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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for November 1932.

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References to the I. L. O.

The Leader of 7-11-1932 publishes a lengthy article in its editorial columns under the caption "Geneva and Unemployment" which was contributed by the Director of this Office. The article describes the efforts of the I. L. O. to combat unemployment, especially its decision recently arrived at to hold a tripartite conference to consider the question of reducing hours of work in industry. (The cutting of the article from the Leader was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/2603/32 of 10-11-1932).

... ..

The October 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note published in Industrial and Labour Information of 26-9-1932 re. the decision of the special session of the Governing Body to call a Preparatory Conference for considering the question of reduction of hours of work in industry.

... ..

The Hindustan Times of 20-11-1932 publishes an editorial article under the caption "Unemployment and Shorter Hours" contributed by the Director of this Office. The article makes a survey of the advantages of reducing working hours in industry as far as it helps to relieve unemployment and of the decision now taken by the I.L.O. to hold a preparatory conference to consider the problem.

(The cutting of the article from the Hindustan Times was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/2669/32 of 24-11-32).

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Federated India of 16-11-1932, and the Indian Labour Journal

of 13-11-1932 reproduce an article contributed by Mr. W.J. Bolton to the "Industrial Review", London, under the caption "Fighting for the 40-hour Week". Copies of the article were forwarded by this Office to a few labour journals in this country for reproduction.

(Cutting of the article from Federated India and the Indian Labour Journal were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/2669/32 of 24-11-1932).

... ..

A communiqué issued by this Office on 17-11-1932 on the Tripartite Preparatory Conference on Reduction in Hours of Work was published in the Hindu of 18-11-1932 and the Hindustan Times, the Statesman and the Times of India of 19-11-1932.

(Copies of the communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/2668/32 of 24-11-1932).

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The Times of India of 7-11-1932, the Leader of 16-11-1932 and the Indian Labour Journal of 20-11-1932 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 4-11-1932 on the election of Sir Atul Chatterjee to the chairmanship of the Governing Body. The communiqué was forwarded direct by this Office to all the principal daily newspapers and weeklies, as also to the important labour monthlies in India.

(Copies of the communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/2604/32 of 10-11-1932).

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The Leader of 17-11-1932, in the course of an editorial article on the communiqué, while admitting that the election of Sir Atul is an honour done to India, states that it is a tribute conferred with certain ulterior motives. The article states:

"We wonder if the belief widely prevalent in England and other western countries that the present low standard of living of the Indian workman is a menace to the prosperity of the western worker, has also anything to do with the desire to seek Indian cooperation at Geneva. Otherwise how is it that the same Geneva which has allowed an Indian to preside at a session of the international Labour Conference, and to be a member and then to be the president of the Governing Body of the International Labour Organisation, has studiously refrained from admitting an Indian, however able and talented, to the membership of the Council of the League of Nations?"

"Lest we should be accused of being unfair to Geneva, we shall quote here a pronouncement made by the Law Member of the Government of India which will bear out our statement. When Sir Phiroze Sethna two years ago moved a resolution in the Council of State suggesting that the Government should make it known to the League authorities that India was a candidate for election to the League Council, Sir Brojendra Mitter said: 'Having regard to the constitution of India, although India's status is that of absolute equality with the other members of the League, having regard to our constitution, our authority there and our influence there cannot be the same as the authority or influence, say, of the Dominions Sir, then Government of India do not wish to court a rebuff'. The constitution of India, and her influence at Geneva have not undergone an improvement during the interval. How is it then that the superior status and the greater influence of the dominions have not prevented an Indian from being elected not only to the membership but to the presidentship of the Governing Body? Why should her inferior constitution be a bar to her election to the corresponding body of the League and why should Sir Atul Chatterjee's talents and ability be not similarly recognized by that body also? Of course, we are very much gratified indeed at Sir Atul's election, but let the powers that dominate Geneva not make too much of their altruistic motives in conferring this honour upon India."

... ..

The October 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces under the caption "I.L.O. Conventions: Ratifications by various States", the various notes on the ratification of certain I.L. Conventions by Belgium, Bulgaria, Hungary, Italy, and Persia, published in "Industrial and Labour Information" of 1 and 15-10-1932.

... ..

The October 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces at pages 124-126, a long and appreciative review of Mr. H.B. Butler's Report on Labour conditions in Egypt originally published in the September 1932 issue of the Ministry of Labour Gazette, London.

... ..

The October 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces from the Legislative Assembly Debates of 23-9-1932, the interpellation by Mr. K. Ahmed, regarding the representation of the Government of India at International Labour Conferences and the reply given by Sir Frank Royce, Member, Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, thereto (Vide, pages 1-2- of the report of this Office for October 1932 for a reproduction of the interpellation and answer thereto).

... ..

The October 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes a short summary of the report of the Delegates of the Government of India to the 16th session of the International Labour Conference.

(A copy of the Report of the Delegates of the Government of India to the 16th session of the I.L. Conference was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute D.1/2372/32 of 15-9-1932).

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The October 1932 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the I. L. O. Questionnaire re. abolition of fee-charging employment agencies and the answers thereto provisionally framed by the Government of India.

... ..

In the course of a review on the book "International Unemployment" (International Industrial Relations Institute, The Hague), contributed

by Mr. K.E. Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office, to the Servant of India and published in its issue dated 10-11-1932, attention is drawn to the great interest taken by the I. L. O. on the problem of unemployment and to the many reports and monographs on unemployment issued by the I. L. O.

... ..

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 13-11-1932 and the Guardian of 17-11-1932 (Vol.X, No.41) publish an Associated Press of India message to the effect that Sir Frank Noyce, Member in charge of Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, would be moving in the present session of the Legislative Assembly a resolution recommending to the Governor-General non-ratification of the Convention re. age of admission of children for employment in non-industrial occupations and non-acceptance of the recommendation on the subject.

... ..

The Times of India of 18-11-1932 and the Hindu of 19-11-1932 publish a news item to the effect that the Ahmedabad Millowners Association has suggested the name of Seth Ambalal Sarabhai, as the employers' delegate to the 17th session of the International Labour Conference.

... ..

At a meeting of the Madras Central Labour Board held on 20-11-32 a resolution was passed suggesting that Messrs. C. Basudev, M.L.C., and M.S. Koteswaran, should be the Indian Workers' delegate and adviser to the delegate respectively to the 17th I.L. Conference. The resolution

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passed by the Board were published in the Hindu of 21-11-1932.

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Dr. Pillai, the Director of this Office, delivered a lecture on 21-11-1932 in the Delhi Commercial College on "Industrial Peace" in the course of which the ideals and work of the I.L.O. for ensuring humanitarian conditions of work and industrial peace throughout the world was explained. A short summary of Dr. Pillai's speech was published in the Hindustan Times of 22-11-1932.

... ..

"United India and Indian States", Delhi, of 26-11-1932, publishes a long editorial article reviewing Dr. Pillai's book "India and the International Labour Organisation". In the course of the article, the chapter in the book dealing with the Indian States and the I.L.O. is criticised and the position that Indian States are not bound by the decisions of the I.L.Conference is taken.

... ..

The 12th Anniversary Special number of the Swarajya, Madras, dated 26-11-1932, publishes a long article under the caption "I.L.O. and Indian Democracy" contributed by the Director of this Office.

(The cutting of the article from the Swarajya was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.4/2687/32 of 1-12-1932).

National Labour Legislation.

Amendment to Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926.

Attention is invited to pages 1185-1187 of Part I of the Gazette of India of 29-10-1932 (No.44) where a draft of certain further amendments to the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926, which ~~is~~ it is proposed to make in exercise of the power conferred by section 29 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923), is published. It is stated that the draft will be taken into consideration by

✓ 1-2-1933.

Trade Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1932.

(Act XIX of 1932)

At pages 10-11 of our September 1932 report was given the full text of the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 1932, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 5-9-1932. The Bill was passed by the Assembly on 14-9-1932 and the Trade Disputes (Amendment) Act, 1932, as passed by the Assembly received the assent of the Governor-General on 30-9-1932. The text of the Act is published at page 51 of Part IV of the Gazette of India of 8-10-1932.

Indian Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1932.

(Act XVI of 1932)

The full text of the Indian Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 1932, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 5-9-1932, was given at pages 11-13 of our September 1932 report. The Assembly passed the Bill without any change on 12-9-1932, and the Indian Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1932, as passed by the Assembly received

the assent of the Governor-General on 30-9-1932. The full text of the Act is published at page 47 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 8-10-1932.

Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932.

(Act No. XXII of 1932).

Reference was made at pages 9-13 of our March 1932 report to the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Bill, 1932, which was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 11-3-1932. The Bill was passed after making certain changes in the text of the Bill, by the Assembly on 23-9-1932 and the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act, 1932, received the assent of the Governor General on 8-10-1932. The text of the Act is published at pages 59-68 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 15-10-1932.

Conditions of Work of Hand-loom Workers in the BombayPresidency: Inquiry Report Published

In view of the fact that ^{the} hand weaving industry is of great importance in the national economy of India and that in the Bombay Presidency, next to agriculture, it affords daily livelihood to the largest number of persons in indigenous industries, (about 523,231 weavers including those in Indian States in the Presidency), the Government of Bombay decided in 1927 that a survey should be made of this industry in the Presidency and Mr. S. V. Telang, Senior Weaving Assistant to the Director of Industries, was entrusted with the task. The following is a summary of his report which has been published now.

Economic Conditions of Hand Weavers: There are no fewer than 990 places in the Bombay Presidency (excluding Sind, Indian States and Agencies) where 2 to 5,000 or more handlooms are at work. For the purpose of the report, the weavers have been divided into three classes according to their economic condition. Nearly five per cent of the weavers who come in class I combine the role of producer with that of middleman. They are dealers in yarn and hand-made cloth and themselves maintain 10 to 50 looms or more. ^{each} The weavers in class II are not so well off in their industrial resources as those mentioned in class I and their financial position is not quite so sound, but they are able to spare small sums of money to purchase yarn and silk according to their requirements and possess their own looms to work on. This class comprises nearly 20 per cent of the hand-weaving population. The weavers in class III are, from a financial point of view, in a most depressed condition, carrying on their work with difficulty and contracting debts from leading yarn and cloth merchants in order to furnish themselves with their requirements. Occasionally they weave for merchants at the quarters provided by them and pledge their looms and property, earning a bare living wage till their debt is paid off. This class is estimated to include 75 per cent of the weaving population.

Indebtedness & Illiteracy among Weavers: Out of the total population of hand-loom weavers three-fourths are debtors either to merchants, or hand-loom Markhandars ^(or) who supply these weavers with yarn and silk on credit at high rates and ~~exact in return~~ ^{exact in return} the finished article of the looms at great profit. The report remarks that the prospects of the weaving community would certainly improve if they could carry on their trade independently of middlemen either in respect of raw materials and tools or of selling facilities.

The majority of weavers being extremely conservative and illiterate are very slow in adopting ~~any~~ modern methods and improved appliances in their art. The benefit that can be derived from co-operative organisation is also unfortunately beyond their comprehension. They, therefore, generally display no real desire to free themselves from the trammels of merchants.

Paying Lines of Procedure: Recommendations. - At present the weavers produce the same varieties of cloth as their ancestors did a hundred years ago and it ~~is~~ is suggested that they should be encouraged to produce the kinds of goods for which there would be no competition from mills and factories. The report mentions the various classes of fabrics which the handloom weaver can produce without competition.

Prospects of Handloom Weaving as Subsidiary Occupation for

Agriculturists. - The report discusses in detail the scope for employing handloom weaving as a subsidiary occupation for agriculturists. An agriculturist after about six months' practice on a fly-shuttle loom can weave 5 to 6 yards of cloth and earn 6 to 8 annas a day if he works eight hours a day. Unfortunately, handloom weaving is viewed with disfavour by some of the agriculturists as a subsidiary occupation. This is chiefly the case with those Hindu cultivators who consider themselves superior to the weaving community in social status. This prejudice now prevalent in some centres, along with the disinclination of many to adopt any occupation in their spare time, is a retarding factor in the introduction of hand-weaving as a subsidiary occupation among the agricultural classes.

Moreover, those who have already taken to hand weaving as a part-time occupation do not easily get their requirements of raw materials such as yarn, etc., at a cheap rate. Often the raw materials are not available locally while the surplus cloth woven by them, in the absence of sale in their own villages, has to be sold elsewhere.

^{it is recommended} The introduction of a suitable cottage warping and sizing machine, would be of material advantage to weavers, as on this machine both warping and sizing processes are done at one and the same time.

Since the report was submitted to Government a central hand-weaving institute has been established at Poona and is functioning very satisfactorily; while in Sind there are two special weaving schools and a dyeing demonstration institute.

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Wage Census in Madras Presidency:6th Quinquennial Report.

The report on the sixth Quinquennial Census of wages in the Madras Presidency taken 1931 has recently been published. The following extracts from the report refer to wages of artisans and field labourers.

Wages of Artisans. - The average rates of daily wages for an artisan, taking the presidency as a whole, have fallen from the previous census rates by 8 per cent in the cash rate, by $18\frac{3}{4}$ per cent in the grain rate, and by 40 per cent in the rate for a plough. In the districts of Ganjam, Chittoor, North Arcot, Anantapur, Cuddapah, Nellore, Chingleput, Salem, Trichinopoly and the Nilgiris, there has been an increase in the rate of daily cash wages, and in the other districts there has been a decrease from the rate of wages prevalent in 1926. The wages paid to a carpenter and to a black-smith are almost the same throughout the presidency, the difference being very small in some cases. The average rates of daily cash wages, taking the presidency as a whole, are Re. 0-13-5 for a black-smith and Re. 0-12-11 for a carpenter, the corresponding rates during the previous census being Re. 0-15-5 and Re. 0-14-1, respectively. Grouping them all into one class, viz., artisans, the average rate of daily cash wages for an artisan in the presidency works out to Re. 0-13-2 according to the present census as against Re. 0-14-3 of the previous census. Allowing a margin of one anna either way, the average rate may be taken to prevail in the districts of East Godavari, Anantapur, South Arcot, Chittoor, North Arcot, Coimbatore, Ramnad and Tinnevely.

Each class of artisans has been sub-divided into superior and ordinary. The average rate of daily wages for an artisan in the Presidency as a whole was Re. 1-1-4 in 1931 against Re. 1-1-6 of the previous census. This shows that the causes which contributed to the low wages of labourers in the rural areas have not adversely affected the urban wages to any appreciable extent. In the case of Madras alone, the average daily rate of wages has increased from Re. 1-2-6 in 1926 to Re. 1-10-0 in 1931. It has also risen, though not so much, in Anantapur, North Arcot, Ganjam, Salem, Trichinopoly and Vizagapatam. There has been no change in the average rates in Cuddapah and Nellore. In other districts a fall is noticeable.

The Madras ^{city} average daily rate of wages for every class of artisan is Re. 1-10-0 and this is the highest for the Presidency. The lowest average rates are Re. 0-13-4 for a carpenter in East Godavari, Re. 0-12-0 for a blacksmith in South Kanara, Re. 0-13-0 for a mason in East Godavari, and Re. 0-11-4 for a bricklayer in Ganjam. The district average rates of wages for a carpenter are the same as those of 1926, in Cuddapah, South Kanara, Nellore and the Nilgiris. The average rates have not changed in the case of a blacksmith in West Godavari, Guntur, Nellore, the Nilgiris and Trichinopoly; in the case of a

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mason in East Godavari, South Kanara, Nellore and Tanjore; and in the case of a bricklayer in East Godavari, Nellore and the Nilgiris. The average rates have increased in the Madras City to a considerable extent. The changes in the other districts do not go beyond 28 per cent of the figures of the previous census.

Wages of Field Labourers. - A comparison of the figures of the present census with those of the previous census shows that in general, the average daily earnings of a field-labourer of either sex have decreased — the presidency average daily rate for the men having fallen from Re. 0-6-5 in 1926 to Rs. 0-5-3 in 1931, and the rate for the women from Re. 0-4-1 to Rs. 0-3-5. In Anantapur alone, the rates for both men and women labourers have risen slightly. In the case of men, the decrease is marked in East Godavari, West Godavari and Kistna, and in the case of women, the fall is appreciable in West Godavari. The prevailing average daily rate of Re. 0-9-1 in the Nilgiris is found to be the highest in the presidency. In Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara also the average daily rates are much above the presidency average, being between Re. 0-6-9 and 0-6-11. Allowing a margin of 6 pies either way, the Presidency average rate for a man may be taken to prevail in nine districts; in Ganjam, West Godavari, Guntur, Cuddapah, Salem and Tinnevely, the rates are slightly below the Presidency average, and in Chingleput, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly the rates are slightly above it. Allowing a margin of 5 pies on either side, the Presidency average daily rate of Re. 0-3-5 earned by a woman may be taken to prevail in 15 districts. The average rates in Guntur and Madura are the same as the Presidency average; those in East Godavari, Kurnool, Anantapur, South Arcot, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly and Tinnevely are slightly below, and those in Ramnad, Chittoor, Cuddapah, Chingleput, West Godavari and Kistna are slightly above it.

It will be seen that there is now a general depression throughout the Presidency in the average rates of daily wages earned by all classes of workmen. The average rates have fallen to an appreciable extent in East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna, Kurnool and South Kanara. In a few districts, the wages of particular classes have slightly increased, and the highest average rates of wages prevail in the Nilgiris. The districts of Tanjore, Malabar and South Kanara come next for high rates. In Kurnool and Vizagapatam the rates of wages are low, but Bellary is remarkable for the very low rates of wages prevailing in it for all classes of labourers. The general fall in the rates of wages throughout the Presidency has been attributed to the general economic depression everywhere.

Labour Conditions in Tata Iron & Steel Company,
Jamshedpur, 1931-32.*

The following information regarding labour conditions in Tata's Iron & Steel Works at Jamshedpur is taken from a pamphlet on the working of the company during 1931-32 issued by the Tata Iron & Steel Co., Ltd. in September 1932.

Labour Force. - When the Company started operations in 1911-12 a labour force of 8,000 was adequate to its needs. The strength in April 1932 was 18,413 monthly paid, and 5,241 weekly paid employees, leaving out of account the large force of contractors' labour employed at the coal and iron mines, at the limestone quarries, and at the Works itself for the unloading of raw materials. This large labour force is recruited from practically every Indian province and from the aboriginal tribes of the country surrounding Jamshedpur. The skilled and unskilled labour are roughly differentiated in many respects. The skilled workmen who come to Jamshedpur, on their own initiative, from more or less distant homes, form a more stable and less migratory element of the force and are mostly employed on a monthly payment basis. The unskilled men belonging mostly to the cultivating classes from the immediate neighbourhood, form a more or less casual and migratory coolie force, and are usually employed on a daily rated or weekly paid basis. The female labour, which works only during the day and never at night, belongs to the latter class, and is almost wholly confined to coolie work. The Company employs no child labour, barring a few youths engaged as errand boys and messengers, attached to the various departmental offices, which are open only during the day. Besides these, the Company employs about 4,000 workers controlled by contractors. The rules laid down in the Company's Safety Rules, in the Indian Factory Act and in the Workmen's Compensation Act ~~and in the~~ are enforced in the case of contract labour just as they are enforced in the case of the Company's own labour. Similarly accidents to contractors' labour are reportable by the various Superintendents, and are investigated by the Company's Safety Inspector, and wages are paid for time lost as the result of accidents. At present, the contractors have quarters accommodating approximately six hundred labourers who form the nucleus of their staffs. These are readily available for urgent work on account of their proximity to the Works. Any extra work, however, is paid for at the scheduled rates for over-time.

Absenteeism & Annual Turnover. - Of this large force of over 23,000 workers, it has been found that about 75 per cent of the skilled, and 50 per cent of the unskilled workers from contiguous districts work continuously throughout the year. About 30 per cent of the skilled, and 15 per cent of the unskilled workers recruited from non-contiguous districts go back to their homes once during the year and then return to work. Only about 2 per cent of the skilled and about 12 per cent of the unskilled go to their homes in non-

* Information regarding the Steel Works of the Tata Iron & Steel Co., Ltd., at Jamshedpur. - September 1932 - pp.19

non-contiguous districts more than once in the year. The average duration of employment is two years, and the annual labour turn-over is on the down grade, giving promise of greater stability of labour and, consequently, of a higher standard of efficiency. Thus in the three years from 1925 to 1927, the turnover figure fell from 36.6 per cent to 24.1 per cent.

The supply of labour at Jamshedpur is always well in excess of the Company's requirements, and it has never been found necessary to employ any special recruiting agency. The Employment Bureau maintained by the Company registers applicants for skilled and unskilled jobs, without any fee, and the Officer-in-charge selects men for the requirements of the various departments.

Wages. - During the period April 1927 to March 1928, the average earnings of workers were Rs. 32.9 per month per head. In five working months during the period April 1928 to March 1929, a period during which the Steel Company was faced with a number of strikes, the average had increased to Rs. 37.4 and in April 1929 it had further increased to Rs. 42.3 per mensem per capita. A comparison of the rates of pay in the years 1919 and 1930 shows clearly that wages have in all cases risen by anything from 30 to 100 per cent. In some cases in 1930, rates are four to five hundred per cent above those of 1919. The increase in wages is stated to be much higher than would be warranted by the increase in the cost of living. The Company in addition maintains a staff Provident Fund which was started in 1920.

These increases in wages have been granted quite independently of the various production and departmental bonuses enjoyed by the men. The production and departmental bonuses which amounted to Rs. 1,666,000 in the year 1931-32 form a substantial part of the emoluments of the employees at Jamshedpur. The first of these, namely, the general or production bonus, was introduced after the strike of 1928-29 and forms a kind of profit sharing scheme under which a sum of Rs. 1,000,000 per year is to be distributed as wages among the workmen on a basic production of 40,000 tons of finished steel per month. If the production goes above this figure, it is left to the Company to increase the bonus up to Rs. 1,500,000 per year till a production of 50,000 tons per month is reached. The bonus is correspondingly decreased with the decrease in production until it stops altogether at the production ~~of 30,000 tons per month.~~ of 30,000 tons per month. This bonus is being given in addition to the older departmental bonus which is based upon certain departmental rates of production.

Leave Rules. - Under the Works Service Rules for uncovenanted employees, every worker on the monthly rated establishment is allowed one calendar month's leave with full pay for every completed year's service, or a gratuity equal to his full salary for the period of the accumulated leave, up to a maximum of three months' pay. The question of curtailing this privilege and compelling the men to go on leave in the interest of their own health and efficiency is engaging the attention of the Company. A worker employed on a daily wage basis is allowed two weeks' leave on full pay for every completed year of service, and is permitted to accumulate such leave up to a total period of

six weeks at a time. All monthly wage employees, drawing Rs. 30/- per month or more, who have served the Company continuously for seven years, are entitled to six months' leave on half pay, which may at their option be converted into three months' leave on full pay, for every period of seven years' continuous service. In addition all employees are granted two days' holiday on full pay in each year for religious festivals, and casual leave on full pay for not exceeding five days a year to monthly rated employees.

Cooperative Movement among Labourers. - There are at Jamshedpur 23 departmental cooperative credit societies, which have, to a large extent, relieved the employees from the clutches of Kabulee and Mahajan money-lenders who usually extort unconscionable rates of interest on their loans. The departmental cooperative credit societies have a total paid-up capital of over Rs. 400,000, a reserve fund of over Rs. 73,000 and an outside working capital of Rs. 125,000. The total amount of loans advanced to members is about Rs. 590,000, and the dividend paid yearly amounts to about 26,000 rupees. The Company gives help to these societies by collecting loans instalments from the men's wages, and maintains regular banking accounts of the Provident Fund and of the cooperative credit societies. The latter are in sound condition, but the credit or loan side of such societies is reported to have over-shadowed their savings side. The report remarks that ~~with~~ although the societies have saved the workers from the clutches of the money-lenders they cannot be said to have made any particular headway in encouraging thrift. The Company is reported to be trying to start "Saving Societies" in order to encourage thrift among the members. The possibility of starting a cooperative store with branches is also being examined to sell grain and cloth at cost price with a view to bring down the cost of living by eliminating the large profits of the middlemen.

Working Hours. - The usual weekly limit for the Company's non-continuous departments is six days of eight ~~an~~ hours each, and in a few cases, one more day of four and a half hours. In the continuous process departments, the limit is seven days of eight hours and six days of eight hours each in alternate weeks. In the Company's mines also, hours are limited to a maximum of nine hours per day.

Treatment during Present Depression. - The report states that ~~the~~ the Company adopted the policy, from the beginning, of not dispensing with the services of the men, as far as it was possible, and of distributing the work by making them work for fewer days in the week and by granting leave by rotation. The report states that this policy was adopted in pursuance of the I.L.O. recommendation to that effect and that it has been appreciated by the ~~men~~ workers.

Indianisation of Services. - In order to accelerate the Indianisation of services, the Company established a Technical Institute where selected Indian graduates in science and engineering ~~are~~ given higher metallurgical training, on the successful completion of which they ~~are~~ employed in the works. Besides the Institute, the Company maintained a Technical Night School and ran an apprentice course, ~~which~~

The whole scheme of technical education at Jamshedpur was revised by a committee appointed in 1930. The Committee amalgamated the Technical Institute, the Technical Night School, and the Apprentice course under a comprehensive scheme of technical education, with three grades of apprentices. Class "A" apprentices are to be recruited from Honours graduates of Universities, preferably with foreign experience, and are to be trained with a view ultimately to filling positions as Superintendents or Assistant Superintendents of the various production departments. "B" class apprentices are to be recruited from graduates and trained with a view to filling positions of Foremen or Assistant Foremen. "C" class apprentices will be recruited from candidates between the ages of 15 and 17, who have ~~not~~ attained at least the English Middle standard, and who pass the prescribed medical examination. The apprentice will be engaged by the Company as an artisan or skilled workman when he passes out. The total cost of the scheme to the Company will be well over rupees 100,000 per year.

An examination of statistics for the period 1923-32 shows that there is a marked downward tendency, both in the number of covenanted hands, and in their remuneration. Thus, while in 1924-25 there were 223 covenanted hands drawing an annual salary of Rs.1.949 millions, the number had fallen in 1931-32 to 93, drawing 1.293 millions. In June 1932, the latest month for which figures are available, the number has further fallen to 78 men drawing Rs. 100,000. In 1927-28, covenanted hands received 1.7 millions by way of bonus; last year this figure had dwindled to Rs. 567,000. The total amount disbursed by way of salary and bonus fell from 3.449 millions in 1925-26 to 1.86 million during 1931-32.

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Welfare Work; Housing. - In laying out the housing, it was decided to prevent over-crowding by limiting the incidence of population to twelve families per acre. The Company has built over 4500 houses of various types for the accommodation of its employees, at a capital cost of over 9.6 million rupees. But, so rapid has the growth of population been that the Company's building programme has not been able to keep abreast of the demand for houses. The Company has, therefore, instituted a scheme of giving every opportunity to employees to build their own houses, by granting them building loans at a very low rate of interest. The Company leases out plots on favourable terms, and advances money up to a maximum of two thirds of the cost of the house at three per cent interest. This loan is recoverable from the employee in easy instalments which are deducted from his wages. Many have taken advantage of the scheme and over four thousand houses have been built in this way. In addition, over 5,000 houses have been built by workers at their own cost in the bastees of the residential area. Another ~~1,500~~ 1,500 houses have been erected by workers in bastees outside the Company's area. The rents of the houses built by the Company are calculated as near as possible at 7 per cent on the capital price and they are always full.

Medical Facilities. - The Company maintains an up-to-date hospital with one hundred and forty beds, to which an X-ray department has been recently added. It has erected five dispensaries in different parts of the town, two first-aid stations inside the Works, and an isolation hospital with fifty-two beds. All the employees are

treated free in the hospital and at their quarters, a nominal fee being charged for medical attendance on their families at their quarters. Outdoor treatment at the hospital and dispensaries is entirely free to everybody, whether employees of the Company or not. The annual attendance at the hospital and dispensaries in-door and out-door exceeds ^{Rs.} 1,00,000.

Educational Facilities. - The provision of educational facilities for the children of the employees at Jamshedpur is another important welfare activity undertaken by the Company. There are at present one high school, two middle English schools for boys and one middle English school for girls. There are also 28 primary schools in the town, including one for girls. In these, education is imparted through 8 Indian languages, to meet the requirements of the cosmopolitan population. Of the 28 primary schools, 17 are managed by the Company through its Schools Committee, and, in these, education is free. The other 11 primary schools are managed by the residents with grants-in-aid from the Company, through its Schools Committee. The number of students reading in the Jamshedpur schools is about 4,000. In addition, there are six night schools imparting general education to adult employees of the Company who cannot attend day schools. There is a Technical Institute, maintained by the Company, where higher metallurgical training is given to selected students, with a view to recruitment for the Company's service. There is also a technical night school for training employees of the Company in elementary mechanical and electrical engineering outside their duty hours. From August 1931, the Technical Institute, the Technical Night School and the Apprentice Scheme have been amalgamated under a comprehensive scheme of technical education, with three grades of apprentices. The total cost of education during the last financial year was over 91,000 rupees, of which the Company contributed over Rs. 74,000 and the Government of ^{West Bengal} ~~India~~ about Rs. 17,000. This does not include the cost of training given at the Technical Institute and Technical Night School.

"Safety First" Activities. - Inside the Works itself, besides the first-aid stations, first-aid boxes have been provided together with emergency stretchers in every department. Every attempt is made, through signs and propaganda, to inculcate Safety First principles. Books of Safety Rules, prepared for the various departments, are distributed among the workers. In addition, free training in First-Aid is given to selected workers from each department.

Creches & Maternity-Benefit. - ~~There~~ A women's rest-house, under the charge of a matron, is maintained near the Coke Ovens, and a small beginning has been made towards establishing a creche by setting up a few cradles in this rest-house.

Three and a half years ago, the Company instituted a scheme granting maternity benefit to women workers. Under the scheme, the equivalent of six weeks' wages is paid to a woman worker on her confinement, provided that she has been in the continuous employ of the Company for not less than 12 months prior to the date of her confinement, and provided that she gives an undertaking not to take up

any work outside her own home during the period of six weeks following confinement.

Workers' Recreation. - The Company's Welfare Department takes a keen interest in organizing sports, picnics, recreation, and free cinema shows to amuse the worker in his leisure moments. Besides the Officers' Club, which caters for the recreational needs of the Work~~ing~~ Supervisory Staff and which is equipped with the usual club amenities, there are two Institutes, 19 social, athletic, literary, and dramatic clubs, which have their own buildings and conduct their activities on lands leased at nominal rents from the Steel Company. To give entertainment to the poorest classes of work-men, especially those living in the outlying bastees, the Company gives free cinema shows.

(For previous references to the Welfare activities and conditions of labour in Tata Iron & Steel Co., vide pages 27-28, January 1929 report, page 44, April 1929 report, page 13, September 1931 report and page 26 October 1931 report).

Welfare Work in Cawnpore Mills.

The services of a Y.M.C.A. Secretary were loaned to Messrs. Begg, Sutherland & Co., a few years ago with a view to ^{organise} ~~conduct~~ welfare work among the workmen in the ~~concerns~~ concerns in Cawnpore some of which are the Elgin Mills, the Textiles Ltd. and Cawtex Hosiery, the Cawnpore Sugar Works, the Gas Factory, the Brushware and the Cawnpore Electric Supply Corporation. The major part of welfare work is done in connection with the Elgin Mills which has about four thousand workers on the roll. In the beginning the field was surveyed and the lines of action were carefully laid down. There were three things in particular towards which efforts had to be focussed, namely, the workmen's economic betterment, the development of personality and ^{the relations} ~~reconciliation~~ between employees and employers. The following are the salient features of the programme of welfare work conducted in these mills and it is reported that the results have been encouraging.

Relations. - The workmen are encouraged to have direct dealings with their officers as far as possible in representing their grievances. In cases where direct dealings could not be secured, the Welfare Officer takes up the cases and reports to the authorities on the workers' behalf. Visits are paid to the workmen at their work and during leisure hours. Personal talks with men concerning their work and their social and economic problems have gone a long way in the efforts to bring about happy relations between the employer and the employed. All kinds of collective grievances of the workers have been brought to the attention of the Directors with alternative suggestions, and occasionally detailed suggestions are made for increasing the efficiency of the workmen and lowering the cost of production. The Welfare Superintendent ~~has~~ is reported to have been able to interpret the difficulties of one party to the other and in a general way has served as a 'safety valve' and a 'shock absorber' for the workmen by enabling them to give vent to their feelings of worked up or genuine resentment. A proposal is reported to be under consideration at present for the recruitment of labour on a ~~syndicate~~ ^{syndicate} basis by the welfare Officer himself and ~~this~~ put an end to the present system of recruitment through Foremen and Mistries which has given rise to many abuses.

Housing. - There are four settlements belonging to the Company for housing these workers, the biggest of these being the Elgin Mills Settlement. In the past they were in the hands of the mistries and petty foremen who grossly abused their authority in many directions. Recently a new settlement has been acquired from the Improvement Trust which built 64 quarters on the plot to meet the need of the working class population. "A" type house in these settlements has two rooms, a verandah and a store room, walled court-yard and a two seated latrine, and arrangements are in hand to give individual water taps in each quarter. The "B" type is the same as A but with one room, with no prospect of individual tap. The "C" type has only a room and a verandah.

Educational Facilities & Recreation. - A girls' school, and a boys' school for half time workers and the dependents of the workmen are being run in the Elgin Mills settlement. All half-time workers for Elgin Mills are recruited from this school. Half a pound of milk is given daily to each student of both the schools. There are two libraries for the benefit of the workmen, where vernacular newspapers and magazines, pictorials, and books on loan are provided, besides indoor games of all kinds, carrom being the most popular. Lectures and lantern lectures are delivered on subjects dealing with ~~travel~~ travels, geography, history, personal hygiene, and different diseases.

Medical Facilities. - Medical attention is paid in most of the factories. A female dispensary is provided for the womenfolk of the workmen, in charge of a lady doctor of sub-assistant surgeon grade. Recently a creche has been opened for the children of the women working in the Brushware. The female dispensary, the girls' school, the creche and other welfare work among women such as story telling, sewing, singing, different kinds of tamashas (recreational program) for women, house to house visits, child welfare, and advice to mothers, etc, are conducted under the supervision of the Welfare

Superintendent's wife, as an honorary worker.

^{been} Other Activities. - A cooperative credit society which ~~has~~ started is in full operation and has been of real help to a large number of workmen. Schemes have been prepared for annual holidays, long service bonus, provident fund, gratuities, etc., for ~~the~~ workmen. Pensions have been actually secured for old workmen or their widows. Special help is rendered in cases of hardship.

General Remarks. - It is reported that the extreme ignorance of the men themselves is a great hindrance in the work. The people of the United Provinces are said to be conservative in their habits, and Cawnpore is one of the worst cities of the province in this respect. Most of the difficulties and impediments to rapid development of welfare work therefore arise from their hopeless ignorance. These difficulties are aggravated by the Mistries and Foremen who are naturally opposed to the welfare officer as he limits their influence over the workers. Yet another difficulty has been the lack of confidence of the workers in the welfare officer. Though their confidence is being gained more and more, they still consider the welfare man in a vague way to be a capitalist's agent. They cannot understand why so much courtesy and kindness should be shown by this department, when inside the factories the treatment given to them by their mistries is different.

Extension of Health & Welfare Activities of Mines Boards;

Action on Whitley Report.

The Royal Commission on Labour in India recommended that the Mining Settlement Acts, which provide for the control and sanitation of the areas under the jurisdiction of the Jharia and Asansol Mines Boards of Health in Bihar and Bengal, should be amended so as to include welfare activities as part of the functions of those Boards and that the Boards be re-named Boards of Health and Welfare. They also recommended that each Board should be enlarged so as to give increased representation to employers and to include representatives of the workers, chosen, where possible, in consultation with their organisations, and at least one woman member.

On 14-9-1932, the Government of Bihar and Orissa addressed a letter to the Jharia Mines Board of Health requesting it to consult recognised associations interested in the matter, ^{re. the advisability of giving effect to the above recommendations} and forward their opinions along with the Boards, ~~regarding the above recommendations of the Whitley Commission.~~ The letter states that under the Law as it stands, expenditure on maternity and child welfare proper for the wives of labourers or for women Labourers and their children is a legitimate charge on the funds of the Mines Board; but these activities are not explicitly prescribed in the Act as functions of the Board. In order to give effect to the Commission's intentions it would apparently be necessary to make clear by an amendment of section 18 together with a definition that maternity and child welfare activities are functions of the Board. The recommendation that the Board should be enlarged in order to give increased representation to employers and to include representatives of the workers and ~~at least one~~ woman would also require legislation by the amendment of section 6.

The Committee of the Indian Mining Association ^{which} ~~was~~ was consulted in the matter ~~replied~~ that they had no objection to the Act being amended so as to make it clear that maternity and child welfare activities were functions of the Board, provided no large increase in expenditure was entailed and the Collieries were not called upon to make any increased contribution. As regards the question of increasing the representation on the Board, the Committee intimated that they did not approve of workers being represented on the Board but they would have no objection to the Act being amended so as to provide for one woman being included on the Board.

Hours of Work in U.P. Government Presses Increased.

It is understood from press reports that the United Provinces Government have decided to increase the working hours of all industrial workers employed in the Government presses in these provinces from 6½ hours to 8 hours with effect from 1-1-1933, and to grant to the men at present employed as salaried industrial workers an approximate increase of 10 per cent in their salary from the same date, in consideration of the increased hours.

In pursuance of this decision, the hours of all industrial workers in the press establishment of Government (other than workers on a shift system, engine-room and machine assistants) will, from 1-1-1933, be 8-30 a.m. to 12-30 p.m. and 1-30 p.m. to 5-30 p.m. The engine-room staff and machine assistants are to attend one hour earlier. Linotype and Monotype operators, and casting machine attendants and others at present on shift system are to attend either in the first shift from 5-30 a.m. to 2 p.m. with half an hour break or ^{from} 2 p.m. to 10-30 p.m. shift with half an hour break. The hours of branch presses are to be arranged to suit local requirements but would also have a working day of eight hours excluding rest periods.

The Government have also revised the scale of pay for new entrants to the clerical and menial staff of the press and the new scale would apply to new entrants from 1-1-1933.

The employees of the Government Press, Allahabad, are reported to have held a meeting ^{on 12-11-1932} to consider the new scheme ~~on 12-11-1932~~ at which they resolved to move the Government to cancel the new ^{arrangement} ~~scheme~~.

Recruitment of Labour for Assam Tea Gardens
from the Madras Presidency, 1931-32.*

The following details regarding the recruitment of Labour for Assam tea gardens from the Madras Presidency are taken from the report on the working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in the Madras Presidency for the year ending 30-6-1932.

The system of recruitment (for details vide page 9 of our February 1931 report) is reported to have remained unchanged during the year. 33 licences were issued to local agents of which 3 were cancelled. 6,159 sardars were employed during the year and they worked under the licensed local agents. 6 licences of garden sardars in the Ganjam district were cancelled during the year. 8,489 emigrants were registered during the period under review in the presidency, as against 9,930 in the previous year. 8,357 of these were recruited for Assam, 51 for Cachar and 81 for Sylhet. Of the 8,489, 6,900 were actual labourers and the remaining 1,589 were dependents. Of the 8,489 emigrants registered, 6,588 only were despatched to their final destinations from the forwarding stations. Of the persons despatched, 6,527 (3,991 men, 1,353 women and 1,183 children) were for Assam and the remaining 61 (34 men, 18 women and 9 children) were for Sylhet.

(The working of the Act in the Madras Presidency during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 9-10- of our February 1931 report and that for 1930-31 at page 16 of our January 1932 report).

* Report on the Working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act for the year ending 30th June 1932. - Bangalore; Printed at the Mysore Residency Press and Published by the Manager, Central Publication Branch, Calcutta. -1932. - Price 6 annas or 8d. - pp.9.

Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1931-32*

The following information regarding the working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 30-6-1932 is taken from the Annual Report on the working of the Act submitted by the Chief Inspector of Factories, Bombay.

Returns Received. - Returns were received from 374 of the 389 factories amenable to the Act. The few outstanding concerns employed few women, and probably did not pay any benefit. The Act was extended during the year to the outstanding factories in the Khandesh and Sholapur areas, to the districts of Dharwar, Thana and Kaira, and to the City of Poona. There were on the average 53,487 women employed daily in the factories in the Presidency which submitted returns. The number of women who claimed maternity benefits under section 6(1) was 6,185.

Benefits Paid. - 5,455 benefits were granted ^{during the year} compared with 5,231 in the previous year, and the amount paid was Rs. 128,542, an increase of about Rs. 7,000 over the preceding year. The claims paid per 100 women increased slightly in Bombay, but the percentage viz. 6.8, was considerably lower than in Ahmedabad and Sholapur where the high rates of the previous year were maintained. The report states that it appears certain that the birth rates amongst textile women in these centres are considerably higher than in Bombay. It is possible that the rates may be some reflex of the relative differences in industrial prosperity. The average benefit paid was Rs. 23-9-0. This, a slight increase over last year, very closely approximates to the maximum of Rs. 24-8-0, and indicates that the average woman is making almost full use of the pre-confinement period of abstention from work.

Attitude of Employers. - According to the report, ~~many~~ employers, as a whole, continued to treat claims liberally, although the claims in a few of the areas to which the Act has recently been extended have not come up to expectations due to a failure of the women to give the requisite notice, and to a feeling that the Act, which insists on a higher rate of benefit than the average earnings in several mofussil areas, is somewhat oppressive. Steps are reported to have already been taken to inform the women of their privileges and also of the qualifying requirements, whilst the mofussil employers' point of view regarding the rate of benefit has been supported.

Enquiry into Expenditure of Benefit Money. - The manner in which expenditure is being incurred being of some importance, was

* Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929 for the year ending 30th June 1932 - Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press 1932 - Price -Anna 1 or 1d. pp.3.

enquired into by Dr. Cama, the Lady Inspector of Factories. Enquiries were made from 157 women in 17 Bombay mills divided into 4 groups. The average expenditure under different items was found to be as follows:-

	Rs. As. Ps.		Rs. As. Ps.
Milk -	1-13- 0	Clothes. -	5- 0- 0
Household Maintenance Expenses.	3- 7- 0	Ceremony -	5-13-0
Extra food (excluding milk).	2-11-0	Ornaments -	1-10- 0
		Medicine -	0- 9- 0
= Dai.	2-13-0	Total -	23-12-0

Only 15 of the women went to their villages for confinement, and of the remaining 142, 71 were confined in their homes by dais, 11 obtained the services of a nurse, 32 went into maternity homes and 28 did not receive any skilled assistance. A considerable ~~xx~~ variation in individual expenditure was noticed, but the figures prove how little is being spent on milk. Ceremonial expenditure varied considerably according to custom, and the economic status of the family. The Mochis ^(Casting) appear to spend considerably more than the Marathas in this direction, and an expenditure of Rs.60 was found in one case. In some instances, particularly where the women were sole earners, practically the whole of the benefit was spent in maintaining the household.

General Remarks. - The report remarks that there can be no question of value of the benefit to working women, and although mill women in Bombay still rely on the dai and on unskilled assistance, the figures prove that a considerable change has taken place in the last decade, since Dr. Barnes found in 1922 that 75 per cent of mill women in Bombay did not obtain skilled assistance. It is clear that the Maternity Benefit Act, and efforts made by Government and the Municipality supplemented by the Wadia Hospital, and the voluntary efforts of the Infant Welfare Society have done a great deal to alleviate the lot of working women in Bombay.

The Lady Inspector is reported to have taken pains to acquaint many women of the facilities and advantages offered in several areas and useful propaganda has been undertaken by the contribution of articles to the Millowners' Magazine. Matters dealing with the health of the mothers and the care of the children have been specially published, together with advice on the spending of the benefit to the best advantage. In the latter connection it is felt that it would be of distinct advantage if the Act would permit, subject to suitable safeguards, the payment of part of the benefit when a woman absents herself from work.

(The working of the Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 41-42 of our December 1930 report and that for 1930-31 at pages 15-16 of the November 1931 report).

Grievances of Postal Employees; Deputation to D.G.P.T.

Messrs S.C.mitra, A.Das and M.R.Puri, members of the Legislative Assembly, who are connected with various Postal and R.M.S.Unions in the country ~~mf~~ waited on Mr. T.Ryan, Director General of Posts and Telegraphs, on 13-11-1932 in order to represent the various grievances of the Postal employees. Among the various grievances of the employees which were discussed, were the question of revised rules regarding punishment and right of appeal and memorial, the cut in salaries, the revised scales of pay for new entrants and allied matters.

Rules regarding Right of Appeal. - As regards the revised rules regarding punishment and appeals, the deputationists pressed that, as hitherto, even the lowest employees of the department should have the right of appeal to the highest authority at least in cases of dismissal or removal from service particularly in view of the fact that experience in recent years has shown that in more cases than one, the appellate authority had set aside the orders of the punishing authority. Mr. Ryan, agreed with this view and promised to see if it could not be arranged that every aggrieved employee should have the right of appeal to the Postmaster-General of his Circle, though he feared that it was not possible to restore the old right of unrestricted appeals right up to the Secretary of State, ^{unless} ~~provided~~, they were sent through the proper channels.

Right of Memorial. - As for restoring the right of memorial, it appears that the Home Department has held the view that the right of memorial is not affected by the new rules laid down, and that, in any case, this subject is still open to consideration, and final

decision on the matter will be taken after giving full weight to the representations made on behalf of the Unions.

Cut in Salaries. - With regard to cuts in salaries, it is understood that Mr. Ryan accepted the contention of the deputationists that it was unfair to have extended the salary cuts to the subordinate staff of the Postal Department, when employees in other departments drawing below Rs.40 a month had been excluded. He stated, however, that due to financial stress, it would not be possible to provide relief in the near future.

Revised Scales for New Entrants. - As regards the revised scales of salaries for new entrants, ~~he~~ he said that the matter was still under the consideration of the Government of India, and ^{not} it would be premature to say whether any differentiation would be introduced as between higher and lower paid employees, but he promised to represent the views of the Unions to the Government of India, so that they could be taken into consideration in fixing the revised scales.

Quarterly Strike Statistics (Period ending 30-9-1932).

The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, in a communiqué dated 22-11-1932, has published the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the third quarter of 1932. During the period under review, there were 37 disputes involving 35,653 workers and entailing a total loss of 328,208 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency where 18 disputes involving 7,349 workers were responsible for a loss of 39,480 working days; Bengal comes next with 8 disputes involving 17,857 workers and entailing a loss of 156,496 working days; Assam

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with 5 disputes involving 1,874 workers and entailing a loss of 5,325 working days; Madras with 3 disputes involving 942 workers and entailing a loss of 6,276 working days; Bihar & Orissa, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces with 1 dispute each involving 4,000, 3,600 and 31 workers and entailing losses of 60,000, 60,600 and 31 working days respectively, while no strikes were recorded in Burma, Delhi and the Punjab.

Classified according to industries, ^{There were} 16 disputes in cotton and woolen mills involving 10,143 workers ^{and entailing} ~~were responsible for~~ a loss of 95,839 working days, 3 in jute mills involving 16,144 workers and entailing a loss of 149,866 working days, and 1 each in engineering workshops, railways (including railway workshops) and mines involving 589, 500 and 4,000 workers and entailing losses of 4,123, 500 and 60,000 working days respectively. In all the other industries together there were 15 disputes involving 4,277 workers and entailing a total loss of 17,800 working days.

Of the 37 disputes, 24 were due to wages, 10 due to questions of personnel and 3 to other causes. In 2 the workers were successful, in 8 partially successful and in 22 unsuccessful while 5 were in progress at the end of the quarter.

(The quarterly strike statistics for the first quarter of 1932 is reviewed at pages 13-14 of our May 1932 report and that for the second quarter at pages 21-22 of our September 1932 report).

Liquidation of Workers' Debts: A Trial Scheme for Delhi Province.

The Royal Commission on Labour made a series of recommendations for relieving indebtedness of industrial workers (Recommendations 181-191 vide pages 509-511 of the Whitley Report) of which one (Recommendation No.185) advocated that legislation should be enacted providing a summary procedure for the liquidation of workers' unsecured debts (vide page 233 of the Whitley Report). The method of giving effect to this recommendation has been under ^{the} consideration of the Government of India and they are of opinion that instead of attempting an all-India legislation on the subject, legislative proposals of a tentative nature may be framed to be applicable to Delhi Province, which has been considered an ideal province for its introduction. Delhi has been chosen as one of the most suitable places for the experiment as there is a fairly large industrial population, with a high standard of education. Until results of the experiments are obtainable, it is not likely, however, that special courts will be established. Cases to be conducted will be ~~done~~^{heard} by the existing courts, which are empowered to try cases under the Workmen's Compensation Act. It is understood that in the preliminary stages only cases of workmen earning less than Rs.100 a month will be considered.

In order to consider this proposal of the Department of Industries and Labour, an official conference, to be attended by heads of the various departments of the Government of India and the Chief Commissioner of Delhi, is to be held on 12-12-1932, ~~on the favourable decision of which the scheme will be put into execution.~~

Reduction in Hours of Work: Views of Bombay Chamber of Commerce.

At pages 11-15 of our June 1932 report was given a summary of the salient features of the Draft Factories Bill framed by the Government of India. It will be remembered that the draft Bill has been circulated among the leading industrial and commercial bodies in the country through the provincial Governments and Administrations. The following is a summary of the views of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, offered in consultation with the Labour Sub-Committee of the Chamber, on the proposed reduction of hours of work from the present 60-hour week to a 54-hour week, which is one of the most important changes proposed in the Draft Bill.

The Bombay Chamber of Commerce endorses in general the views of the Bombay Millowners' Association on the subject, a summary of which was given at pages 15-18 of our October 1932 report, and states that the textile industry is by far the most important industry in Bombay and that it is not possible for the Millowners to agree to the proposed reduction in the hours of work unless similar hours of work are enforceable in mills in the Indian States and some means can be devised whereby the consent of the workers themselves can be obtained to a reform which will give them the benefits of greater leisure, but which, at the outset, at any rate, will reduce their daily earnings. It is also emphasised that if the proposed reduction in working hours is introduced, the Millowners will be faced with the alternative of fighting a prolonged strike or raising their costs of production to such an extent as seriously to impair their competitive capacity vis-a-vis foreign manufacturers. In these circumstances the Committee of the Chamber is of opinion ~~that~~ that Government should drop the proposed limitations of working hours in perennial factories from the present Bill.

Minimum Wages in Ceylon: Efforts at Reduction.

Great efforts are being made by Ceylon estate managers either to get a suspension of the Minimum Wages Ordinance or to reduce the rates fixed by the Ordinance. Very recently the Colombo High Court decided an interesting case in which criminal proceedings were taken against an estate agent for paying a few of his labourers less than what the Ordinance required them to be paid though the workers worked only for six hours a day instead of eight hours. The lower court acquitted the manager, but on the appeal of the Crown, ^{of the High Court} two Judges held that the Magistrate should be directed to convict the manager and issue orders for the payment of the full wages due under ^{the} Ordinance. The Chief Justice held that though the result of the judgment might be that a number of estates would have to be closed down and that a large number of labourers would have to go with no bread instead of the three-quarter loaf which the contract challenged in this case secured to them, the law had to be enforced as it was. It is understood that the question of appealing to the Privy Council against this decision is being actively discussed in the Estates, since this was a test case to get a judicial decision on the question whether it is legal to pay wages depending on the hours worked.

There is another move to have the ordinance suspended so that the labourers may be paid according to the discretion of the estate managers. The Ceylon Estates Proprietary Association presented a memorandum on the Labour position on tea estates, to the Minister for Labour with the Ceylon Government, in which it was pointed out that the situation was rapidly becoming serious, with the prices showing no signs of improvement. Many estates, hitherto working at

a loss, were now at the end of their resources and it was declared that many might have to close down, unless some relief is afforded and a reduction of the minimum wage paid to estate labourers is ^{made.} ~~urged~~ ~~in the memorandum.~~ It is pointed out that owing to the fall in the cost of living, the Indian labourer is now drawing a relatively much higher wage than that contemplated when the Ordinance was introduced. Emergency measures for the introduction of a lower scale of wages are asked for, failing which, the memorandum states, ~~that~~ employers, in the effort to remain in production, with the willing cooperation of the labourers, will pay ~~wages~~ considerably less than those imposed under the Ordinance and thus render themselves liable to prosecution.

Calcutta Carters & Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act;

Enquiry Ordered.

It will be recalled that, subsequent to the serious rioting which took place on 1st April 1930, as a protest by the carters against certain orders passed by Government under the Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act, 1920, (vide pages 13-15 of our April 1930 report for details regarding the strike), the ~~Bengal~~ Government of Bengal appointed Mr. W.S. Hopkyns, to make an enquiry into the grievances of the carters. On receipt of his report, Government published their decision on his main recommendations (vide pages 36-37 of our May 1930 report), in the course of which it was stated that Mr. Hopkyns had recommended the appointment of a committee to investigate certain subsidiary points, but that Government had decided to postpone the appointment of ~~this~~ committee to a ~~later~~ date. Owing to the general depression in trade and the undesirability of doing anything which might lead to demands

for new expenditure, Government so far have not proceeded with the appointment of this committee. While there have been no serious outward manifestations of trouble, it has been apparent for some time past that there is a considerable amount of dissatisfaction both among those immediately concerned and among the general public in connection with the working of the Bengal Cruelty to Animals Act, 1920, in Calcutta. Representations have been made by the carters to the effect that the administration of the Act, which touches their trade more than any other, is found to be particularly irksome at a time when, owing to general trade depression, their earnings have greatly fallen, that the orders of the Courts often operate harshly and that their animals are not always properly treated in the hospitals.

In these circumstances, the Bengal Government have decided to appoint a committee to inquire into the present working of the Act, with special reference to the grievances mentioned in the carters' representations. The committee is to consist of a President and eight members, three official and five non-official.

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M. & S. M. Railway Strike.

Reference was made at pages 29-30 of our October 1932 report to the strike declared at the Perambur Workshops by the M. & S. M. Railway-men's Union at Perambur on 21-10-1932 as a protest against the retrenchment policy adopted by the administration. The strike continued during November and the Union decided to extend the strike progressively over other workshops in the Railway as well until the administration effected a satisfactory settlement. In pursuance of this decision, the strike was extended to the Arkonam Engineering

workshops where 859 workers out of 868 downed tools. Since the management announced that the clerical staffs' salary for the days worked in October had been forfeited for joining the strike, the workshop staff refused in sympathy their earned wages when their wages were offered on 12-11-1932. On 15-11-1932, the union sent a notice to the administration under section 15 of the Trades Disputes Act that the workmen in the Mechanical, Electrical and Stores Department employed at Perambur proposed to go on strike at the expiry of 14 days. On 19-11-1932, the strike spread to Hubli Mechanical workshops where 3,000 out of 4,000 workers, according to the Union, struck work. The administration, however, has stated that only 950 are at strike at this centre and not 3,000 as is stated by the Union. There has been no change in the strike situation since then.

It is understood that the All India Railwaymen's Federation is considering the question of extending the strike to other railways if the Government of India, which owns four-fifths of the capital invested in the M. & S.M. Railway, do not intervene and effect a satisfactory settlement at an early date.

In this connection the following statement made in the Legislative Assembly on 7-11-1932 in reply to a series of questions regarding the intention of the Government in regard to the A.I.R. Federation's threat to organise an all India strike as a protest against the Government's retrenchment policy, will be of interest.

Assembly Statement on Government's Retrenchment

Policy on Railways.

Alternatives to Retrenchment. - The main alternatives to the method of discharge of surplus staff that were proposed by the Federation were:- (i) the grant of compulsory leave without pay and (ii) borrowing from the Depreciation Fund. These suggestions had as their object not only the avoidance of further discharges but

the reinstatement of employees discharged last year. The Government of India were unable to consider any suggestions made with the object of reinstating employees discharged last year. They were also unable to accept the proposition that money should be borrowed from the Depreciation Fund in order to avoid discharging staff surplus to requirements, which would, in their opinion, amount to the grant of an un-employment dole from public revenues for the sole benefit of railway servants.

Compulsory Leave in lieu of Further Retrenchment. - With regard to the proposal to avoid further discharges by the adoption of a method of compulsory leave by rotation, they consulted railway administrations who were generally not in favour of adopting this procedure in order to avoid discharging staff permanently in excess of requirements, though certain administrations were prepared to consider its adoption when staff were temporarily in excess of requirements and when their services were likely to be required again before long. The Government of India did not consider that it would be justifiable to ask staff who were in no danger of being retrenched and who were already subject to the emergency cut in pay to agree to the further wage cut entailed by compulsory leave by rotation. While, however, they were unable to accept this suggestion of the Federation as a general alternative to discharge, they have authorised such railway administrations as wished to do so to adopt the method as an alternative in definite categories when the financial effects of both the methods were approximately the same. They have also agreed, at the request of the Federation to voluntary retirements being permitted on special terms up to the 31st October, 1932, from units in which there was no surplus but where there was a waiting list of men discharged with the object of facilitating the re-employment of the latter. Finally, they have asked railway administrations to make allowance for normal wastage and to adopt other suitable expedients to minimise discharges as far as may be reasonably possible. These, with the special terms that have been offered to induce voluntary retirements, have resulted in the anticipated number of persons to be discharged in the course of the present retrenchment being very materially reduced. While the surplus staff including those likely to become surplus in the near future was estimated in January 1932 to be 11,959 employees, the total number of employees it has so far been decided to discharge is only about 1,900. This, however, does not include a surplus of nearly 1,000 employees on the Bengal Nagpur Railway and 700 in the Engineering Department of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway, but it is expected that the staff to be discharged out of these surpluses will be reduced by voluntary retirements and transfers to other suitable posts, so that the total of the staff to be discharged will not, it is anticipated, exceed 3,000 employees and may be less.

(Extracted from the Legislative Assembly Debates
of 7-11-1932. Vol. VI. No.1 of 1932. pp. 1711-1712.)

Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisation.All-India Socialist Party Formed.

A preliminary meeting of Indian socialists, convened by Jamnadas M. Mehta and Chhelshankar D. Vyas, was held at Bombay under the presidentship of Jamnadas M. Mehta on 23-10-1932 with the object of organising an All-India Socialist Party in the country. The meeting was attended by 44 labour leaders, chief among the attendants being Messrs. N.M.Joshi, Syed Munawar, S.G.Warty, Miss Maniben Kara, Dr.G.Y.Chitnis, Miss Nariman, and Mr. S.C.Joshi.

Objects of the Party. - In a statement made by Mr. D. Vyas at the meeting, the objects of the proposed party was said to be that, in view of the fact that the masses of the people in general and the working class in particular were lacking in political consciousness and that the interests of labour might go by default in the new Constitution and the reformed Legislature, a Political Party having India-wide influence was essential to protect those interests and agitate for them both inside the Legislature and outside in the day-to-day struggle of the masses, to instil socialist ideology into them and ultimately to establish the socialistic order of society by the capture of political power by parliamentary democratic methods. The speaker then suggested that the Party, if formed, should work in co-operation with Trade Unionists, but not try to dominate them. The mere economic Trade Union Movement was to be lifted to the political plane and that could be done, according to him, only by a Socialist Party collaborating with the various Trade Unions in India. The most baffling problem to the Party, it was declared would be that of the Indian peasant, who was wedded to the land and who, therefore, could hardly be brought round to accept abolition of private property and socialisation of all the means of production which was the pivot of Socialism. However, as peasantry formed the largest bulk of India's population, the Party could not ignore its problems. A way had to be devised by the meeting whereby even the peasant as a class could be persuaded to accept the Socialist creed. The relation of the Party to the national struggle for freedom also required clear definition. As the working class in India was not imbued with the ideology of Socialism and the Trade Union Movement was in a state of infancy, the Party that was to be formed must be composed only of the political-minded Trade Unionists and the declassed intellectuals drawn from the middle and even the capitalist classes.

Opposition to the Formation of Party. - Mr. N.M.Joshi declared that he was opposed to the formation of the proposed party since he saw no basis in India for the organisation of a purely Socialist political Party. In India nationalism was the strongest factor dominating the minds of the masses and a purely Socialistic Political Party organisation would directly come into conflict with it. No movement that was averse to it would have a ghost's chance to

in succeed in India. He, therefore, advised caution to the meeting and not to rush up a political organisation of the type that was contemplated. Moreover, he would not associate with any movement that sought to turn Trade Unions into fertile fields of political agitation, because that would, in his opinion, mar the economic interests of labour. He ~~was~~ would rather favour the formation of a Socialist Society or League to spread the knowledge of Socialism in India, and educate public opinion, not tying itself down to any programme of political agitation.

A few communists led by Dr. Chitnis who attended the meeting also opposed the formation of the party but on other grounds.

On the motion of Mr. S.C.Joshi that the All-India Socialist Party be formed of the members present and a committee be appointed to draft its constitution, aims and objects, the Party, however, was formed and the following members were appointed to draft the constitution, policy and programme of the Party:

Mr. Jamnadas M.Mehta, Chairman; Mr.Chhelshankar D. Vyas, General Secretary; Mr. N.N.Menon, Joint Secretary; Messrs. S.C.Joshi, M.N.Talpade, C.M.Cooper, M.V.Donde, S.G.Warti, G.N.Sahasrabudhe, M.D.Marolia, P.P.Laud, and Chitre, Members.

Trade Union Movement in the Punjab, 1931-32*

The following information regarding the progress of the trade union movement in the Punjab is taken from the Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab during 1931-32. The year under report was the fourth complete year of the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act in the Punjab.

Number of Registered Unions. - The total number of unions, including three federations, at the close of the year was 25 as against 22 at the close of the year 1930-31. 9 new applications were filed

* Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in the Punjab, during the year 1931-32 - Lahore; Printed by the Supdt., Govt. Printing, Punjab, 1932 - Price: Re. 0-12-0 or 1s.2d. - pp.8

for registration during the year as compared with five during the previous year, and three applications were pending from last year. Of them seven resulted in the registration of seven new unions. The names of four unions were removed from the register during the year under report and their certificates of registration cancelled under the provisions of section 10 of the Act.

Membership & Finances of Unions - Of the 22 registered ^{unions} at the close of the year under review, complete annual returns in the prescribed form ~~have~~ ^{were} not been submitted by five. Two of them ~~have~~ submitted information only as regards membership. Of the three federations, the Punjab Provincial Trade Union Congress ~~was~~ ^{has} been unable to submit the income and expenditure statement on the ground that its records were destroyed by fire, ~~with which xxxxxxxxx xxxxxxxxx of the~~
~~General Secretary xxxxxx~~ Without taking into account the three unions from which returns have not been received, the total number of members of the remaining 19 unions at the close of the year was 21,627 as compared with 9,931 of 16 unions at the end of 1930-31 and 26,318 of 12 unions at the end of 1929-30. It is remarked that while there has been a welcome increase as compared with last year, the total number of members still falls substantially below the figure of 1929-30. The average number of members per union during the year under report was 1,138 as against 662 in 1930-31, and 2,193 in 1929-30. The North-Western Railway Union which had a membership of 6,000 at the close of the previous year was able to enlist 13,172 new members during the year. As regards federations, the total number of unions affiliated to them was 49 at the end of the year as compared with 45 in 1930-31 and 38 in 1929-30.

The opening balance of the 17 unions from which full returns

were received, was Rs. 2,844, the income during the year Rs.7,545 and expenditure Rs. 8,582. The closing balance of the unions was Rs. 1,807 as against Rs. 3,212 in 1930-31 and Rs. 8,056 in 1929-30. As regards federations, the opening balance was Rs.165-8-0 , the income during the year was Rs.999-11-0, the expenditure Rs.913-14-9 and the closing balance Rs.251-4-3. The financial position of the Punjab Labour Board shows a distinct improvement.

✓ Political Funds & Appeals. - As in previous years, no trade union or federation subscribed to any political fund, nor was any appeal preferred against the order of the Registrar during the year.

Economic Conditions.

Statistics of Hand-loom Weavers in Madras Presidency:

Government Note to Tariff Board.

The following interesting information regarding the economic conditions of hand-loom weavers in the Madras Presidency is taken from a communication sent by the Government of Madras to the Tariff Board in reply to a press communiqué issued by them on the question of granting protection to the cotton textile industry.

Statistics re. Weavers and their Production. - The communication states that, notwithstanding the lack of precise information, it is indisputable that the handloom weaving industry — though occupying a far lower position, relatively, in the textile industry than it did a century ago — is of immense importance, providing employment in this Presidency for a population second only to that engaged in agriculture. The total population supported by the industry (cotton spinning, sizing and weaving) was 1,118,628 according to the 1911 census, but fell in 1921 to 687,083 (or 911,901 if we include "weavers unspecified"). The recent census figures indicate an increase in the number of actual weavers in the last ten years from 304,000 to 486,248 (about 60 per cent). Some doubt, however, arises as to the accuracy of the figures since the same census gives the number of looms as only 193,474 (including looms used for artificial silk). This is an increase of only 15 per cent over the 1921 figures of 169,451. On the other hand, a survey of cottage industries made in 1928 gave an estimate of 259,451 looms in that year. In view of the decrease between 1911 and 1921, and the known difficulties under which the hand-loom weaving industry has been labouring in recent years, the probable number of weavers employed in 1931 may be put somewhere between 300,000 and 350,000 and the number of looms between 200,000 and 250,000. The production has been ~~re~~ estimated roughly at about 70 million lb. of yarn. Estimates of the amount of hand-spun yarn produced is taken from figures given by the All-India Spinners Association. That body estimates the value of yarn so produced in 1930-31 in the Madras Presidency at about 3.2 millions of rupees, which at an average price of 6 annas a yard — (Rs.1-14 a lb.) gives an output of ~~8~~ 8½ million yards — an insignificant contribution to the total consumption.

Effect of Duty on Hand-loom Industry. - The effect on hand-loom weavers of the duty on piece-goods is determined by the fact that the duty operates to assist their chief competitors, the mills. It may be ~~conjectured~~ ^{conjectured} that the handloom industry could withstand the competition of foreign textile goods better than that of the mills.

General Remarks. - The details given in the preceding paragraphs, meagre as they are, indicate that the handloom industry has made little progress in the last generation, that it has not succeeded

in establishing its position in respect of any of the various lines on which the cotton industry is conducted and that it is in evident danger of being displaced still further by mill competition. The communiqué states that such a prospect cannot be regarded with equanimity in view of the immense importance of preserving this ancient handicraft as a source of employment for a large part of the rural population and of the undesirability of permitting the production of cotton cloth to become entirely a factory industry, with its concomitants of social maladjustment and deterioration in public health. The lack of progress in the handloom industry is no doubt due to a variety of causes, and the Madras Government, believing the industry to be potentially solvent, have carefully examined numerous suggestions for its improvement with special reference to the internal defects from which the industry suffers. These defects consist mainly in a want of steadiness, thrift, and industry in the character of the weavers, their chronic indebtedness, their primitive appliances, and their complete lack of organization. The reform of each of these defects represents a problem of great difficulty. Over and above all these defects, which may be to some extent curable by means within the disposal of this Government, are the external handicaps on the duty on yarn and the preferential position of the mills. Unless some restriction is placed on the power of the mills to raise yarn prices against the handloom weavers (within the wide margins allowed by the existing tariff), or unless some agreement can be entered into with regard to the respective sphere of the handlooms and the mills, it is exceedingly doubtful whether any internal reform of the handloom industry can succeed even in arresting its gradual decay. The handloom weavers are definitely handicapped by the duty on yarn of counts above 40s. The mills are only slightly benefited by it, their production of such counts representing only about 3 per cent of their total output of yarn. The abolition of this duty is, therefore, strongly advocated. The withdrawal of the duty on gold-thread, and of the machinery duties, in so far as they apply to identifiable handloom plant and accessories, is also urged.

But these measures are not ^{in themselves} sufficient by themselves. In order to achieve the improved organization, in apparatus, marketing and finance, which the industry imperatively requires, it is necessary to have a fund at the disposal of the organizing body, and it has from time to time been suggested that such a fund might be found by the levy of an excise duty or cess on yarn consumed by mills. That suggestion is again put forward.

Tea Industry in Assam, 1931.

The following facts regarding the condition of tea industry in Assam during 1931 is taken from a report on the subject for 1931 published by the Government of Assam:

Number of Estates & Area under Cultivation. - The number of gardens in Assam at the close of the year 1931 was 999 as compared with 996 in the previous year. Of these, 249 gardens were owned by Indians. Three new gardens were opened during the year and 18 gardens were not worked during the year under report. The total area under tea during the year decreased from 432,944 acres of the previous year to 431,037 acres, new extensions being 6,516 acres and abandonments 8,423 acres. The area plucked increased from 401,708 acres to 402,312 acres, and represents 93.3 per cent of the total area under tea against 92.6 per cent. in the previous year. The area owned by Indians was 45,862 acres. The total area of land comprised within the tea estates in Assam was 1,648,236 acres against 1,655,544 acres in the preceding year, of which 26.2 per cent was actually under tea. The area of estates in the occupation of Indian planters was 221,247 acres.

Number of Labourers. - The daily average number of labourers employed in tea gardens during the year was 530,892 against 555,907 in the previous year, the permanent garden labour being 469,114, permanent outside labour, 28,081 and temporary outside labour 33,697, against 480,041, 34,960 and 41,806 persons respectively in the previous year. The decline in the number of labourers employed is attributed to the practice of economy owing to the depressed condition of the industry. The incidence of area under tea to labour comes to .81 acre per man against .78 acre in the previous year.

Outturn and Condition of Industry. - The total outturn of tea in this province during the year was 242,567,663 lbs. of black tea and 674,455 lbs. of green tea against 231,666,578 lbs. and 1,749,505 lbs. respectively in the previous year, or an increase of 9,826,035

lbs. in all. The increase in outturn is attributed to the favourable growing season, and to the abandonment in many gardens of the finer plucking adopted in 1930. The average outturn per acre for the province which was 605 lbs., increased in the year under report by 24 lbs. as compared with the previous year.

The general condition of the industry was most unsatisfactory and was even worse than in the previous year owing to the further decline in the price of tea. There were large accumulations of tea in stock due to over production in the past and to the diminished purchasing power of the people in the tea-drinking countries owing to the general trade depression, and the report states that until these stocks are disposed of there is little hope of improvement in prices. The preferential treatment of Empire tea imported into Great Britain which came into force since the close of the year under report has so far had little effect on the prospects of the tea industry in this province. The condition of the industry at present is reported to be extremely grave. 18 gardens were not worked during the year, and many more, especially the smaller concerns, will probably be compelled to close down in the near future unless conditions improve.

Employment & Unemployment.Christian Unemployment Bureau, Madras.

In pursuance of a motion adopted at a meeting of the Madras Representative Christian Council in August 1932, the Committee on Unemployment among Indian Christians has established an Employment Bureau from 6-10-1932. It is believed that at this time when unemployment is acute, conditions favour and require the establishment of such a bureau. It is hoped that the Bureau will be effective in relating some of the unemployed members of the Christian community in South India to suitable employment and that the experience gained from the working of this Bureau will be helpful in the formation of the educational policy of missions in future. An interviewing committee of employers has been organised and entrusted with the responsibility for registering names and qualifications and confirming references.

The Madras Catholic Social Guild.

A Catholic Guild was organised at Madras at a meeting held on 6-11-1932 to enable Catholics to take a prominent part in social work. One of the social works to be undertaken by the Guild is the establishment of an employment bureau.

Bombay Catholic Unemployment Agency.

In response to the suggestion made by the Archbishop of Bombay, it has been decided to start a Catholic Employment Agency in Bombay under the auspices of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, to assist Catholics who are in need of employment. The object of the agency ~~will~~ ^{is to}

not ~~be~~ to assist the unemployed with monetary or other help, which the parish conferences will continue to do according to their resources, but to have a central register of those unemployed whom the conferences consider as capable and fit to work and to find suitable avenues for their employment by appeals to local administrations, railway companies and other employers.

Slum Clearing in Hyderabad (Deccan):
Improvement Board's Report, 1932.

The progress report of the Hyderabad City Improvement Board for the triennium ending 1930, which has recently been published contains a mass of information regarding the efforts made by the Nizam's Government to clear the city slums during the period under review. It will be recalled that in view of the unsatisfactory nature of the health and sanitation of the city, the Government of His Exalted Highness sanctioned the formation of the City Improvement Board in 1914, and the expenditure incurred on the work of the Board since then amounts to Rs.15.1 millions. The present report is the third of its kind, the first two having been issued in 1919 and 1930 respectively. (A summary of the report issued in 1930 by the Superintending Engineer of the Board was given at pages 61-63 of the report of this Office for May 1930).

The present report gives details of the work undertaken and the respective amounts spent thereon. Slum clearance work accounted for Rs.974,172; construction and improvement of ~~the~~ traffic roads; Rs. 248,246; drains, about Rs.63,000; and miscellaneous, over Rs.150,000. Under slum clearance work, not fewer than 16 different schemes were worked out. They included the clearance of the slums on the banks of the river Musi, the laying out of a Children's Park with a pavilion and apparatus for recreation; the construction of model houses at various localities; the Red Hills Scheme for developing the lands lying adjacent to the Red Hills; land acquisition; etc. Under the Housing scheme which includes the construction of model houses for the

^{and of}
 A people who are unhoused owing to compulsory acquisition or who are desirous of living in sanitary and rat-proof houses. Before the commencement of the triennium 748 buildings had been put up at a cost of Rs. ~~931,000~~ ^{931,000} million. During the triennium under review, greater attention was paid to this work and 487 model houses were built at a cost of Rs. 817,374.

New Schemes. - In 1339 Fasli (1930) the following three schemes were approved by the Board and Government sanction has been applied for; 1. To clear up by partial demolition method the Noor Khan Bazar slum area, estimated cost Rs. 1,230,000; 2. Widening and relieving the congestion of Pathanwadi behind the Osmania General Hospital cost Rs. 150,000; 3. Development of lands below Afzal Sagar tank and construction of model houses cost Rs. 700,000.

Triplicane Slum Welfare Conference, Madras.

A Slum Welfare Conference was held at Madras under the aegis of the Triplicane Sociological Brotherhood, Madras, on 29 & 31-10-1932 and 1 & 2-11-1932. The aim of the Conference was to focus public attention upon the problem of the slums in Madras — a problem that grows in extent every year, and to devise means whereby private citizens and philanthropic bodies can assist the authorities in solving the problems and removing the reproach of the slums.

The Brotherhood had appointed in August last four Sub-committees to which various aspects of the slum problem in the city had been assigned for special study and suggestions for reforms. The reports

and recommendations of these sub-committees were considered by the Conference and many important resolutions adopted. The following are brief summaries of the Sub-committee reports and of the more important resolutions passed by the Conference.

Report of Sub-Committee No. 1 (Slum Conditions). - Sub-Committee No.1 was deputed to conduct a detailed survey of the condition of slums in the Eastern area of Triplicane and Mylapore divisions of the city. The report submitted by the committee contains a detailed and accurate account of the number of houses in representative slums in the area, the number of occupants in each house, the occupations of the residents, the extent of literacy, sanitary and medical facilities and the economic conditions of the slum dwellers. In addition to the tabulation of figures, the report gives a brief historical survey of the growth of the slums in this quarter of the city, a general description of conditions in the slums and sets out constructive proposals for the amelioration of the existing conditions.

Report of Sub-Committee No-2 (Community Centres). - This Sub-Committee was entrusted with the work of exploring the possibilities of establishing Community Centres for temperance work. The Brotherhood became first interested in the subject in 1918 and since then a few attempts, all of which proved abortive, were made to establish such centres. The report of the Sub-Committee has surveyed the field and has suggested the starting of a centre at Parthasarathi Kuppam on an experimental basis.

Reports of Sub-Committees No.3 & 4 (Social Legislation and Child Labour and Compulsory Education). - The third sub-committee was asked to survey the scope of social legislation in slum areas, and the fourth sub-committee to inquire into the question of child labour and compulsory education. The report on "Social Legislation" indicates the extent to which existing legislation bears upon the problem of the slums, the manner in which it is being put into effect and the ways in which private philanthropic institutions or individuals may help to implement the operation of such legislation. The report on "Child Labour and Compulsory Education" contains a general survey of the problem of child labour as it exists in the local slums. It describes the types of occupation in which children are employed and indicates the lines along which solutions ought to be sought. The Sub-Committee recommends that the first step towards a solution lies in a serious attempt to bring about an enforcement of the Madras Elementary Education Act, 1920, which was introduced in all the divisions of the Madras city in 1928, and in a few divisions some years before.

(One set of the printed reports of the four Sub-Committees was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute of 24-11-1932).

RESOLUTIONS. Re. Slum Welfare. - I. That a scheme should be framed and worked for housing the poor, in the slums in this locality (eastern area of Triplicane and on the most economic and healthy lines,

(i) by finding suitable sites and evolving the best model houses and improving sanitary facilities in existing slums, (ii) by evolving a scheme of Co-operative Societies among the poor people and enlisting their participation and co-operation in the scheme, (iii) by enlisting also the co-operation and support of the Government, the Corporation, the General Public and the authorities of temples, mosques, churches and other religious and charitable institutions, and (iv) in other suitable ways.

II. That attempts should be made to provide in the four blocks into which the slums of the area fall - - - a system of aided or honorary medical relief on the lines of the Rural Medical Practitioners' Scheme or of honorary surgeons and doctors.

III. That this Conference is of opinion that propaganda on the subject of thrift and cooperation is necessary in the slums of the area and requests the Madras District Central Cooperative Bank and the Madras Provincial Cooperative Union Limited to render assistance in the matter.

IV. That this Conference is of opinion that steps must be taken to coordinate the working of social service organisations in the area, in order to prevent overlapping and to secure economy and efficiency.

Re. Community Centres. - V. A series of resolutions were passed supporting the proposal of the Sociological Brotherhood for the immediate establishment of a Community Centre in Parthasarathy Kuppam and commending this project to the generous support of the Government, the Madras Corporation and the public of Madras. The Corporation of Madras is requested to provide funds for the erection and equipments of a suitable building and to make provision in all future slum clearing schemes for the establishment of similar Community Centres. Lastly, the Brotherhood has been recommended to explore the possibilities of introducing subsidiary home industries in the slum area.

Re. Social Legislation. - VI. Resolutions were passed suggesting that efforts should be made by social workers to popularise the sanitary provisions of the City Municipal Act, the Sarda Act, the City Tenant's Protection Act and other enactments affecting or dealing with slum life by translating them into the vernaculars of the City and broadcasting them in the area.

VII. Whereas the enforcement of the Immoral Traffic Act has driven some of the brothel-keepers to quarters where the poor people live, namely lines and slums, this Conference suggests that social workers should, in co-operation with the Madras Vigilance Association and the Women's Indian Association, take steps to prevent the gravitation of brothels to slums.

VIII. That the Conference is of opinion that the Government should...

Re. Child Labour and Compulsory Education. - VIII. This Conference is of opinion that the employment of children in bidi factories and other workplaces is injurious to their health and prevent them from attending school and receiving proper education and therefore recommends the legal abolition of child labour in all such employments.

IX. This Conference, while welcoming Mr. Arasu's Bill in the Madras Legislative Council to regulate the conditions of employment in the bidi factories in the city, holds the view that legislation should apply also to other unregulated trades and recommends that the Government of Madras should itself undertake legislation as soon as possible with a view to preventing the employment of children in all workshops.

X. This Conference, holding the view that the place of every child is at school and not in a factory or workplace, makes the following recommendations:-

(a) That the Corporation of Madras should administer the Compulsory Education Act more strictly with a view to enforcing the attendance of children who do not attend school.

(b) That an Attendance Officer for each division should be appointed by the Corporation.

(c) That the Corporation Attendance Committee be requested to coopt persons representing social service organizations with a view to assisting them in this work.

(d) That the Corporation of Madras should prosecute such parents and guardians as refuse to send the children under their care to school or systematically offend the Education Act.

(e) That the Corporation be requested to supply midday meals, books, slates and clothing to poor and needy children.

XI. This Conference recommends the institutions of an advisory Committee to help the boys and girls of the slum area in securing suitable employments after their school education.

The Rockefeller Health Scheme in India.

The International Health Board of the Rockefeller Foundation have established "Health Units" in Ceylon and Travancore State and in July 1932 opened a demonstration unit at Partabgarh, United Provinces. The unit at Partabgarh provides the same degree of health protection in rural areas as is enjoyed by some of the cities, the

object being intensive public health work in a small area to develop the interest of the villagers in their own health and demonstrate to them the value of public health measures. The Foundation has given a fellowship to one medical officer of health from this province to study the work in Ceylon and to two others to study the work being done in the U.S.A. and other places.

The total cost of the scheme in the three years for which the experiment at Partabgarh is proposed to be conducted will be Rs.101,667, of which the Rockefeller authorities will meet Rs. 36,437 (50 per cent of the cost in the first year, $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent in the second year and 25 per cent in the third year). The Provincial Public Health Department and the Provincial Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society are, it is understood, meeting between themselves the ~~sum~~^{balance} of Rs.65,230 that is necessary to secure the assistance of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The area over which the scheme will be applied will be about 50 square miles and contain approximately 150 villages. The staff will consist of one medical officer, one travelling dispensary and five sanitary inspectors for general public health work, and one medical woman, three health visitors and ten midwives for health visiting, maternity and child welfare work.

Safety First Association of India, Bombay: Inaugural Meeting.

References were made at pages 7-9 of our November 1931 report and at pages 48-49 of our December 1931 report to the formation of the Safety First Association of India in Bombay. After a good deal of preliminary work, the Association has begun functioning and the formal inauguration was conducted by Mr. V.N.Chandravarker, Mayor

of Bombay. For the first time an organized attempt was now been made to introduce safety first ideas into India and it is hoped that in course of time the movement would spread from Bombay into other important centres in India, until it became an all-India organization. With that object the Association had been registered under the name of the Safety First Association of India.

Lieut.-Colonel H.C.Smith, in the course of his address at the inaugural meeting, stated that the Association had three things in mind, namely, safety in public streets, industrial safety and what was termed public safety.

Cooperation.

Progress of Cooperation in Hyderabad State during 1930-31.

According to the review of the Government of Hyderabad on the Report of the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the State for the year ending 31st Amardad 1340 Fasli (7-9-1931), the cultivators of Hyderabad suffered like their fellows in other lands and the situation became acute just at the time when collections began. The prices of all agricultural produce fell precipitately and in some cases farmers hardly found it worth while to cart their grain to market. In addition to this, the mistake previously made by over-financing ^{Societies} involved serious consequences, the recovery of many of the loans advanced becoming extremely difficult. It is observed that it seems hopeless to realise them in full and losses of interest as well as principal seem inevitable.

The effects ^{of the depression} are clearly seen in the work of the Dominions Bank, which recovered only Rs. 277,364 as principal and Rs. 189,966 as interest, as against Rs. 733,799 principal and Rs. 226,440 interest in the previous year. Central Banks, whose number at the end of the year stood at 33, suffered in the same way as the Dominions Bank and repayments of principal and interest were only just over Rs. 500,000 as against over Rs. 1.3 million in the previous year. Interest due ^{Central Banks from Societies at the} to the end of the year had increased from Rs. 750,000 to Rs. 1,025,000.

The position is admitted to be grave in five out of the fifteen districts in which 938 agricultural societies owe ^{Rs.} 2.8 millions ~~of~~ out of ^{Rs.} 4.9 millions of principal outstanding and nearly Rs. 750,000 out of Rs. 950,000 of interest. Greater caution is now being exercised in advancing loans and the Director-General has issued a detailed circular to all Banks enjoining caution in financing societies.

The condition of Agricultural Societies is not better. Only

172 new societies were registered during the year. Government expresses its regret to see that so few new societies were registered. The slow progress is said to be due to the reluctance of Directors to finance new societies but Government are convinced that this policy is short-sighted. The various Agricultural Societies own a capital of over Rs. 4 millions the sums advanced to members during the year being Rs. 965,845. More than two-thirds of the advances were for agricultural purposes.

The Non-Agricultural Societies are of two classes; the salary-earners' societies and societies for village artisans. The former worked satisfactorily; they own a working capital of Rs. 1.95 million and repayments during the year amounted to over 1.3 millions. The artisans' societies are, on the contrary, in a state of stagnation.

(The progress of Cooperation in Hyderabad State during 1929-30 is reviewed at pages 34-35 of our February 1931 Report).

Progress of Cooperation in Bihar & Orissa, 1931*

The following information regarding the progress of the Co-operative Movement in Bihar & Orissa during 1931 is taken from the Report on the Working of Cooperative Societies in Bihar & Orissa for the period, issued by the Registrar of Cooperative Societies in the Province.

General Progress. - The policy of caution in registration of new societies continued to be followed during the year under review.

* Report on the Working of Cooperative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1931. - Superintendent, Government Printing, Bihar & Orissa, Patna. 1932. - Price - Rs. 2-8-0. - pp. 34+ xxxii.

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and only 228 were registered. The total number of working societies of all kinds, including central banks and guarantee unions, at the end of the year was 9,309 as against 9,404 last year, the decrease of 95 being due to the gradual weeding out of worthless societies. This decrease, ~~ix~~ it is stated, does not imply any real falling off in the strength of the movement since most of the dissolved societies had been moribund for years, many from the start existing only on paper. Societies are now only being registered when the ground has been thoroughly prepared and there is a reasonable expectation of their success.

The year 1931 was one of exceptional difficulty for all banking concerns owing to causes too well known to need recapitulation. During the first half of the year conditions were not abnormal but with the discarding of the gold standard by the United Kingdom and the issue of Treasury Bonds giving an interest return of from 6½ to 7 per cent by the Government of India the money market was seriously disturbed. The prevailing economic depression and low prices, particularly of agricultural produce and lac, seriously affected the members' repaying capacity and aggravated the effects of past mistakes of central institutions in the financing of societies.

Provincial Bank. - According to the report, in spite of adverse conditions, the Provincial Bank was able to show a satisfactory year's working. The working capital of the Provincial Bank which had risen from Rs. 7.763 to nearly Rs. 8.0 millions by the 30th June, had again fallen to Rs. 7.729 millions at the end of the year. The total amount of deposits had during the same period risen from Rs. 6.75 to nearly Rs. 6.95 millions and fallen to Rs. 6.5 millions. It is worthy of note, however, that individuals' deposits amounted at the end of the year to Rs. 5.76 millions showing a rise of about Rs. 300,000 in comparison with the previous year, while deposits from central banks and other societies showed a decrease from Rs. 1.285 ^{millions} to Rs. 748,000. The paid-up share capital increased by Rs. 10,800 to Rs. 587,400 and the profits earned during the year amounted to Rs. 108,600 as against Rs. 98,800 in the preceding year. The general reserve fund was increased by Rs. 25,500 and is now over Rs. 300,000.

The total advances to central banks and societies increased by Rs. 1 million for the reasons given above and stood at Rs. 5.307 million at the close of the year, viz., Rs. 4.634 millions in the form of loans and Rs. 673,000 on account of cash and maximum credits. The average lending rate of the bank remained the same as last year, viz., 6.3 per cent. The loan rate to central banks, however, was increased to 6½ per cent and has been further increased to 7 per cent. since the close of the year.

Central Banks & Unions. - The number of central Banks remained unchanged at 67. There was a slight decrease by Rs. 8,000 in the paid-up share capital of the banks, which stood at Rs. 2.4 millions at the end of the year. The total reserves (including bad debt and other funds) increased by nearly Rs. 125,000 to Rs. 1.625 millions. The working capital showed an increase by over Rs. 2.5 to

to nearly Rs. 23.5 millions. The paid-up share capital and reserves constituted 10.2 and 6.9 per cent respectively of the working capital. The total reserve fund of the banks amounted To Rs. 915,726 an increase of Rs. 72,235 over last year's figure. The number of banks holding reserves exceeding Rs. 20,000 remained the same as last year, viz., 14. Reserves exceeding Rs. 40,000 were held by four banks as against three last year. The total of reserve and other funds amounted to Rs. 1.631 million as against Rs. 1.508 million last year, and further increases were made in the sinking, building and bad debt funds.

Agricultural Societies. - Although there was a slight decrease by 18 in the number of agricultural societies of all classes, which stood at 8,799 at the ^{end of} the year, the report records an increase in the membership by 6,874, the total number of members at the close of 1931 being 234,428. The reserve funds and deposits held by these societies also increased from Rs. 3.225 ^{millions} and Rs. 881,000 to Rs. 3.408 ^{millions} and Rs. 927,000 respectively. Their working capital, however fell by over Rs. 550,000 to Rs. 23.6 millions, the proportion of share capital and reserves to working capital rising from 20 to 21.3 per cent. Owing partly to the more cautious policy now followed by the banks and partly to a reluctance on the part of the societies themselves to incur fresh liabilities when they are already heavily in arrears, the total amount of loans advanced to members during the year showed a heavy fall, amounting only to Rs. 1.627 millions as against Rs. 3.366 millions in the preceding year and Rs. 6.45 millions in 1928.

Non-Agricultural Societies. - The principal kinds of non-agricultural societies were wage earners' societies, salary earners' societies, fishermen's societies, Home industries associations, Housing societies, traders' banks and artisans' societies, public health and village welfare societies, societies for the depressed classes and weavers' societies. The total number of non-agricultural societies was 329 with a membership of 27,460 as against ~~333~~ 333 societies and 26,908 members in 1930. The working capital of ^{these} societies in 1931 was Rs. 3,885,766 as against Rs. 3,752,956.

(The Report on the working of Cooperative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1929 is reviewed at pages 51-54 of our November 1930 and that for 1930 at pages 45-47 of our November 1931 reports).

House of Labourers, Comilla.

The House of Labourers was a pioneer experiment in establishing a Co-operative Colony, started in 1922 and its success has been ^{hailed as} remarkable. According to a statement issued by the Directors of the House on the occasion of the opening of the Electric power house attached to the House, the institution was started in February, 1922 by seven

friends, all young men of the "badralog" class. The organisers had no capital and they found it difficult to raise any. However Rs.210 was collected and they started the House of Labourers with this amount. By dint of hard work the young men developed the institution into a first class business House. The working capital of the House is now over Rs. 200,000, and ^{the} institution has been responsible for finding employment for a large number of unemployed. The Minister of Agriculture and Industries with the Bengal Government, who performed the opening ceremony of the electric power house paid a warm tribute to the enterprise of the founders of the House and stated that their success was due to their realising fully the dignity of labour and never grudging even the meanest manual labour in the ~~concern~~^{concern} of the working of the institution. He further advocated the starting of similar Houses throughout the country by educated unemployed men on the model of the House of Labourers, so as to minimise unemployment by self help.

Education.

Industrial Education in Bihar & Orissa, 1931-32*

The following information regarding the progress of industrial and technical education in Bihar and Orissa is taken from the annual Report for 1931-32 of the Director of Industries in the Province.

General Survey. - The number of institutes in the province offering technical education and industrial training of all kinds towards the close of the fiscal year 1931-32 was 23, excluding the Indian School of Mines and the Beniadih Industrial School, as against 28 in the previous year. The number of students on the roll of these institutes was 2,022 during the year. Courses of instruction in these institutes covered civil engineering both of college and below college grades; industrial diploma course covering engineering trades, subjects such as carpentry, smithy, moulding, foundry, pattern-making, machinists' trade, motor-mechanism, electricians' trade, wood-finishing, motor-car painting, electro-plating, oil-engine driving and so on; metallurgy of iron and steel; geology; metal mining; coal mining including evening instruction for apprentices engaged in coal mines; and industrial chemistry including soap-boiling. In addition to the above, training in handicrafts such as hand-weaving in cotton, silk, wool; dyeing and calico printing; basketry; toy-making; boot and shoe making; leather working; hosiery knitting on hand machines; durrie, carpet, newar and tape weaving; tailoring and book-binding and printing was also available.

The outstanding feature of technical education during the year was the revision of the educational programme carried on by the Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, at Jamshedpur whereby the Jamshedpur Technical Institute which was brought into existence with liberal grants from the provincial ex-chequer ten years ago, came to be replaced by a new system of apprentice training formulated by the Directors of the Steel Company. (Vide pages 15-16 of this report under the section dealing with conditions of Labour for details of the scheme). The Steel Company's new scheme, however, failed to meet with the approval of the local Government with the result that the Government recurring grant of Rs.25,000 per year to the institute ceased from November, 1931. Under the new scheme there will be no reservation of seats for this province as hitherto. The youngmen of this province will henceforth be required to compete on equal terms with the rest of India for admission to this great industry.

Expenditure on Technical & Industrial Education. - Total expenditure on technical education including instruction in handicrafts during the fiscal year 1931-32 amounted to Rs.544,505 (excluding indirect charges on certain handicraft institutes which were treated as commercial concerns) as against Rs.660,781 in the previous year. Of this sum the Government institutes accounted for Rs.464,897 as against Rs. 556,357 in the previous year; scholarships and stipends, Rs. 20,886 as against Rs. 26,870; grant-in-aid to technical institutes,

* Department of Industries. - Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1931-32-Suptd., Government Printing Bihar & Orissa, Patna, 1932.- Price -Annas 12 - pp.62 + 4

Rs. 50,963 as against Rs. 64,023 and to handicraft institutes Rs. 7,759 as against Rs. 13,531. These figures clearly show the effect of retrenchment necessitated by the present financial stringency.

General Remarks on Progress of Technical Education. - The report states that despite severe industrial depression there has been no dearth of candidates for admission to various institutes and other technical educational schemes during the year. If anything, the number of applicants has been somewhat in excess of the previous years. When it is borne in mind that technical education in India generally follows the completion of elementary education in quick succession (in the case of the old artisans even elementary education was not considered either essential or necessary) without the gap between the two being filled by any system of comprehensive secondary education of a prevocational character as is invariably the case in the West and that technical instruction through the medium of vernaculars is still in its early infancy, the progress and development registered in the sphere of technical education in Bihar and Orissa so far has been considered satisfactory. It is remarked that these great drawbacks are further accentuated by the extremely narrow outlook of industry in its policy of recruitment of its skilled employees. Instead of looking to the technical institutes for a steady supply of its requirement in skilled men it persists heedlessly in following the traditional method of recruitment. The inevitable result is that the bulk of the army of industrial workers in factories in the province are mere rule and thumb men, appallingly illiterate, and wholly devoid of ambition. But signs are not wholly wanting that this state of affairs is on its way to undergo the desired change for the better. For this changed outlook much credit is due to progressive enterprises such as the Steel Works at Jamshedpur and the Workshops of the East Indian Railway at Jamalpur which not only appreciate the value of technically trained men but have gone so far as to formulate and maintain technical educational programmes of their own at a considerable expense.

Industrial Training in Cottage Industries. - The report states that the cottage or handicrafts industries form an important feature of the economic life of this province as they serve to supplement the earnings of rural agrarian population by furnishing spare-time occupation for them. In this respect they are not unlike unemployment insurance for industrial workers in the West. Crafts plied are many and varied. Wood-working, metal-working, pottery, basketry, weaving, leather-working, toy-making, dyeing and printing are some of the important industries which may be mentioned. Of these, hand-weaving and allied crafts are by far the most important economically. It is remarked that it is safe to assume that the present economic depression has not affected these crafts to the same extent as the organized factory industries. In fact, there are reasonable grounds for the assumption that large scale reduction in imports, and the present high revenue duties on imports, coupled with increased interest in "Swadeshi" goods have perhaps furnished a considerable fillip to these industries for the time being. To the extent that these industries have benefited from these factors they have helped the agriculturists to tide over one of the most difficult periods of their existence.

The measures adopted by the department during the year for the conservation of these handicrafts have continued on the same lines as before. They have visualized the task as consisting of -

- (1) attainment of a very high standard of technical knowledge and skill by the workers,
- (2) application of more efficient appliances and improved processes in these industries, and
- (3) provision of better marketing facilities so as to stimulate the consumption of their products outside the local markets.

Further, it was recognised that for the adult workers engaged in cottage crafts peripatetic demonstration is the best, while for the younger workers a technical or industrial school is the more suitable. For handicrafts such as hand-weaving in cotton, silk, and wool, dyeing and printing, toy-making, hosiery knitting, carpet, newar and durrie weaving and so on, courses of instruction have been organized in handicrafts institutes. Of the institutes in this category, both Government and private, all continued to work satisfactorily during the year. Peripatetic demonstration parties in weaving and dyeing in the different districts of the province are reported to have continued to work successfully during the year.

(Progress of industrial and technical education during 1929-30 was reviewed at pages 47-49 of our monthly report for February 1931).

Enquiry into Condition of Education in

Travancore State; Committee Appointed.

The Government of the Travancore State (Native State in Madras Presidency) has decided to appoint a committee to enquire into the condition of education in the State and to make recommendations for improving it. The Chairman of the Committee is expected to be Mr. R.M. Statham, C.I.E., Principal of the Madras Presidency College.

The Travancore Government is spending ^{on education} in the current year Rs. 4,624,000 out of an estimated total revenue of Rs. ~~223~~ 22.319 millions. The same proportion of expenditure on education has been going on in the past twenty years. Schools have been increasing steadily to keep pace with increasing numbers of schoolgoing boys and girls. The present population of the State, in round figures, is 5,100,000 ~~1228~~

(2,600,000 males and 2,500,000 females). It has today a literate male population of 38 per cent, as against 14.4 in British India, 14.3 in Mysore and 5.7 in Hyderabad State, and a literate female population of 18.3 per cent as against 2 in British India, 2.2 in Mysore and 0.8 in Hyderabad State.

Primary education is free in the State but the housing and equipment of the schools are far from satisfactory and primary school teachers are low-paid. The organisation of secondary education also leaves much to be desired and there is a large body of opinion in the State in favour of introducing vocational bias in the educational system. It is to enquire into all these matters and to suggest methods of increasing the efficiency of education now imparted and in addition of giving vocational bias to the whole system that the Committee has now been appointed.

Education Scheme for Rangoon Municipality

Employees' Children.

The Finance Committee of the Rangoon Corporation at a recent meeting considered certain draft regulations for the creation of an educational stipend fund to assist the education of children of municipal employees, left without means, to complete their school education. A yearly contribution of Rs.1,200 is to be made by the Corporation to a fund to be opened for this purpose. A school stipend is to be an amount representing the monthly tuition fee actually paid, but where necessary tuition fee is to be supplemented by additional sums for books and equipment. No grant or stipend is to be given

if the deceased or the incapacitated officer was in receipt of pay in excess of Rs. 500 a month. Stipends or grants are to be awarded by a board consisting of the Commissioner, the Secretary and the head of the department in which the Municipal employee was employed. The regulations are to be submitted for approval ~~to~~ the Local Government.

Industrial Education in the Punjab, 1931-32*

Technical and Industrial Education for Boys. - According to the Report on the Department of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31-3-1932, the year under review did not witness any increase in the number of industrial schools in the province. The total number of students on the rolls of all the schools, fell from 4,764 to 4,428. The decline is attributed to the discontinuance of the primary classes. These classes were abolished because it was considered that the purely general education which was imparted in the first four classes is the concern of the Education Department; and the abolition gives more space for industrial classes and enables the Department to concentrate on purely industrial education. In each of ~~the~~ five schools two higher classes providing advanced training in the crafts taught there were introduced. The Woodworking Institute, Jullundur, took final shape during the year and the Government Industrial School, Ambala, was raised to the status of a Metal-working

* Report on the Department of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31st March 1932 - Lahore: Printed by the Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab -1932. - Price: Re.1-12-0 or 2s.8d. - pp.12+29+XVII

Institute on the discontinuance of the Industrial Middle Classes. The building of the Metal Works Institute, Sialkot, was completed and the necessary machinery installed.

Total expenditure on industrial education fell from Rs. 398,417 to Rs. 378,571. Of this amount Rs. 21,054 represented grants-in-aid to privately-managed schools. The total receipts from all Government schools was Rs. 19,824 compared with Rs. 13,445 last year. The income from fees was Rs. 4,695 against Rs. 4,467 last year. The income per head from fees has increased from a little under ^{Rs.} to a little over Re. 1. This is still a very small amount to pay for a boy's education but the small increase coupled with the drop in the expenditure on scholarships is considered to be a move in the right direction.

Financial stringency undoubtedly stood in the way of several desirable developments in industrial education, but it is reported that schools are taking the matter of the improvement of their equipment into their own hands and have started making tools and machinery for their own use. There is a distinct improvement in the percentage of passes in the final industrial Middle Standard Examination. In the year under report 69 per cent of the candidates were successful compared with 54 per cent in the previous year in spite of the fact that the standard for the examination had been appreciably raised. The improvement is attributed to the elimination of the primary classes. It is interesting to learn that while the boys who pass out of the industrial schools do not as yet command higher wages than the ordinary artisan, they do, however, experience no difficulty in securing employment, and are able to win rapid advancement to positions of responsibility as a result of the good grounding which they have

received in the schools. It is understood that certain proposals are under ^{the} consideration of the Director of Industries for modifying the present course of training so as to make it more specialised and more apt to turn out a finished product which can at once be absorbed into trade and industry.

Technical and Industrial Education for Girls. - 750 girl students were studying in Government and private industrial schools during the year under report. There is evidence of a considerable public demand for instruction of this kind which unfortunately cannot, in the present financial circumstances, be fully met. Three private industrial schools for girls closed down during the year for lack of funds, while eight continued to function. The ~~girls~~ girls in these schools numbered 374. The number of students in the Government Zenana Industrial School, Lahore, increased from 177 to 195. 52 out of the 63 students who sat for the diploma examination of the school were successful, of whom 16 secured posts in industrial schools in the Punjab and elsewhere. The Lady Maynard Industrial School for Women, Lahore, on account of lack of accommodation and staff, had to restrict the number of student to 170.

Industrial Loans. - 58 new applications were received during the year for the grant of loans under the Punjab Industrial Loans Act, while 26 were pending from the previous year. 28 loans were sanctioned amounting to Rs. 100,000 as compared with Rs. 74,650 during the previous year. Industries which were assisted in this way included sugar refineries, hosiery factories, tin printing, block making and printing, cigarette making, tanning, sports goods, cutlery ~~making and printing~~, cosmetics, and several others. As no single loan was less than Rs. 1,000, the ~~industry~~ industry assumed that cottage industries either did not apply for loans or were unsuccessful in their applications. Since the introduction of the Act a sum of Rs. 461,950 has been advanced to 140 applicants. Of this amount Rs. 330,552 was outstanding at the close of the ~~year~~ year.

Migration.Condition of Returned Emigrants: Government Statement.

Reference was made at pages 73-75 of our October 1932 report to a demonstration staged at Calcutta by returned emigrants from the Colonies demanding repatriation to the Colonies from which they returned to India. The demonstration focussed public attention on the condition of returned emigrants and a series of questions were asked in the Legislative Assembly regarding the condition of returned emigrants in general and of Calcutta demonstrators in particular. The following is a summary of the statement made in answer thereto by Mr. G.S. Bajpai, Secretary to the Government of India in the Education Health and Lands Department.

A considerable number of the Calcutta demonstrators would appear to have been settled at Matiabruz for several years and to have often petitioned the Government of India that they should be sent back at Government expense either to the colonies from which they came or to some other colony. Thus, the question as to how Government could best assist them was said to be engaging attention for a long time. Government have not found it possible to accede to the request that they should be sent to some colony at the expense of Indian revenues, mainly on the ground that since 1919 nearly 150,000 emigrants have returned to this country from the colonies. It was remarked that, there is no reason to assume that economically and socially India has treated them differently from the small group who have congregated at Matiabruz. If financial assistance were given to these latter to re-emigrate on the ground that they find conditions in India uncongenial, the Government holds that it would be impossible to refuse similar assistance to the much larger number who had settled elsewhere in India or who might hereafter return from the colonies, and the financial drain thus imposed on Government would become continuous and incalculable.

Attempts were made in 1926 and 1928 to persuade the Governments of British Guiana and Fiji to take back at their own expense some of the emigrants who had returned from these colonies and 350 and 173, respectively, were thus sent back. Efforts were also made to find an outlet for some of the Matiabruz colony in Malaya, but without success. The prevailing economic depression, it is remarked, rules out all prospects of successful negotiations with any of the colonial Governments concerned to replace these people in the colonies from which they came, for the tendency all over the world now is to discourage fresh immigration while the depression lasts. The only course reported to be open to the Government of India is to endeavour to persuade these people to go back to those places in the interior

of India from which they originally came and to find work for them there suited to their capacities and aptitudes. Considering that the vast majority of those who have returned from the colonies appear to have been absorbed in the mass of the population, there is no reason why the small proportion now at Matlabruz should not be similarly accommodated, provided that they are willing to adapt themselves to Indian conditions in the same spirit in which other returned emigrants have done. The Government of India can think of no other satisfactory solution.

The above statement outlining Government policy re. resettlement of returned emigrants was received with disappointment in the country, and the Hindu of 17-11-1932 makes the following editorial comments on the statement.

It means that the Government are not prepared to do anything for the unfortunate Indians who have returned to their homeland from countries to which they or their forefathers had emigrated in most cases at the suggestion of our Government and on the invitation of the Colonies. . . .

(This statement is significant in so far as it is an admission on the part of the Government that there are few among the hundreds of persons who have returned to this country from the colonies who prefer to stay here if they are allowed facilities to go back, The Government cannot altogether escape responsibility for this state of things. If they had betimes warned Indians in the Colonies that if they return they might find their position difficult, repatriation could not have occurred on the scale it has done now. May they not also have asked the Colonies to shoulder their share of the burden of finding jobs for these people who had spent probably the best part of their lives in the Colonies?

Indians in South Africa and Feetham Commission.

Reference was made at page 75 of the report of this Office for October 1932 to the appointment by the Union Government of South Africa of a Commission with Justice Feetham as Chairman to enquire into individual titles of occupation of Asiatics in proclaimed lands in the Transvaal before any action is taken on the Land Tenure Act. It is now understood that the Executive of the South African Indian Congress has decided not to have anything to do with the Commission.

The reason for non-co-operation, it is said, is that the law is opposed to the interests of Indians and directly violates that part of the Cape Town Agreement which refers to the obligation on the part of the Union Government to look upon and treat Indians as members of the permanent population, entitled to the same rights and privileges as are enjoyed by the whites. The Indian community apparently feel that by cooperating with the Feetham Commission they would be jeopardising the interests of Indians of this and coming generations.

It is, however, understood that the threatened passive resistance as a protest against the passing of the Act will not be begun until the Commission reports. Public opinion in this country ^{has become} ~~is~~ sceptic about any good that may accrue to Indians from the work of the Commission, after going through the terms of reference of the Commission which are:

(1) to examine each individual case of occupation of proclaimed land by coloured persons in the Transvaal, and to compile a register of (i) those individuals who are in legal occupation; (ii) those individuals who are in illegal occupation; (2) in the case of coloured persons under (1) (ii), to make proposals as to the exercise by the Minister of the Interior of the power entrusted to him under section 131 A. of the Precious and Base Metals Act, 1908 (Transvaal), as amended by Act No. 35 of 1925, the considerations governing the proposals put forward by the commission to be (a) the character of the occupant, and, in the case of occupation for trade purposes, the nature of the trade carried on; (b) the period during which illegal occupation has continued; (c) the character of the areas occupied, i.e. whether such areas are already largely occupied by coloured persons or are predominantly European; (d) the wishes of the other occupants in those areas; (e) the hardships which the enforcement of the law would involve.

Abolition of Contract Labour in Malaya.

The final step towards the abolition of long term contract labour in British Malaya is taken by the introduction into the Federated Malaya States Federal Council of a Bill entitled the Labour Code (Amendment No.2) Enactment, 1932.

The object of the Bill is to give effect to the recommendations of the Labour Bureau of the Netherlands East Indies and the Labour Department of Malaya, that the system of indentured labour in Malaya for natives of the Netherlands Indies should be abolished and free recruitments substituted. It accordingly provided for the repeal of the Netherlands Indian Labourers' Protection Enactment 1927, under which Netherlands Indian workers could be engaged to labour in the Federated Malay States for a maximum period of 900 days' work, and subject to a system of penal sanctions. Instead, Netherlands Indians will fall under the general provisions of the Federated Malay States Labour Code, and will work under monthly civil agreements.

The Bill provides that before departure from the Netherlands East Indies every immigrant is to be provided with a memorandum in which is to be set out the main terms of his employment; such a memorandum is not to be deemed to constitute a contract of labour. On disembarkation in Malaya, the immigrant is to be medically examined and treated or repatriated if necessary. No immigrant is to be deemed to be indebted to his employer for advances on wages, cost of passages and transport to the place of employment or any other count prior to arrival for a sum greater than \$20. The indebtedness of any immigrant is to be abated by 25 per cent in respect of each calendar month during which he completes 20 days' labour at the place of employment for which he was recruited. Any immigrant who received a passage under a promise to labour and fails to fulfil this promise is to be liable to pay the Controller of Labour \$20 or such lesser sum as may be fixed.

Provision is to be made for the repatriation of immigrants by the monthly retention from wages of 1/36th part of the cost of repatriation, as determined by the Controller of Labour. If the agreement to labour of any immigrant is determined before the expiration of three years, the employer is to refund to the immigrant the sums retained and the immigrant will lose his right to repatriation. The immigrant who continues in the same employment for the full term of three years will be entitled at his option to claim repatriation or the return of the sums deducted for repatriation.

The Bill will not affect a large body of workers. In 1931, there were employed on estates and mines in the Federated Malay States 108,355 British Indians, 59,530 Chinese and only 3,041 Netherlands Indians. The first 2 classes of labourers and the greater part of the third class were employed under a system of free monthly engagements. The new measure will, therefore, only have the effect of bringing a small number of Netherlands Indian labourers under the same system. By doing so, however, it will put an end to the last remnants of penal sanction to long term contract labour in the Federated Malay States.