Department of passenger steamers. Most of the men available for recruitment were unsuitable by reason of lack of experience in passenger steamers and the agents of the liners visiting this port had received several complaints recently in regard to the inferior service on board their steamers on this account. The National Seamen's Union of India was formed ostensibly for the purpose of relieving the unemployment which prevailed among seamen at this port, and one of the objects of the Union was to find employment for all in rotation. The Union on the 12th August last passed a resolution to the effect that Saloon, Deck and Engine-room crews should work only for a period of 12 months on one ship and then get their discharge in favour of others, with the object of distributing employment as evenly as possible. It was further resolved that any ratings seeking re-employment should in future register with the Union and take their turn, as vacancies arose in any steamer, in accordance with the Union's roster. To avoid any breach in this connection it was agreed that seamen should apply only through the Union and not through the Government Shipping Office or the Steamship Companies' Offices, as previously.

Whitley Commission's Views. - The Royal Commission on Labour in India in their report strongly condemned the system of rotational employment. On page 179 of their report they stated that " a rigid system of rotation combined with the limitation of the period of continuous employment, would mean that no seaman could hope to be employed for more than one year of every

three or four. Such a policy would make every seaman an inefficient and starved worker. It would also react unfairly on those who, by their industry and diligence, would otherwise secure reasonable continuous employment."

Need for Trained Crew. - In the past Shipping Companies in Bombay had trained crews, especially saloon crews, for their own particular requirements, and in order to maintain an efficient staff for their passenger steamers, and as far as practicable, they had distributed employment amongst their regular employees as evenly as possible. The resolution passed by the Union was, however, nothing short of dictation to the Shipping Companies in the matter of selection and recruitment of seamen, and being impracticable was not acceptable to the Companies who must retain the right of selecting their men. Deck crew, saloon stewards, bakers, butchers, pantrymen, cooks, etc., with a little experience in cargo steamers were not in any way qualified for appointment to large passenger steamers. The pilgrim trade also needed both deck and saloon crews who had considerable experience in this particular traffic. It was conceivable and in fact probable that the engagement of inexperienced men might lead to considerable trouble during pilgrim voyages. On the other hand experienced and trained ratings who had discharged themselves voluntarily from passenger steamers would be wasted on cargo vessels and, in any case, they would be very reluctant to accept employment on cargo ships at lower rates of pay than they would receive on passenger ships.

Union's Resolution Lacking in Authority. - It appeared to the Committee that the resolution passed by the Union did not represent the wishes of the very large majority of seamen and that the Union's suggestion that there was a great deal of unemployment among seamen was exaggerated. The resolution was apparently passed by men out of employment and probably at the strong instigation of the Union's officials. The Committee were informed that since the resolution was passed several crews had discharged themselves ex-steamers in Bombay on expiration of their Articles but the new ratings sent for selection by the Union, through the Government Shipping Office, had in practically every case not been out of employment for more than four months. In one instance very recently a rating was undoubtedly ~~intimidated~~ intimidated to sign off and he was replaced by a man out of employment for one day only.

Undue Pressure on Crews. - It had been reported to the ~~the~~ Committee that the Union was rigorously picketing seamen who had been on a ship for more than a year and that many such men were intimidated into leaving their ships. The men admitted this frankly to the ship's and shore officials with whom they had to deal but they were afraid to do so before the Government Shipping Master or Police. Under these circumstances it was impossible actually to prove cases of intimidation, though they undoubtedly existed. It was also alleged that forcible detention of discharge

certificates was resorted to with a view to compelling all ratings to become members of the Union whether they cared to or not, presumably to increase the Union's funds, but this again was difficult to prove as the men were afraid to come forward.

Committee's Protest to Bombay Government: Right of Selection insisted upon. - In addressing the Government of Bombay to the above effect the Committee stated that they understood that the National Seamen's Union of India, Bombay, was recognized by Government as a Trade Union. All Shipping Companies in Bombay were prepared to work with the Union in the best interests of all concerned provided constitutional and practical methods were adopted by the Union. The position, as it stood, however, was very unsatisfactory and the Committee expressed a hope that the Government of Bombay would take such steps as they might deem advisable with a view to checking the present unconstitutional methods of the Union and also preventing the Union from exceeding its authority. As already stated the Shipping Companies must have the right of selecting their own men. The Committee feared that if immediate steps were not taken by Government to protect the interests of the Shipping Companies in Bombay who have been the means of providing employment for thousands of Indian seamen the companies would be compelled in self-defence to recruit their crews from other centres and this would only add to the number of unemployed in this port.

(Extracted from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce for November 1931.)