

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICEINDIAN BRANCH

Report for November 1933.

1160
C 1903/60N.B. Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.

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References to the I. L. O.

The Government of India have recently published the report of the Government of India delegation to the 17th Session of the I.L.Conference held during June 1933. The report is issued as Bulletin No.51 in the series; "Bulletins of Indian Industries and Labour".

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The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during October 1933, the Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 4-11-33, the December 1933 issue of the Indian Review, Madras, and the October 1933 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publish the Government of India communique announcing the agenda of the 18th I.L.Conference and inviting suggestions regarding the nomination of non-government delegates.

(A list of other papers which published the communique was given at page 2 of our September and page 1 of our October 1933 report).

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The Times of India of 15-11-33, and the Leader and the Hindu of 16-11-33, the Labour Times, Madras, of 20-11-33, and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 12-11-33, publish a communique issued by this Office on 9-11-33 regarding the election of the new Chairman of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. (Copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1916/33 of 9-11-1933).

The Leader of 17-11-33, commenting editorially on the communique, states that India is proud of the many tributes paid to the

distinction and ability with which Sir Atul Chatterjee filled the post of the Chairman of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. In this context the paper puts the question why men of such ability should not be elected to the League Council as well. The article suggests that "Just as care has been taken in the case of the I. L. O. to amend the rules so that the representatives of the non-European countries may be more closely identified with the work of the Organisation and so that they may not remain unrepresented on the Governing Body, in the same way the rules relating to the election of non-European States to the League Council may be amended. Two years ago the Portuguese Government protested against their continued exclusion from the League Council. The result was that the number of non-permanent seats on the Council has been increased from 9 to 10 and Portugal has been elected to the newly created seat. Why are India's claims for a seat on the Council being consistently ignored?"

* * *

The National Call of 7-11-1933, the Hindustan Times of 8-11-33, the Times of India of 10-11-33 and the Leader of 11-11-33 publish a communique summarising the work of the last Governing Body meeting, issued by this Office on 6-11-33. (Copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1916/33 of 9-11-1933).

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The Hindu of 9-11-33 publishes a long letter dated 28-10-33 from its Geneva correspondent under the caption "Crisis of the League". The letter deals mostly with the situation created by

the withdrawal of Germany. It also contains a long paragraph summarising the work done by the last session of the Governing Body of the I.L.O.

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The Hindustan Times of 18-11-1933 publishes a Reuter's cable dated 17-11-33 from London regarding the announcement in the House of Commons by the Minister of Labour that a statue of the late M. Albert Thomas will be erected in Geneva.

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The Hindustan Times of 25-11-1933 publishes the statement issued by the Director of this Office on 25-10-1933 regarding the legal position of states seceding from the League. The statement was issued in connection with Germany's withdrawal from the League and the I. L. O. (The statement was also published by the Statesman and the National Call, vide page 7 of our ^{Report for} October 1933).

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The Hindustan Times of 16-11-1933, the Hindu of 20-11-33, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 19-11-33, and the Leader and United India and Indian States, Delhi, of 25-11-33 publish a communique issued by this Office on 14-11-33 under the caption "Germany and the League" (Copies of the communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute N.2x K.1/2045/33 of 16-11-1933).

United India and Indian States of 25-11-33 makes the following editorial comments on the action of Germany:-

"One can understand and appreciate Germany's feelings in withdrawing from the League. While Germany was compulsorily disarmed according to the Treaty of Versailles, the allied Signatories of the Treaty have not done anything substantial to

implement their solemn pledges to bring about progressive disarmament within their own territories. But what one cannot understand is why she should have gone to the extent of resigning her membership of the I. L. O. as well, which has been doing such splendid work for the amelioration of the working classes all the world over. No nation has been a member of the I. L. O. and not benefited by its membership. It has been found by experience, and that has been solemnly affirmed by the high contracting parties to the Treaty of Versailles, that universal peace can be established only if it is based on social justice and that the "failure of any nation to adopt humane conditions of labour is an obstacle in the way of other nations which desire to improve the conditions in their own countries". It is very distressing that Germany should have, in view of the recognition and general acceptance of these principles, resigned her membership from the I. L. O. without any reason whatsoever and denied her national workers the amount of protection which social justice demands of every nation to give unstintingly !

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The Hindustan Times of 11-11-1933, the Times of India of 15-11-33 and other papers publish a communique issued by this Office on 10-11-1933 regarding the visit of Mr. Butler to the United States of America. (Copies of this communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute K.1/2044/33 of 16-11-1933).

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The Hindustan Times of 10-11-33, the Times of India of 14-11-33, the Hindu of 15-11-33 and the Labour Times, Madras, of 20-11-33 publish a communique issued by this Office on 8-11-33 concerning the proposed partial revision of the Draft Convention concerning Workmen's Compensation for Occupational Diseases. (Copies of this communique have been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute H.2/1916/33 of 9-11-1933).

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The 4th Conference of the N.S.Railway Employees' Union was

held at Secunderabad on 18 & 19-11-33. Dr. Pillai, the Director of this Office, was invited to formally open the proceedings of the Conference. In the course of his speech Dr. Pillai referred to the influence exerted by the I.L.O. in quickening the pace of labour legislation in India and explained how important it is that trade unions should take an intelligent and active interest in the work of the I.L.O. He also described in detail how the development of Indian trade unionism has been beneficently influenced by the I.L.O.

The full text of Dr. Pillai's speech was published in all the English and Urdu dailies published in Hyderabad (Deccan).

A summary of the speech is also published in the Hindu of 22-11-33.

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The Director of this Office delivered a lecture under the auspices of the Madras Labour Union at Madras on 21-11-33 on the subject; "Future of Trade Unionism in India". In the course of his speech, Dr. Pillai explained how Indian trade unionism has benefited by the influence of the I.L.O. and exhorted the workers to organise themselves and to take an active interest in the work of the I.L.O. A summary of Dr. Pillai's speech is published in the Hindu of 23-11-33.

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The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 12-11-33, publishes several messages congratulating the Journal on entry into its eleventh year of publication. Among the congratulatory messages is one sent by the Director of this Office at the request of the editor of the Journal. The message, among other things, takes stock of the achievements of Indian trade unions and stresses the

importance of trade unions taking a more active part and a keener interest in labour legislation.

* * *

Mr. R. R. Bakhale, in the course of his presidential address at the Bombay Presidency Postal and Lower Grade Staff Conference, held at Hubli on 28 & 29-10-1933, ^{made} certain incidental references to the I. L. O. He pointed out that though the I. L. O. was set up "to equalise and level up the social and economic conditions of the masses and the working classes", the last fifteen years have witnessed a regrettable set-back in the expectations of labour with regard to the League of Nations and the I. L. O. In support of his point Mr. Bakhale said;

"Instead of the world becoming safe for democracy, it has become the breeding ground for suspicion and hatred. The League of Nations has, in point of fact, become an impotent instrument to solve internationally political and economic problems. War debts and reparations have ruined the financial stability of the world. With all its creditable achievements from which India has derived no small benefit, the International Labour Organisation has become more European than international in its outlook. Equalisation of social and economic conditions of the masses and the working classes is no doubt taking place; but the process is in the direction of not levelling up, but levelling down those conditions. In short, the world today is in the grip of reactionary and anti-democratic forces and is fast drifting towards disintegration and chaos and probably towards another war the consequences of which on the masses and the working classes I shudder even to contemplate".

(A summary of Mr. Bakhale's speech is published in Labour Times, Madras, dated 6-11-33).

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On 23-11-33, the Legislative Assembly was engaged mostly with matters relating to I. L. Conventions. The Indian Dock Labourers Bill which was introduced on 18-9-1933 to give effect to the Draft Convention concerning Protection against Accidents (Dockers) was referred to a select Committee. On the same day two resolutions

were moved recommending to the Governor General not to ratify the Draft Conventions and not to accept the Recommendations re. Invalidity, Old-Age, Widows' & Orphans' Insurance and Fee-Charging Employment Agencies adopted at the 17th Session of the I. L. Conference. Details regarding the discussions in the Assembly over the Indian Dock Labourers Bill and the resolutions are published in the Statesman, the Hindustan Times, the Hindu and the National Call of 24-11-33 and the Times of India and Leader of 25-11-33. A summary of the debate is given at pages 14-19 of this report (Section "Ratifications").

The Statesman of 25-11-33 makes the following editorial comments on the discussions over the Draft Conventions:-

Those who make a complaint of the fact that India is unable to ratify a large number of the draft conventions of the International Labour Conference at Geneva can have made little study of most of them. Of three which were referred to in the Legislative Assembly the other day, the only one which could be of any practical benefit to Indian labour has been referred to a select committee. It concerns the safety of workers employed in the hazardous occupation of loading and unloading ships, and it may be hoped that its application to ports in this country will secure better protection against accidents where it is called for. The convention concerning invalidity, old age and widows and orphans' insurance is one which it is clearly impossible for India to ratify at present, and it may be doubted if the colossal sums of money which it would involve will be available in any future India. The third convention, which the House decided not to ratify, proposed the abolition of all fee-charging employment agencies, a "reform" of doubtful value in most countries even if it could be enforced.

* * *

In the course of the discussions in the Legislative Assembly on 23-11-33 on the resolution moved by Sir Frank Noyce recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention re. fee-charging Employment Agencies, Mr. S.C.Mitra, made the following remarks regarding

the non-participation of Indian Government delegates in the final voting on this Convention at the I. L. Conference:-

"I find that in the voting on this Convention our representatives in the Conference did not take any part. If I could follow my friend, Mr. Clow's argument, it would appear that on particular matters, where he thought that other countries should be permitted to adopt methods convenient to them, our representatives remained neutral, but I do not know why in matters immediately concerning this country they did not take part in the final voting. Sir, I have carefully gone through other matters, and I find that our representatives did not take part in the final voting, in almost all of them. If that be so, I think the easiest way is to save some money to this poor country by not sending any representation at all."

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The Hindustan Times of 13-11-33 publishes a long article under the caption "The Call of India" contributed by Mr. M.V.Venkateswaran, Officer-in-Charge of the Bombay Branch of the League of Nations. The article sets forth briefly the basic principles of the League Secretariat, the I. L. O. and the other League Organisations.

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The Statesman of 12-11-33 in a short editorial note commenting on the appointment of Sir Louis Kershaw as Deputy Under-Secretary of State mentions that he had represented India with great distinction at several sessions of the I. L. Conference.

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At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the B.N.W.Railwaymen's Association, Gorakhpur, held towards the end of the month under review, a resolution was adopted recommending Dr. Bishwa Nath Mukerjee, President of the Association, for nomination as Indian Workers' delegate to the 18th I. L. Conference and Babu Ram Prasad

and Pandit Harihar Nath Shastri as the advisers to the workers' delegate. A brief summary of the proceedings of the meeting was published in the Hindustan Times of 29-11-1933.

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The Labour Times, Madras, dated 6-11-1933, publishes a short note under the caption "The Unemployment Situation" in which a brief summary is given of the Note and Statistics re. Unemployment published at the end of the September 1933 issue of the International Labour Review.

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The Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, of 4-11-1933 reproduces the note published in Industrial and Labour Information under the caption Jewish Immigration from Germany. The issue also contains a long editorial article on the same subject.

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The Servant of India, Poona, of 23-11-1933 publishes a long review of "India Analysed" Vol. I (Victor Gollancz) in which appreciative references are made to the contributions in the book dealing with India's relations with the I. L. O. by Dr. Lanka Sundaram and Mr. Wilfred Jenks. The review was contributed by Dr. Pillai, the Director of this Office.

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The November 1933 issue of the National Christian Council Review, Nagpur, publishes a combined review of two books; "The Truth and Error of Communism", and "Communism and the Alternative". The review was contributed by Mr. K. E. Matthew, a member of the

staff of this Office. It is pointed out that the considered verdict of the two books is that, though communism has done some good for the workers of Russia, it has woefully failed in many serious respects. The books point out that the League of Nations and the I. L. O., with all their faults and failings, are striving ^{to} ~~for~~ bringing about a new social order through evolutionary methods and that it is the duty of every Christian to back these two institutions.

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United India and Indian States of 25-11-1933 publishes a long and appreciative review of the I. L. O. Year-Book, 1932. The review was contributed by Mr. S. Keshoram, a member of the staff of this Office.

* * *

Problem of Indian Minorities;
Proposed Hindu Mahasabha Deputation to League
of Nations.

Reference was made at page 5 of the report of this Office for October 1933 to a resolution passed at the 15th session of the Hindu Mahasabha held at Ajmere on 14-10-1933 about the problem of minority communities in India and the desirability of sending a deputation of the Hindu Mahasabha to Geneva to place the facts of the situation before the League of Nations. Below are given the full text of the resolution passed by the Mahasabha in this connection, as also the texts of two resolutions passed on the subjects of relationships between Labour and Capital and Unemployment. The Hindu Mahasabha, it may be pointed out, is the premier ^{political} organisation of the Hindus:-

Communal Problem of India and the League of Nations. - (a) The Hindus, even where they are minorities in Provinces like Bengal, the Punjab, Sindh and North-West Frontier Province, are on principle opposed to communal electorates and reservations of any form at any stage for any community in any province as they regard them as a complete negation of any responsible government and Dominion Constitution. The Hindus declare with one voice for such recognition of minorities and their safeguards as is laid down with the common consent of the principal nations of the world, including Hindusthan (India) and England, in the treaties called Minorities Treaties signed by them and enforced on so many sovereign States of Europe, including Turkey, as a world solution of the communal problem, to operate in the authoritative words of Mr. Arthur Henderson, President of the Disarmament Conference, as part of "The Public Law of Europe and of the World"

In this connection the Hindu Mahasabha reminds the Government and the communities concerned of the following statements of the principles of Minority Protection made at Geneva by Sir Austen Chamberlain and other leaders:-

- (1) "The object of the Minorities Treaties was to secure for Minorities that measures of protection and justice which would gradually prepare them to be merged in the national

community to which they belonged". (Sir Austen Chamberlain).

- (ii) "It seems to me obvious that those who conceived this system of protection of Minorities did not dream of creating within certain States a group of inhabitants who would regard themselves as permanently foreign to the general organisation of the country". (M. De Mello Franco).
- (iii) "We must avoid creating a State within a State. We must prevent the Minority from transforming itself into a privileged caste and taking definite form as a foreign group." (M. Blociszewski).
- (iv) "If privileges were granted to the Minority, inequality would be created between this Minority and the Majority; this latter would be oppressed by the Minority and it would then the Majorities' question which would have to engage the attention of the League of Nations". (M. Dendarmis).

(b) The Hindu Mahasabha holds both the Government of India and His Majesty's Government to this international solution of the communal problem to which they are bound in Law, Morality and Justice, as contributories, signatories and parties thereto, as a step towards world peace.

(c) The Hindu Mahasabha endorses the official view that the consent of the communities concerned is necessary for a communal settlement, and in that view stands up to the maintenance of the status quo as regards the existing communal position and arrangements in the existing constitution pending any new settlement among communities.

It takes its stand upon the findings on the subject of the Simon Commission who have ruled out the necessity for any fresh Communal Award.

It therefore holds the present Government's Communal Award as entirely uncalled for and unjustifiable on the above considerations, and also as being against the wishes of about eighty percent of the Indian peoples, comprising Hindus, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Parsis Indian Jews and the entire Indian womanhood, irrespective of caste or creed.

If, in spite of these weighty considerations and in defiance of all parallels and precedents in history, the British Government forces upon Hindusthan (India) this discredited device of communal electorates and reservations for the protection of merely of Moslem majorities and minorities, the Hindu Mahasabha warns them that it will lead to unprecedented complications, to communal separation, not merely in Legislatures, but also in Administration and the Services, and, ultimately, even to separation of the purse,

each community claiming that the amount of its separate representation should depend upon that of its contribution to revenue and in taxes.

The Hindu Mahasabha in this momentous annual gathering at the historic city of Ajmer appeals under article XI of the League Covenant in the name of India to the League of Nations, of which she is an original member, for the application to her of those principles and methods of Minority Protection which are endorsed and made operative by world opinion on the subject and by the initiative of the principal Allied and Associated Powers, including India and England, and emphatically points out that the parties to these stipulations are especially bound by the following resolutions ~~adopted~~ adopted at the Third Assembly of the League of Nations:

"The Assembly expresses the hope that the States which are not bound by any legal obligation to the League with respect to Minorities will nevertheless observe in the treatment of their own racial, religious and linguistic minorities at least as high a standard of justice and toleration as is required by any of the (Minority) Treaties and by the regular action of the Council.

Labour and Capital. - While disunion and class conflicts exist in Hindusthan, this Session of the Hindu Mahasabha, expressing its fullest sympathy with the need for the amelioration of the conditions of labour and the tenantry, strongly disapproves of any movement such as extinction of the capitalists and landlords as a class in-as-much-as such movements will further accentuate divisions and sub-divisions bringing about class-war which will ultimately retard all progress and make redemption of Hindusthan impossible.

Unemployment. - This Session of the Hindu Mahasabha regrets the growing unemployment among the Hindu youths and calls upon Provincial Hindu Sabhas and other Hindu organisations to establish Industrial ashrams (institutions) and to take other steps with a view to train Hindu youths in various handicrafts so as to enable them to earn their living.

(Extracted from pamphlet containing printed list of resolutions passed at the 15th session of the Hindu Mahasabha, forwarded to this Office by the Hon. Secretary of the Mahasabha)

Ratifications.India & Draft Conventions & Recommendation Concerning
Invalidity, Old-Age & Widows' & Orphans' Insurance;Motion for Non-Ratification adopted by Assemblyon 23-11-1933. ✓

On 23-11-1933 Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour, moved the following resolution in the Legislative Assembly:

"That this Assembly, having considered the Draft Conventions and the Recommendation concerning invalidity, old-age and widows' and orphans' insurance adopted at the Seventeenth Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Conventions nor accept the Recommendations."

In the speech moving the resolution, Sir Frank Noyce paid at the outset a tribute to Sir Atul Chatterjee's valuable services rendered as chairman of the ^{Governing Body} ~~Conference~~ and generally for his work as an ambassador of India at Geneva. The Industries Member explained that ratification of the Convention would involve a system of insurance applicable to all people employed in India, requiring enormous money, which was not available either to the Local Governments or ^{to} the Government of India and which would be out of all proportion to the scheme itself.

Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhry suggested that Government should initiate some scheme of insurance for workers.

Sardar Harbans Singh, Sardar Sant Singh and Mr. S.C.Mitra reinforced the plea for some scheme of insurance on behalf of 90 per cent of the people who were workers.

On the other hand Raja Bahadur Krishnamachari, as a landholder employing labourers, thought it would be cruel to ask the labourers to set apart an insurance amount from the small wages of seven or

15

eight annas they received.

Mr. B.V.Jadhav suggested that the beginning of an insurance scheme be made with factory workers and asked Government first of all to move in the direction of fixing a minimum wage for workers.

Mr. G. Morgan thought it impossible for India to ratify the Convention and held that Government were already trying their utmost to push through labour legislation.

Diwan Bahadur Ramaswami Mudaliar said that a large number of industrial workers at least were quite ready to contribute towards pension funds. He hoped that at any rate the question of sickness insurance would be taken up immediately.

Mr. A.G.Clow from personal experience pointed out that last year the workers at Khewra Salt Mines practically unanimously turned down even the small contribution of a half-anna in the rupee suggested by Government. He would suggest that those who urged Government to start a scheme of insurance should first of all educate public opinion.

Sir Frank Noyce, in his reply, emphasized that they would not be justified in imposing a further burden on employers in the present state of industry. He assured the House that Government would always be on the alert and would not miss the first opportunity for anything that could be done to ameliorate the condition of the working population.

The House adopted the resolution for non-ratification of the Conventions & non-acceptance of the Recommendations concerning Invalidity, Old-age & Widows' & Orphans' Insurance.

(For full text of the debate vide pages 2083 to 2103 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of 23-11-33 (vol. VIII, No. 3).)

India & Draft Convention & Recommendation
Concerning Fee-Charging Employment Agencies. . ✓

On 23-11-1933 Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour, moved the following resolution in the Legislative Assembly:-

"That this Assembly, having considered the Draft Convention and the Recommendation concerning fee-charging employment agencies adopted at the Seventeenth Session of the International Labour Conference, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should not ratify the Draft Convention nor accept the Recommendation."

In moving the resolution Sir Frank Noyce said that he found it difficult to understand why the I.L.Conference should have been so anxious to curb private employment agencies. It is true that from time to time those seeking employment are victimised by fraudulent organisations. Cases of this kind are not entirely unknown in this country. The anxiety of the Conference to prevent the possibility of workers being exploited by fraudulent or unsatisfactory agencies is intelligible, but the proposals embodied in the Draft Convention go far beyond anything that is necessary for this purpose. Even in those countries where the criminal law is not adequate to prevent possible abuses, it would have been possible to prohibit the charging of fees to the workers, and this was a course which the Government of India suggested to Geneva, but which was not adopted. In adopting this extremely drastic Convention, the Conference has been actuated not by a desire to prevent fraud, but by an anxiety to ensure that the organization of the labour market should become a direct responsibility of the State. The Recommendation will show that the Draft Convention is intended to supplement the provisions of a Convention and Recommendation which were adopted at the first Session of the Conference in Washington in 1919. The object of the

earlier Convention was the establishment of a system of free employment agencies, and the Recommendation was that measures should be taken "to prohibit the establishment of employment agencies which charge fees or which carry on their business for profit". The present Convention thus represents an endeavour to secure that free public employment agencies shall be the only form of agencies permitted to operate. There is nothing whatever to be urged against the extended use of free public employment agencies. Agencies of one type have proved very valuable in western countries, and, under the various Indian Famine Codes, India maintains agencies which have proved of no less value. The existence of free employment agencies does not afford an adequate reason for preventing any one else from engaging in this very useful form of work and receiving reasonable remuneration for his service. There is no sufficient ground for legislating in India on the lines of this Convention when there are so many more important questions demanding the country's attention.

Mr. Abdul Matin Choudhury said that he was not in agreement with the Government of India in their decision not to ratify this Convention. The Government of India favour the abolition of agencies which charge fees to the workers, and this for the simple reason that ^{they} ~~it~~ leads to the exploitation of the workers, and he did not understand why they cannot extend the same principle to the agencies that charge fees to the employers, because the agencies that charge fees to the employers are as much liable to abuse as the agencies that charge fees to the workers. The standing scandal of the licensed broker system in regard to seamen, an agency that charges fees to the employers, shows ^{that} agencies which charge fees only

to employers can also prove harmful. Having ratified the 1919 Washington Convention re. the establishment of free public agencies, logic demanded that the Government of India should ratify the present Convention also.

Mr. S.C.Mitra said that he did not understand why the service securing agencies should be abolished. In this country the illiterate labourers required some intelligent people to look after their interests, to secure better terms and to provide work for them and if there is any abuse, there are the penal laws of the country to deal with them.

Mr. G.Morgan supporting the resolution said that there was nothing to take the place of the fee-charging employment agencies if they are abolished. The sardar, and employment agencies of that description, practically supplied the whole tea estate labour in Assam and there is no way in which the free movement of labour could be brought about under any agency by which fees would not be charged.

Raja Bahadur G. Krishnamachariar referred to the many abuses connected with the recruitment effected by Kanganies for labour in the plantations of Ceylon and by Sardars for the Assam tea gardens and said that if the Convention would curb the activities of such persons it should find support.

Mr. Amar Nath Dutt supported the resolution regarding non-ratification of the Convention on the ground that in a country like India, where unemployment is growing daily more and more and the ~~the~~ unsophisticated villagers do not find employment, one cannot expect that there will be an agency to find employment for them

without getting some remuneration. If the Convention contained provisions to check the vile practices of arkatis, by whom coolies are recruited from the villages of Bengal, he would have voted in favour of ratification, but from the wording of the Resolution he did not find anything which would apply to the arkatis of Bengal.

Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh was of opinion that the definition of a fee-charging employment agency in the Convention was too comprehensive and that therefore the Convention should not be ratified.

Sir Frank Noyce, in his reply, stated that the evils of the kangany and the arkati system need not be given exaggerated importance as the emigration to Ceylon is carefully controlled and as the arkati system has disappeared as all recruitment for the tea plantations in Assam is now regulated by the Tea Districts Emigrants

Labour
 Act passed in 1932.

The resolution for non-ratification of the Convention ^{and} for non-acceptance of the Recommendation concerning fee-charging employment agencies was ~~then~~ put to vote. The resolution was adopted.

(Summarised from pages 2104 to 2110 of the Official report of Legislative Assembly Debates of 23-11-33 (vol.VIII, No.3)).

The Indian Dock Labourers' Bill;

Referred to Select Committee.

On 23-11-33, Sir Joseph Bhore, Member for Commerce and Railways, moved the following resolution in the Legislative Assembly;

"That the Bill to give effect in British India to the Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships be referred to a Select Committee consisting of Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury, Mr. Uppi Sahib Bahadur, Sirdar Sohan Singh, Bhai Parma Nand, Mr. S.G.Jog, Lala Hari Raj Swarup, Mr. Lalchand Navalrai, Khan Sahib Shaikh Fazal Haq Piracha, Sir Leslie Hudson, Mr. Goswami, M.R.Puri, Mr. N.M.Joshi, Mr. A. Raisman and the Mover, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a meeting of the Committee shall be five".

Speaking in support of the resolution, Sir Joseph Bhore said to

that the principle of the Bill was/empower the Government of India to make regulations for the safety of workers employed in loading and unloading ships and to provide through a system of proper inspection for the carrying out of these regulations in accordance with standards internationally accepted and embodied in the draft convention of the International Labour Conference. This House has always accorded the most generous sympathy towards the consideration of measures intended for the improvement of the lot of workers in this country. It is, therefore, unnecessary to make any lengthy speech in commending this measure to the House. The occupation of the dock worker, particularly stevedores and labourers engaged in loading and unloading ships, is undoubtedly a most hazardous occupation, as any one will realise who has watched the working of cargoes into and out of ships. In Great Britain, the occupation of the dock worker is definitely classed as a dangerous trade, and it is governed by special regulations which are known as dock regulations. Up to the present India has had nothing on the lines of these dock regulations, and a good many other countries are in the same position as India. The detailed provisions of the International Convention on the subject follow generally the provision of the English dock regulations which are generally recognised as furnishing a reasonably complete code for the safety of the worker.

The main provision is clause 5 under which power is taken to make regulations to ensure the safety of the workers in all essential respects such as the provision of lighting and fencing of dangerous approaches, the protection of hatchways, the measures necessary to see that hoisting machines are in safe working condition and that the machinery is operated by competent persons, the provision of first-aid to injured workers and of rescue appliances

for workers who fall into the water and a number of other matters covered by the Convention. Clause 6 gives power to the Local Governments to make rules providing for inspection. The intention here is that the work of inspection should largely be carried out through the agency of the factory inspectors appointed by Local Governments under the Indian Factories Act.

The International Convention provides a somewhat elaborate code of rules having regard to conditions which exist in the large maritime ports where the work of loading and unloading is done through means of the most modern machinery. Such conditions exist in India only in the major ports and perhaps in one of two of the largest of the minor ports of India. India has a large number of very small ports, as have other countries of the world, the conditions of which is such that it would be impossible to apply to them an elaborate code of rules which were designed to meet the case of larger and more fully equipped ports. For that reason the Convention confers on member Governments the power of granting exemptions in certain cases in respect of either the whole or part of the provisions of the Convention, and clause 11 of the Bill provides for the exercise of such power by the Governor General in Council according to the provisions of the Convention itself.

Mr. Abdul Matin Chaudhury in supporting the resolution said that the Convention to which this Bill refers^{red} was originally adopted in the year 1929, and that he had the privilege of working in the Sub-Committee which dealt with this particular Convention. Though on the occasion of voting the Government of India remained neutral, Mr. Clow, on behalf of the Government of India, gave the assurance that the Government of India would co-operate to the fullest extent in giving effect to the provisions of this Convention. He was glad that this Bill redeemed that pledge. Mr. Chaudhury added that he would like to know whether this Convention would apply to the case of maritime ships or to ships engaged in inland navigation also.

Mr. A. Raisman speaking on behalf of the Government said that the Convention empowered member countries to exempt any port at which the processes are only occasionally carried on or the traffic is small and confined to small ships. That excludes the whole of the inland navigation or the inland ports of India, because none of them are places at which the processes are continually carried on or the traffic is large, and, in particular, the ships in which cargo is carried on the inland waterways are smaller than those contemplated by the Convention.

The motion was adopted.

(Text reprinted from pages 2078-2082 of the Legislative Assembly Debates of 23-11-1933: Vol VIII. No. 3).

National Labour Legislation.Labour Legislation in Indore State;The Indore Workmen's Compensation Act under Consideration. ✓

Indore State has been taking a keen interest in the welfare of the labourers in the State, as a result of which, within ^{the} a short period of a year, two laws to protect them have already been passed and a third is under consideration of the Government. The Indore Trade Disputes Act, 1933, was passed in the beginning of the year (vide pages 15-16 of our March 1933 report) and the Indore Bill to Restrict Expenditure on Marriage Feasts was passed quite recently (vide pages 55-56 of our July 1933 report). It is understood that, in order to protect the interests of ^{the} labourers of the State ~~who are~~ working in factories, the Government of Indore State ✓ are contemplating the enactment of ^a ~~the~~ "Workmen's Compensation Act".

(The National Call, 13-11-33).

A communication from the Government of Indore received in this Office on 4-12-1933 states that "the Indore Workmen's Compensation Bill is just on the same lines as the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act".

Immigrant Labour in Assam, 1932-33.* ✓

The following details regarding the conditions of immigrant labour in Assam tea gardens are taken from the Report on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1933. The report, as usual, is divided into two parts; (1) Immigrant Labour in Assam Valley Division, and (2) Immigrant Labour in the Surma Valley and Hill Division.

General. - According to the Assam Government's resolution on the report, as in the previous year, the tea industry continued to suffer severely from the world-wide trade depression and from over-production. Many tea estates were worked at a loss. The scheme to restrict production and to limit exports, introduced during the current year, had the effect of raising prices appreciably, and the prospects of the industry, in consequence, improved. A Bill, giving legislative effect to the central schemes, was passed at the autumn session of the Legislative Assembly.

Recruitment and Wages. - Owing to the depression in the tea industry, the number of immigrants imported fell from 50,997 in the previous year to 39,901. Of the 39,901 immigrants, no less than 39,303 went to the Assam Valley. Very few immigrants were imported to the Surma Valley, the figures for this year and last year being only 598 and 621 respectively.

Owing to the slump in the tea industry, there was a further decrease in average cash earnings by labourers on the estates. In the Assam Valley, the average earnings of men, women and children fell from Rs. 12-8-5 to Rs. 11-12-8, Rs. 9-8-7 to Rs. 8-15-8, and Rs. 6-15-8 to Rs. 6-6-9, while in the Surma Valley, the average wages fell from Rs. 7-14-11 to Rs. 7-6-9, Rs. 6-1-1 to Rs. 5-4-10 and Rs. 4-9-1 to Rs. 4-2-7. In the Assam Valley, the reduction in wages is said to be due to finer plucking and to reduced opportunities of earning ticca or additional pay for work over and above the standard task. In both valleys, the report states, the reduction in cash earnings was counterbalanced by a decrease in the price of foodstuffs and other necessaries, and there was no curtailment of the former concessions in the shape of free housing, free firewood, free grazing, free medical attendance and maternity benefits.

* Report on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year ending the 30th June 1933. - Shillong; Printed at the Assam Government Press 1933. - Price Rs. 2-1-0 or 3s. 2d. - pp. 7+10

Whitley Recommendations. - Opinions from officials and non-officials on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour were considered during the year. Owing to the bad financial condition of both Government and the tea industry, the Government of Assam felt that it would not be possible for some time to carry out these recommendations most of which involve new expenditure, directly or indirectly.

Labour Conditions in Assam Valley.

Recruitment and Labour Strength. - The number of immigrants dropped from 50,376 to 39,303. The decrease is due to economic conditions. At the close of the year, the garden population was 769,869 against 754,622 in the previous year. It is interesting to note that in spite of short recruitment, of free permission given to labourers to leave the gardens and settle outside, there was an increase of garden population by 15,247 over that of the last year. This was mainly because, with things as they were, more labourers preferred to stay in the gardens rather than settle elsewhere. The total strength of adult labour force in Assam Valley during the year under review was 434,399 (237,226 men and 197,113 women) as against 435,877 (241,573 men and 194,304 women) in the previous year. There was no unusual change in the distribution of coolies over the provinces of origin. The general health of the coolie population, the report states, continued to be good. The birth-rate was 36.41 against 31.97 and the death-rate was 21.30 against 22.16. It is satisfactory to note that there was a decrease of death-rate though there was an increase of garden population and that, at the same time, there was a satisfactory increase in the birth-rate. There was no serious epidemic among the coolies during the year under report. The year was a healthy one.

Wages and Concessions. - According to the report, there was a slight decrease in the cash earnings of labourers, in the year under review. The average earnings of men, women and children fell from Rs.12-8-5 to Rs.11-12-8, Rs.9-8-7 to Rs.8-15-8 and Rs. 6-15-8 to Rs.6-6-9 respectively. The decrease in average wages is reported to be mainly due to enforcement of finer plucking to counteract prevailing low prices and reduced opportunities of earning ticca or additional pay for work over and above the standard task. But the decrease of wages did not affect the condition of labourers as it was counterbalanced by a decrease in the price of foodstuffs and other necessaries. Economies were not generally practised at the expense of the resident labour force. The chief economy affecting the coolies were towards the end of the year, the almost general abandonment of the attendance bonus, a survival of the old agreement bonus and a reduction in the settlement allowance given to new coolies on arrival. The concession which the coolies enjoyed in the shape of free housing, fire-wood, medical attendance, rice cultivation at free or at privileged rates were continued throughout the year. Many gardens allowed maternity leave with full or half pay for a period of four to six months. Agents and Managers alike were alive to the importance of protecting their labour force from the effects of the depression and in spite of curtailed expenditure budgets, the level of the wages on

the whole was well maintained. The report shows that the standard of a living of the tea garden coolies generally improved and it is not in any way inferior to that of the neighbouring villages even in this depressed condition of the industry.

Land held by Coolies and ex-coolies. - During the period under review, the report states, the coolies working in the garden held 126,009 acres of land, of which 15,833 acres were held by coolies directly as settlement holder, under government, 88,398 as tenants of the garden and 21,779 as tenants of other land holders. The land held by ex-tea garden coolies during the year came to 350,962 acres, of which 322,361 acres they occupied directly under government and 28,601 acres as sub-tenants.

Relations with Employers. - The report shows that, the relations between the management and the labour force were generally good. There was a considerable decrease in the number of cases instituted by coolies against Managers. Only 3 criminal complaints were filed by coolies against their Managers and they were dismissed under section 203, Criminal Procedure Code.

Inspections. - The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 537 during the year as against 533 in the previous year. Of the 230 gardens liable to inspection, 224 were inspected during the year.

Conditions in Sarma Valley and Hill Division.

Recruitment and Strength of Labour. - The total labour force, working and non-working at the close of the year was 319,621 against 317,991 in the preceding year. The rise is due to the increase in the number of children only. The number imported during the year was 598 as compared with 621 in 1931-32. As in the previous year there was no unusual change in the distribution of the labour force over the provinces of origin. The adult labour force in the Division during 1932-33 consisted of 92,822 men, and 88,088 women, giving a total of 180,910 as against 182,418 in the previous year.

Health Conditions. - The death-rate per mille per annum was 19.69 against 21.43 in the preceding year. The general health of the coolie population ~~continued to be~~ continued to be good and there was no serious epidemic during the year under report. The birth-rate rose from 32.82 in the preceding year to 36.26. The ratio ^(per mille annual strength) per mille of deaths to strength among adult labourers according to nationality fell from 23.88 in 1931-32 to 21.55. As in the previous year the death-rate among the Assam coolies was the highest (38.23). The Chota Nagpur and the Santal pargana coolies came next (20.74). The death-rate for all others was below twenty per cent. Generally speaking the health of the coolies was better than in the preceding year.

Wages. - The average monthly cash earnings of the labourers

showed a tendency to fall during the period under report. The decrease in earnings was, however, counterbalanced by the decrease in the price of foodstuffs and other necessaries, and when with other concessions enjoyed by labourers in the shape of free housing, free medical attendance, free firewood, free grazing, free supply of meals, etc., when and where necessary and the maternity benefits, their condition did not compare unfavourably with that of the rural population of the division.

Land Held by Coolies. - The coolies on tea gardens held 53,519 acres of land against 54,592 acres in the preceding year. Of the total area, 3,509 acres were held directly under Government, 45,972 acres as tenants of gardens and 4,038 acres as tenants of landholders. The average rent realised per acre of land under the gardens was Re.1-9-4 against Rs.4-5-10 per acre under landholders.

Relations with Employers. - The relations between the employers and the employed continued to be good. Ten miscellaneous cases were instituted against managers by coolies. Eight of these were decided against complainants and the remaining two were compromised or withdrawn.

Inspections. - The number of gardens employing more than 50 labourers was 231 during the year, 101 gardens were liable to inspection during the year and all were duly inspected.

(The report on Immigrant Labour in the Province of Assam for the year 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 19-23 of the December 1932 report of this Office).

Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1932-33.* ~

Returns Received. - Returns were received from 374 of the 389 factories amenable to the Act. The few factories that did not submit returns employed few women and probably did not pay any benefit. During the period under review, 49,672 women were employed daily in factories in the Bombay Presidency, as against 53,487 in the previous year. The number of women who claimed maternity benefit

* Annual Report on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act, 1929, for the year ending 30th June 1933. Bombay; Printed at the Government Central Press - 1933- Price. Pies 6 or 1d. - pp. 2.

under section 6(1) was 6,414.

Benefits Paid. - According to the report, the number of benefits granted increased by 335 to 5,790 and the amount paid by about Rs. 7,300 to Rs. 135,813-3-2. These increases were accompanied by a decrease of 3,815 in the number of women employed so that it is clear that the privileges conferred by the Act are being increasingly availed of by factory women. The claims paid per 1000 women increased considerably, the percentage being 10.2 as against 6.8 in the previous year.

Attitude of Employers. - Employers in the large factories continued to treat claims liberally and, apart from a few exceptions, claims were dealt with more in the spirit than the letter of the Law.

(The Working of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act during 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 24-25 of our November 1932 report).

Labour Recruitment for Assam Tea Gardens

from Madras Presidency, 1932-33.* ✓

According to the Report on the Working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in the Madras Presidency for the year ending 30-6-32, the system of recruitment remained unchanged during the year under review. 36 licences were issued to local agents and no licence is reported to have been cancelled. 4,190 sardars were employed during the year and they worked under the licensed local agents. 3 ~~11111~~

* Report on the Working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act for the year ending 30-6-1933. - Bangalore; Printed at the Mysore Residency Press and published by the Manager of Publications, Civil Lines, Delhi. 1933. Price. 4 annas or 5d. pp. 9.

5 licences of garden sardars in the Ganjam district were cancelled during the year.

4,816 emigrants were registered in the Presidency during the year by garden sardars working under the licensed local agents, as against 8,489 in the previous year. 4,814 of these were recruited for Assam and two were recruited for Sylhet. The number of dependents registered among these emigrants was 1,073 or 22.28 per cent as against 1,589 or 18.75 per cent during the previous year. No recruitment is reported to have been made for Cachar during the year under review. Only 3,612 of the emigrants were despatched to their final stations, 3,610 to Assam and 2 to Sylhet. Of the total number of 3,610 emigrants despatched to Assam proper, 1908 or 53 per cent were men, 967 or 27 per cent were women and 735 or 20 per cent were children.

(The working of the Assam Labour and Emigration Act in the Madras Presidency during 1931-32 is reviewed at page 23 of our November 1932 report).

Factory Administration in Madras, 1932* ✓

Number of Factories. - The year began with 1,636 factories under the operation of the Act. 62 new factories were brought on the register during the 12 months under review, and 15 factories were struck off the registers. In 36 of these machinery had been removed, 7 were closed for three years, one treated as part of the main factory and in 21 there was no proof of over 19 persons being simultaneously employed as required by the Act. Of the 1,633 factories on the register at the end of the year, 1,452 were in commission during the year, the remaining 181 being closed partly due to the general trade depression. Of the 1,452 factories in commission, 657 were perennial and 795 seasonal.

* Government of Madras - Development Department. G.O.No.907, 28th July 1933. Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1932, pp.22

Number of Operatives. - The average daily number of operatives employed in the 1,452 factories that were in commission during the year was 132,960 as against 137,377 in 1931. The decrease has been attributed to trade depression and the smaller number of factories working during the year. Of these, 4,676 (4,574 in perennial and 102 in seasonal) were employed in Government and Local Fund factories and the rest in private factories. 39,375 operatives were engaged in the cotton spinning and weaving industry during the year, while 5,595 were employed in jute spinning and weaving mills.

Number of Women & Children. - The total number of women and children employed in registered factories during the year was 33,212 and 6,246 as against 33,761 and 6,482, respectively, in 1931. The decrease in the number of women and children has also been attributed to the smaller number of factories in commission and to the prevailing trade depression.

Certification of Children. - The number of certificates issued during the year was 8,437 as against 7,010 in 1931. Prosecutions were taken up for violation of section 23 in eight cases and convictions obtained in six; one was pending trial at the close of the year under report.

Inspections. - Of the 1,452 factories that were in commission during the year, 273 were inspected once, 545 twice, 468 thrice and 116 more than three times. The total number of inspections by all Inspectors including 682 made by Additional Inspectors ~~including 682~~ was 3,288 as against 3,127 in the previous year. 50 out of these 1,452 factories were not inspected during the year.

Health and Sanitation. - The health of operatives was good. It was reported by the District Health Officer, Nilgiris, that a case of imported plague occurred in one of the tea estates.

The cleanliness of factory premises and their surroundings was well maintained. Orders issued departmentally and in several cases on the suggestions of the District and Municipal Health Officers were, as a rule, promptly carried out. Prosecution had however to be made in four cases. Convictions were obtained in all these cases.

Housing of Factory Operatives. - The four tea factories newly registered during the year provided housing accommodation for all their workers. Three other factories provided housing accommodation for a portion of their staff. Thus seven factories provided housing accommodation in addition to the 267 factories mentioned in ~~addition~~ last year's report.

Education and Welfare Work. - Educational facilities provided

during the previous years were continued except in the case of one tea factory in Coimbatore district where a school had to be closed on account of unsatisfactory attendance.

Provision of medical facilities in tea estates and in large industrial concerns was continued during the year. The usual medical aid was also provided in the four newly registered tea factories. Welfare Committees ~~Madras~~ which were started in 1931 in the Perambur (Madras), and Golden Rock (Trichinopoly) Railway Workshops, continued to function during the year under report. The Labour Office for the Burma-Shell Installations in Madras has been working successfully since 1931.

Lime-Washing and Painting. - The periodical limewashing of the inside walls and painting or limewashing of wood work of factories were generally well attended to. Exemption from lime-washing the walls of certain parts of the factory given in two cases and from painting wood work in one case reported in 1931 was continued during the year. New exemptions from lime-washing the walls of boiler sheds were granted in two cases. Attention of managers were drawn to the rules wherever necessary; prosecutions were taken up in three cases and convictions obtained in all of them.

Wages and Strikes. - The average daily rates of wages for skilled labour in 1932 varied from Rs.1-5-6 for an engine driver to Rs. 0-8-7 for an oilman, Rs. 0-10-11 for a weaver (cotton) and Rs.0-10-1 for a spinner (cotton). There is no difference in the rates between the figures for the above categories of workers during 1931 and 1932. The average daily rates for unskilled labour ranged from Rs. 0-8-6 for a press coolie (male) and Rs. 0-5-1 for a press coolie (female) to Rs. 0-6-9 for a male coolie and Rs. 0-4-3 for a female coolie in rice mills. The average wages paid in factories in the presidency during the year under report varied in a few cases when compared with those paid in 1931. In 12 cases of skilled labour there is an increase and in five cases there is a decrease; in the case of unskilled labour there is an increase in four cases and decrease in four cases.

There were 13 strikes in registered factories during the year under review.

Fencing of Mill Machinery. - Fencing and guarding of dangerous parts of ways, works, machinery and plant were reported to have been well attended to. The dangers involved in unfenced machinery were explained to employers and operatives wherever necessary and steps were taken to see that the orders issued in this respect were duly complied with. Wearing of tight clothing by oilers, drivers, etc., has been enforced and orders issued wherever irregularities were noticed.

Hours of Employment and Weekly Rest. - The rest interval of one hour prescribed by section 21(1) (a) (i) of the Act was observed in 1,294 factories. Two printing presses in Madras and one printing press in Trichinopoly have availed themselves of the proviso to section 21(1)(a)(ii). Exemption to the majority of the operatives from section 21 of the Act has been availed of by 83 factories on the usual condition that sufficient time though not a fixed period is allowed for meals. Returns were not received from 72 factories.

Sundays are observed as holidays in the case of 569 factories. Substituted holidays were granted in 703 factories in lieu of Sundays worked. Exemption from section 22 has been availed of by 108 factories subject to the condition that no person shall be allowed to work for more than 14 days without a holiday for a whole day. Returns were not received from 72 factories.

The number of factories in which the normal weekly hours were not above 48 was 269 for men and 294 for women; above 48 and not above 54, 223 for men and 153 for women; above 54 was 888 for men and 757 for women. The 30-hour week for children was observed in 35 factories and more than 30 in 122 factories.

Accidents. - 1,623 accidents occurred in factories during the year as against 1,948 in the previous year, the frequency rate for the Presidency for 1932 is .0043 as against .006 in 1931. Of these 14 were fatal, 355 serious and 1,254 minor as compared with 14 fatal, 400 serious and 1,534 minor accidents during 1931.

International Collaboration re. Protection of Workers. - The report mentions that action was also taken during the year with reference to international collaboration in measures affecting the protection of workers. The campaign against accidents in railway workshops was pursued further; very appreciable results have been obtained in the South Indian Railway works at Golden Rock employing a daily average of 3,414 operatives, with the co-operation of the management and similar results are shortly anticipated in the case of the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway workshops at Perambur employing a daily average of 4,360 workmen. Safety and staff committees have been organized in these railway workshops at Perambur and Golden Rock respectively and are said to function satisfactorily. The incidence rate of accidents in factories in general has also decreased during the year as a result of this safety propaganda. Owing to the increasing number of serious and fatal accidents in groundnut decorticating factories, an improved guard to the feed opening of decorticators was designed by the department. Type designs have been supplied to managers of factories and the old guards are gradually being replaced by the new design. Legislation has been suggested to enforce statutory tests on unfired pressure vessels especially steam pressure vessels such as kiers, digesters, steam jacketed pans, etc., used in factories and the safety valves and pressure gauges attached to them in view of the safety of operatives attending to such vessels. The question of abating the dust nuisance in factories such as rice mills, cotton gins and presses,

tea factories, etc., by a wider use of section 10 of the Indian Factories Act contemplated by Whitley Commission has been examined and a report submitted for orders of Government through the Commissioner of Labour.

Prosecutions. - Occupiers and managers of 50 factories involving 57 persons were prosecuted during the year. In one case the accused was acquitted. In three cases the accused occupiers transferred their liability to their managers who were found guilty and convicted. Two cases were pending trial at the close of the year under report. Convictions were obtained on 203 counts, the fines levied ranging from Rs. 2 to Rs.100 per count.

The Assam Labour Board, 1932-33; Board to be Dissolved on 30.9.33.*

Agencies. - At the close of the year, 35 local agencies were at work, distributed as follows:-

Bengal -2; Bihar and Orissa - 14; United Provinces - 4; Central Provinces - 9; Madras - 6. During the year one local agency of the Tea Districts Labour Association was opened at Vizianagram, and one local agency was closed at Waltair.

Recruitment. - The total number of persons recruited during the past season was 38,907 as against 49,857 in the previous year, and the number of garden sardars at work was 12,831 as against 22,934 in the previous year. Of the total number recruited, 19,684 came from the Ranchi area, 4,215 from Sambalpur, and the surrounding States, and 2,340 from Koraput. The average number of recruits per sardar was 3.03 as against 2.17 in the previous year. The increase in the average number of recruits obtained by garden sardars testifies to the further growing popularity of Assam amongst the labouring classes. The supply of labour has been plentiful during the year under report, and the numbers recruited could have been greatly increased but for the fact that several gardens had to limit or close down recruiting during the year under review owing to trade depression. A comparison with last year's figures shows that the average advance for each adult recruit to sardars has fallen in all the agencies except in one. In most cases the fall in the scale of recruiting advances paid has been very considerable. Recruiting prospects for next year are favourable.

* Resolution - No.L.1723, Government of India Department of Industries and Labour dated New Delhi the 26th October 1933. - Report on the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending the 30th June 1933, and the quarter July to September 1933, submitted by the Chairman, Assam Labour Board, - Obtainable from the Government of India Publication Branch, Delhi. - pp.9.

Free Recruitment in C.P. - During the year, under the free recruiting scheme, 106 sardars assisted by 69 recruiters recruited 172 persons, i.e. an average of 1.6 for each sardar in the Jubbulpore Division.

Illegal Recruitment. - The total number of garden sardars prosecuted for offences in connection with recruitment was 29 as compared with 32 in the previous year. 4 garden sardars were returned to their gardens without prosecution on account of minor irregularities as against 11 in the previous year.

Dissolution of Board on 30-6-1932. - This is the last annual report which will be issued by the Assam Labour Board as it will cease to exist when the Tea Districts Emigrant Labour Act of 1932 comes into force on the 1st October 1933. The object for which the Assam Labour Board was constituted, viz., to free Assam emigration from recruiting abuses, has been fulfilled and with the enforcement of the new Act (XXII of 1932), the Tea Industry will enjoy practical freedom in recruitment.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Assam Labour Board during the year ending 30-6-1932 is reviewed at pages 33-34 of the December 1932 report of this Office).

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines, 1932*

The Indian Mines Act, 1923, applies to British India only and not to the Indian States. As in the previous years the report deals with the following classes of mines; coal, iron, manganese, lead, silver, gold, tin, wolfram, chromite, copper, gems, mica, salt, slate, lime-stone, stone, clay and a few other minerals.

Persons Employed. - During the year 1932^{the} average number of persons working in and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 204,658, as compared with 230,782 in the previous year. The decrease was 26,124 persons, or 11.32 per cent. Of these persons 110,907 worked underground, 41,017 in open workings and 52,734 on ~~the surface~~

* Indian Mines Act, 1923 - Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1932. - Delhi: Manager of Publications - 1933. Price Re.1-14 or 3s.3d. - pp.168

the surface. The numbers of men and women, respectively, who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface were as follows:-

	<u>1932</u>	<u>Men.</u> <u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>Women.</u>	<u>1931.</u>
Underground. ...	96,196	98,885	14,711		16,841
In open workings.	30,256	38,833	10,761		16,079
Surface. ...	<u>39,899</u>	<u>45,157</u>	<u>12,835</u>		<u>14987</u>
Total...	166,351	182,875	38,307		47,907

The number of women employed underground was 14,711, or 13.26 per cent of the total number of men and women employed underground. The percentage of women employed underground in coal mines was 14.84, as compared with 16.81 per cent in 1931, 18.39 per cent, in 1930, 23 per cent in 1929 and 29 per cent in 1928. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was as follows; Bengal - 5,060; Bihar and Orissa - 8,827; Central Provinces - 696; and the Punjab - 128. Of the 14,711 women employed underground, 14,583 were employed in coal mines and 128 in salt mines. The statistics furnished in this report show that the number of women employed underground is well below the permissible percentage on 1st July 1932. In some coal mines very few women are now employed. For example in one colliery in the Jharia coalfield women have been totally excluded since 1st March. It is stated that the output per shift per person employed underground has increased from 2.7 tubs to 3.5 tubs since the exclusion of women.

Distribution of Workers; Coal Mines. - The number of persons employed in coal mines was 148,489, which is 9,778 less than the number employed in 1931. Of these persons, 45,659 were males employed in cutting coal, 16,582 were males employed as loaders of coal and 26,847 were women.

In Other Mines. - The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 56,169 which is 16,346 less than the number employed in 1931. 44,709 were men and 11,460 were women. Of the women 128 worked underground in salt mines.

Wages. - There has been a further general reduction in wages. The wages of coal miners in Jharia and Raniganj Coalfields decreased by over 15 per cent, and those of coal miners in Giridih by 22 per cent. The wages of coal miners in the Punjab were the same as in the previous year and in the Pench Valley coal mines the fall in wages was slight. There was a reduction in the wages paid to miners in mica, manganese, iron and limestone mines. In Burma lead mines miners appear to have enjoyed an increase in daily wages.

Recommendations of the Whitley Commission. - The Whitley Commission had made a number of recommendations with regard to the improvement of labour conditions in mines. (For a summary of these recommendations vide pages 500 to 502 of the Whitley Report). The report states that during the year under review, the following steps were taken in pursuance of some of the recommendations of the Whitley Commission.

In June 1932 meetings of representatives of employers, workmen, and the inspectorate were held in Sitarampur and Jharia to consider systems of selecting women for exclusion from the underground workings of coal mines (vide pages 26-30 of our August 1932 report). Mineowners in the two major coalfields and in Assam are reported to be making a conscientious effort to put into practice the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour that wages should be paid on a

working day and not on a rest day. In addition, the Government has taken action on the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour with respect to (a) the appointment of provincial and district public health officers as Inspector of Mines and (b) a yearly return of the total number of workmen employed wholly or part time in coal mines.

Output of Minerals; Coal . - The total output of coal in 1932 was 18,719,587 tons of a declared value of Rs. 62,241,775. The decrease in the output was 1,795,010 tons, i.e., 8.75 per cent. The opening stocks in 1932 were 1,371,530 tons and the closing stocks 1,664,969 tons. There was a further fall in the average output of coal per person employed. The average which came to 126 is the lowest since 1926. The decline may be ascribed partly to the lessened proportion of coal mined by coal cutting machines and partly to a reduction in the number of days worked per week at the pits. In comparing the figures with similar figures in other countries it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian coal mines. In 1931 the output of coal per person employed above and below ground in the United Kingdom was 253 tons. In 1930 comparative figures in certain other countries were Japan 151 tons; France 177 ~~in~~ tons; Germany 299 tons and the United States of America 737 tons.

At the beginning of the year and as a result of a measure of common agreement amongst the chief mineowners, prices of coal were fairly steady but, as the year progressed and the output of coal exceeded the demand, rates began to fall so that towards the end of the year prices had fallen considerably. In the Central Provinces, in contra-distinction to what was taking place in other

districts, there was a fairly steady demand for coal and prices did not fall to the same extent as in some other districts. Shipments of coal from Calcutta showed a slight increase over the previous year due mainly to the fact that it was found cheaper to send coal to the western ports of India by sea rather than by rail. Shipments to Hongkong, however, fell away and exporters found it increasingly difficult to compete with Natal coal which is again finding a market in Singapore and Colombo. As is evident from the considerable reduction in output, the demand for coal throughout India was considerably less than in the previous year and, according to the report, it is not likely that any general improvement in the conditions of the trade will be brought about until there is a general trade revival.

Accidents. - During the year 1932 at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 163 fatal accidents which is 26 less than in 1931 and 48 less than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 600 serious accidents involving injuries to 613 persons, as compared with 591 serious accidents involving injuries to 613 persons in the previous year. No record is maintained of minor accidents. 200 persons were killed and 649 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 36 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed is 27 less than in 1931. 182 persons killed were men and 18 were women. In one case 19 lives, in one case five lives, and in 16 cases two lives ^{each} were lost. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows.

	No. of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure. ..	110	67.48
Fault of deceased.	22	13.50
Fault of fellow workmen.	10	6.13
Fault of subordinate officials.	14	8.59
Fault of management	5	3.07
Faulty material.	2	1.23
	<hr/> 163	<hr/> 100.00

Deaths occurring in each class of mines were as follows: 151 in coal mines, 24 in mica mines, 5 in silver-lead mines; 4 in tin and wolfram mines; 4 in limestone mines; 2 in stone mines; 4 in copper mine; 1 in a salt mine; 1 in a chromite mine; 2 in manganese mines; 1 in an iron ore mine and one in a magnesite mine. The death rate per thousand persons employed above and below ground was 0.98 which was the same as the rate in 1930 and in 1931. The average rate for the preceding five years was 0.97. At coal mines the rate was 1.02, as compared with 1.17 in 1931. At mines other than coal mines the rate was 0.87, as compared with 0.58 in 1931. The increase in the death rate in this class of mine was mainly due to an accident which occurred at a mica mine and caused the death of 19 persons.

Health and Sanitation. - The principal bodies charged with looking after the health of the miners were the Asansol Mines Board of Health and the Jharia Mines Board of Health. The general health of the population in the settlement under the jurisdiction of the former was satisfactory, the death rate being 18.31 per thousand calculated on a population of 382,680 against 20.52 in 1931. Health and baby week celebrations were organised in six different parts of the mining settlement under the joint auspices of the Mines Board

of Health and Asansol Health and Baby Welfare Society. A leprosy officer was appointed by the Board during the year who carried out an initial survey of leprosy in different parts of the mining settlement. The Board's staff to deal with maternity and infant welfare consisted of six midwives, who in addition to free maternity service, paid ~~maternal~~ antenatal and postnatal visits within the area of work and carried out village propaganda by simple health talks. One maternity and infant welfare centre was opened towards the end of the year with a trained Health Visitor in charge, this being the first in a series of four sanctioned by the Board of Health.

The estimated population of the settlement under the jurisdiction of the Jharia Board was 527,988 persons. The birth rate was 32.68 and the death rate 15.68 as compared with 30.97 and 16.07 in the previous year. In respect of housing, there was some improvement but owing to the depressed state of the coal trade the building programme has been temporarily suspended. Very little new construction has been entered upon but the condition of existing accommodation has been maintained. The Board's maternity and child welfare scheme passed through a difficult period during the year but nevertheless was extended towards Sijua and continued to do good work.

Coal Dust Committee. - The Third and Final Report of the Committee presided ^{over} by Mr. R.R.Simpson, I.E., and appointed by the Government of India to investigate the dangers arising from coal-dust in Indian mines was published early in the year. The terms of reference of the Committee were; to enquire into the danger of explosions of coal-dust in Indian coal mines; to make experiments on different kinds of coal-dust with a view to determine their

liability to explode or otherwise; and to report what means, if any, are necessary or desirable to provide against the risk of coal-dust explosions in Indian coal mines. The Committee in their final report discussed the findings of the First and Second Reports and the additional investigations since these were published and made a number of recommendations (vide pages 64-65 of our August 1932 report for a summary of the recommendations).

Inspections. - The number of coal mines worked during the year was 515 which is 25 less than in the previous year. The number of metalliferous (including stone, etc.) mines at work was 766, as compared with 877 in the previous year.

During the year 813 mines were inspected, many of them were inspected several times; 2,486 separate inspections were made. The cause and circumstances of nearly all the fatal accidents and serious accidents of importance, and all complaints of breaches of regulation and rules were investigated. Many inspections were made at the invitation of mineowners, superintendents or managers desirous of obtaining advice on safety matters. In the major coalfields a large proportion of the time of the Inspectors is occupied in investigating cases of actual or threatened damage to dwelling houses and roads by reason of the underground workings of coal mines, and in dealing with underground fires.

(The Report on the Working of the Indian Mins Act for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 25-32 of December 1929 Report " -do- " 1929 " " 19-26 " 1930 " " 1930 " " 17-21 January 1932 " " 1931 " " 20-26 October 1932 ").

Proposed Revision of Trade Disputes Act;

Views of Bombay Chamber of Commerce. ✓

At pages 15-17 of our June 1933 report was summarised a circular letter issued by the Government of India on 14-6-1933 to all Local Governments and Administrations inviting their views, after consulting the various provincial interests concerned, on the desirability of amending the Indian Trade Disputes Act on the lines recommended by the Whitley Commission. The following is a summary of the views expressed by the Bombay Chamber of Commerce in consultation with the Labour Sub-Committee of the Committee of the Chamber:-

(1) That the Act as it stands is practically a dead letter as far as sections 3-14 are concerned, and, if it is considered worth while to make it permanent, it must be worth while to make it useful and operative.

(2) If the Act be amended with the intention of making it more useful and operative, it should be extended for a further limited period only, in order that practical experience might be gained of its utility.

(3) There should be closer and more personal touch between Government and Industry, through the Department of Industry and Labour, with the object of evolving a small body of useful conciliators.

(4) Less cumbrous local "ad hoc" Boards of Conciliation might be formed, as an alternative to individual conciliators, and their efforts should be directed towards conciliation only, leaving the Court of Enquiry as a final weapon to marshal public opinion.

(5) A clause should be included in the Act on the lines of section 2(1) of the British Industrial Courts Act, whereby one party to a dispute can draw the attention of Government to the matter without necessarily obtaining the consent of the other party.

(6) Improved measures should be adopted to ensure the proper representation of employees.

(7) Picketing should be made illegal.

(8) Tramways should, for the purposes of the Act, be considered as public utility services.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during September 1933).

Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisations.

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Trade Union Movement in Burma, 1932-33.* ~

The following information regarding the progress of trade unionism in Burma is taken from the Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, in Burma during the year ending the 31st March 1933.

Legal Changes. - No legal changes by way of amendment of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, or of the Burma Trade Union Regulations, 1927, or otherwise were made during the year.

Registered Trade Unions. - There was only one registered trade union in Burma, namely, the Burma Motor Drivers' Association which was registered on the 28th October 1927. This association started with 56 members at the beginning of the year and had 115 in its register at the end of the period under review. The general fund at the close of the year came to Rs.95-0-0 as against Rs.49-0-0 in the previous year. No political fund has been constituted by the Association.

No federations of trade unions have yet been registered in Burma, no federation having applied for registration.

Trade Unions of Government Servants. - The application for the registration of the Burma Railways Employees' Union and that for the registration of the Oil-fields (Burma Oil Company) Employees' Association were mentioned in the last year's report. The rules of the Burma Railways Employees' Union, having been amended to make them conform to the provisions of the Act, the Union was registered on the 8th August 1933. The rules of the Oilfields (Burma Oil Company) Employees' Association are still being examined. No fresh application for registration was received during the year.

The position with regard to associations of government servants, the report states, is not quite satisfactory. Such associations are entitled to registration if they satisfy the conditions prescribed in sections 4 to 7 of the Act as well as those in the Burma Trade Union Regulations 3 to 8; and no orders under Rule 47 of the Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules controlling the right of a government servant to join such associations appear to have been issued yet.

General. - According to the report, a number of trade unions were formed during the year, and the utility of combination seems to be more widely recognized amongst workers, particularly amongst

* Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 in Burma during the year ending the 31st March 1933. - Rangoon: Supdt., Government Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1933. Price-As.6 = 7d. pp. 3

cargo-workers in Rangoon, and owners of motor-buses. There are, however, no signs yet of any great readiness on the part of the associations formed to avail themselves of the facilities for registration provided by the Act. But, as remarked in the last year's report, even an unregistered union can assist its members in making and guarding their claims under the Workmen's Compensation Act; and it is hoped that unions of workmen would give their attention to this field of action.

(The progress of trade unionism in Burma during 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 35-36 of the October 1932 report of this Office).

Trade Union Movement in Bihar and Orissa, 1932-33* ✓

Number of Registered Unions. - According to the report, only one Trade Union, viz., the Indian Colliery Labour Union, was registered during the year under report. As the very name of the Union signifies, it is a Union of workers engaged in the coal industry and has its head office at Jharia in the district of Manbhum. This brings the total number of registered Trade Unions existing at the end of the year to 4. There was no case of refusal of registration of any Trade Union, nor was the certificate of registration of any Trade Union cancelled or withdrawn. Of these 4 unions only 3 submitted their annual returns.

Membership and Finances. - The total membership of the 3 trade unions during the year under review is reported to be 2,397, of which 2,321 were men and 76 women. The total income of three unions during the year was Rs. 4,577-11-9, and the expenditure came to Rs. 5,236-1-3. The closing balance on 31-3-33 was Rs. 263-3-6 as against Rs. 921-9-0 in the previous year.

Activities of the Unions. - The report states that there were no activities worth mentioning of Trade Unions, registered or unregistered, or developments of interest relating to the Trade Union movement in the province during the year under report.

General Remarks. - The small number of Trade Unions registered since the introduction of the Act shows that there is not much of labour organization in this province. Even the few registered Trade Unions existing at the end of the year seem to be in a moribund condition. One of these, the Golmuri Tinsplate Workers' Union of Jamshedpur, reports that it has ceased to function and has not submitted its annual return. It is, therefore, proposed to cancel the certificate of registration of this Union under section 10(b) of the Act.

* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926) in the Province of B & O. for the year ending 31-3-1933. Supdt., Govt. Printing, B. & O., Patna, 1933. - Price 8 annas and 6 pies. - pp.2.

A.I. Railwaymen's Federation & Railway Board;

7th Half-Yearly Meeting - 6 & 7.11.33.

The 7th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the all-India Railwaymen's Federation took place on November 6 & 7, 1933. The deputation from the Federation included, besides one representative from each of certain unions affiliated to the Federation, Messrs. Jammadas Mehta and V.V. Giri, president and general secretary respectively, of the Federation.

The proceedings opened with a speech by Sir Guthrie Russell, Chief Commissioner of railways, in which he welcomed the delegates and suggested that in future there should be an understanding between the Board and the Federation that no report of the proceedings of the meeting between the Railway Board and the Federation should be made public without the prior consent of both the Railway Board and the Federation and that any other report of the proceedings was unauthorised. The Federation agreed to implement this understanding. The Chief Commissioner thanked the Federation for having sent in advance to the Board their memoranda on various subjects put down for discussion which had been of considerable help to the Board.

Various matters connected with the following subjects were discussed: pass rules on state-managed railways, medical examination rules, Trade Disputes Act, state railway provident fund, gratuity rules and educational assistance rules, the views of the Federation being explained to the Board. In conclusion the Chief Commissioner stressed the point that it would help both the Railway Board and the Federation if fuller information were furnished as to the

grounds on which the various recommendations put forward by the Federations were made.

Mr. Giri stated that the Federation appreciated the point of view of the Chief Commissioner and added that this would be borne in mind in future. He then thanked the Chief Commissioner for the patient hearing he had given to the Federation and the meeting terminated.

Communique

(Extracted from the Joint Committee of the Railway Board and the A.I.R. Federation, published in the Leader of 10-11-1933).

N. S. Railway Employees' Union

4th Annual Conference, 1933, Secunderabad.

The 4th Annual Conference of H.E.H. the Nizam's State Railway Employees' Union was held at Secunderabad on 18 & 19-11-33 under the presidentship of Mr. V.V.Giri, the President of the Union. Dr. Pillai, the Director of this Office, was invited to open formally the proceedings of the Conference.

According to the annual report of the Union for the year ending 31-3-1933, which was submitted to the Conference, there were 8,243 members on the rolls. The total number of workers in the Railway is nearly 15,000. Two quarterly meetings were held with the Railway Administration by the Union's Executive at which a large number of subjects regarding conditions of work of railway workers were discussed. Among these mention may be made of the following:-

- (1) Application of Washington & Geneva Conventions to the N.S. Railway;
- (2) Revision of Wages in the case of certain categories

of low paid staff; (3) Leave rules; (4) House rent allowances; (5) Housing scheme for the railway staff and (6) Educational facilities for the children of the employees. It is recorded that the Administration was sympathetic towards the demands of the Union. There was an increase in the number of the Union employees who have joined the All-India Railwaymen's Benefit Fund from 1,347 on 31-3-1932 to 2,247 on 31-3-1933.

Dr. Pillai, in opening the proceedings of the Conference, emphasised the importance of workers organising themselves into strong trade unions for safeguarding their rights, especially during periods of depression, and of the periodical discussion of matters regarding working conditions between the Administration and the Union. He also stressed the necessity for labour unions taking a more intelligent and active interest in labour legislation. In this connection he described the work of the I.L.O. and directed attention to the influence ^{the I.L.O.} it has exercised in quickening the pace of labour legislation in this country. He also described the part played by the I.L.O. in the development of Indian trade unionism.

Mr. V.V.Giri in the course of his presidential address referred to the various grievances of the N.S.Railway workers, such as lack of housing, medical and educational facilities and exhorted the workers to join the Union in larger numbers and thus make it stronger and more representative, so that proper attention may be paid to its demands by the Administration.

A number of resolutions bearing on the domestic affairs of the Union were then passed.

The All-India Railwaymen's Federation Special Convention,

Delhi, 1933.

A Special Convention of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Delhi, on 5 and 6-11-1933 with Mr. Jammadas M. Mehta as president at which most of the unions affiliated to the A.I.R.F. were represented. The agenda before the Convention consisted of the following items, among others: (1) M. and S.M. Railway Administration's order regarding Railway employees holding office in workers' union; (2) Lowered scales of pay for railway servants; (3) Registration of the A.I.R.F. under the Indian Trade Unions Act; (4) Reinstatement of G.I.P. Railway strikers, and (5) Starting of an All-India Journal by the Federation. The following decisions were arrived at by the Convention:

(1) M. and S.M. Railway Administration's Order re. employees being office bearers of Union.- The Convention unanimously adopted a resolution moved from the Chair protesting against the order of the M. and S.M. Railway, that no Railway employee should hold the office of the General Secretaryship of the Union.

(2) Lowered Scales of Pay for Railway Servants.- This subject evoked vehement discussion and some members even suggested direct action to be adopted immediately, while others wanted stoppage of work for five minutes in order to demonstrate the feelings of Railwaymen. As a result of the discussion, however, it was resolved to hold meetings of protest and demonstration throughout the country between the 1st and 7th of December.

(3) Registration of A.I.R.F. under Indian Trade Unions Act.- The Convention discussed the question of the Registration of the Federation under the Indian Trade Unions Act and elected Messrs. Jammadas M. Mehta, V.V. Giri, V.R. Kalappa, C.W.A. Gidney, N. Chatterjee, G. Krishnamurthy, and J.K. Bhattacharjee, authorising them to make the necessary changes in the existing constitution of the Federation in order to comply with the requirements of the Act, and to submit an application to the Registrar for registration.

(4) Reinstatement of G.I.P. Strikers.- ~~The names of the G.I.P strikers of the (strike of 1930) included in the second waiting list,~~ who were ^{subsequently} re-engaged, were chosen for retrenchment ^{recently} without regard to their past services. The Convention adopted a resolution requesting the G.I.P. Railway Agent and the Railway Board to condone the break

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in service of the G.I.P. ex-strikers and take their past service into consideration in all retrenchment matters and also reinstate those already retrenched.

(5) All-India Railway Journal.- The General Secretary was requested to ascertain the views of the affiliated Unions with regard to the financial support they could render to the starting of an all-India Railway journal, and also to find out if they would be prepared to wind up their individual periodicals and journals with a view to pool resources.

(Labour Times, Madras, 20-11-33).

Economic Conditions.

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World Cotton Figures:Japan Forges Ahead in Consumption. ✓

The following information relating to world cotton consumption statistics during the six months ended July 1933 is taken from the October 1933 issue (Vol.XLIV, No.517) of the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay.

The rapid growth of the Japanese cotton industry as compared with that of England and other European countries is well shown in the figures of cotton mill consumption of raw cotton during the six months ended July 1933 on the basis of returns made to and issued early this month by the International Cotton Federation in Manchester.

In the period reviewed, the British consumption —1,168,000 bales —showed an advance of 88,000 bales on that of the previous half-year, but it was 6,000 bales less than in the first half of 1932. Germany, France and Italy also had proportionate advances. In all other European countries the consumption declined, but the consumption in Japanese mills went up from 1,388,000 bales in the half-year ended 31st January to 1,512,000 bales in the six months ended 31st July:

This quantity is approximately one-third greater than the total British consumption for the same period, yet Japan has only 8,209,000 spinning spindles, against 49,001,000 in Great Britain. The disparity is accounted for by the fact that while British mills work a maximum of 48 hours a week, those of Japan work 120 hours a week. British mills in the sections using American cotton were stopped 9.78 weeks of 48 hours during the six months and in the Egyptian section 5.79 weeks, whereas the Japanese mills were stopped for only 3.82 weeks of 120 hours in the half-year. In China, where the working week is 132 hours, the consumption —1,235,000 bales for the six months— was also greater than that of all the British mills, yet China has only, 4,500,000 spinning spindles.

The class of trade done by Japan is indicated by the fact that Japanese mills used 835,000 bales of American cotton and only 28,000 bales of the finer Egyptian sorts, compared with 735,000 bales of American and 158,000 bales of Egyptian used in the British mills. China uses comparatively little of either American or Egyptian, but relies chiefly (856,000 bales) on sundry sorts, mostly inferior grades.

The statistics show a slight decline in consumption by the

Indian mills, which are mainly users of East Indian cotton (1,114,000 bales out of a total of 1,264,000 bales). For the half-year there is an increase from 56,000 bales to 70,000 bales in the British consumption of East Indian cotton, which may be symptomatic of the efforts now being made to persuade Lancashire spinners to buy more raw cotton from India.

In Great Britain 90 firms with 5,500,000 spindles in the American section and nine firms with 732,000 spindles in the Egyptian section were completely stopped during the six months, and it is reported that firms with 262,348 spindles have closed down indefinitely within the period under review. The world's mill stocks of all kinds of cotton on 31st July were 5,037,000 bales, against 4,462,000 bales 12 months before and 4,313,000 bales two years earlier.

Economic Survey of India: ✓

Government of India Appoints Expert Committee.

It will be remembered that Sir George Schuster, Finance Member to the Government of India, in his speech before the 16th session of the Indian Economic Conference which was held at Delhi from 2 to 5-1-1933, stressed the importance of conducting an economic survey of India and of compiling accurate statistics on economic and industrial matters (vide page 41 of our January 1933 report). The Viceroy, in his address before the Legislative Assembly on 1-2-1933, announced that the question of a comprehensive enquiry relating to economic conditions in the country was under contemplation and made the following remarks on the subject:

" I think it is true to say that there is now in the world, and particularly in India, a growing sense that in present world conditions some sort of economic planning is necessary for the country. My Government is very much alive to this feeling and here again we have our eyes on the future and desire to prepare for the new Government measures for providing more accurate statistical information, and for evolving a co-ordinated economic policy. I hope that we shall shortly be able to make known certain plans in this

connection which are now under our consideration.

On 20-11-1933 the Government of India have issued a press communique announcing the appointment of a small Committee of Experts to undertake the economic survey fore shadowed in His Excellency's speech. The communique states;

A Preliminary Survey. - The Government of India has decided to invite Mr. Dennis H. Robertson, University Lecturer in Economics at Cambridge, and Professor Bowley, to visit India this cold weather in order to initiate a comprehensive Economic review of India and advise on the organisation for economic intelligence in the future. The full development of the plan of an economic review may take a considerable period and as the Government of India desire that this work shall as far as possible be conducted by Indians, the present proposal is to associate three Indian Economists (one acting as Secretary) with the two British experts in their preparatory study. The idea is that Indians thus associated in the initial work will be able to supervise the main task afterwards in which, it is hoped, the Local Governments, universities, and other organisations will co-operate so as to keep the cost as low as possible.

Main Lines of Inquiry. - The exact lines of the enquiries contemplated by the Government of India will not be settled until after consultation with the experts, but the task, as at present visualised, falls under three main heads;

(1) A preliminary survey based on such data as are already available or can be collected by special enquiries to be conducted over a reasonably short period, for the purpose of giving a survey of the present economic conditions in India, and particularly the developments of the past ten or twenty years and the tendencies which may be expected in future.

(2) A survey of India's existing Statistical organisation and the preparation of a plan laying down the lines for keeping and interpreting statistical records in future, so that the Government and the public may have put before them the main indices of national economic life and so that the picture, as completed by special surveys, may be kept upto-date.

(3) A thorough and complete economic census on the lines of that in the United Kingdom which may take several years to complete.

As regards the various special reasons why it is thought important to initiate a work of this kind now, the communique states;

Need for Economic Planning. - In the first place, as a general reason, it may be said that the world is moving towards a stage where, economic planning by the Governments is becoming more and more necessary. One example of such a necessity arises in connection with the Ottawa Agreement, the effect of which must be carefully watched not only as regards its immediate results, but as regards its bearing on the future economic development and the changes in the flow of trade which it may influence. Then again, another important special function of economic intelligence and statistical records, which has to be kept in mind, is of providing information which may be required by the new Reserve Bank of India for the purpose of guiding its currency and credit policy. It is felt that the India of the future will have an ever-increasing need for an accurate diagnosis of the working of her own economic organism, and for a body of economists trained in scientific methods.

Training in Statistics. - One of the great advantages, according to the communiqué, which may be provided by the conduct of a full economic census, will be the opportunity, which this will provide for training a number of young Indians in scientific methods of enquiry and if this is started under the supervision of experts of the kind who have now been invited to come out, the result should be very beneficial.

Part of a General Plan. - The step thus contemplated is part of a general plan which has been initiated by the Government of India during the current year. As a first step in this plan, an Economic Sub-committee of the Governor-General's Executive Council has been set up, and a Central Bureau of Economic Intelligence and Statistics has been created at the headquarters out of the staff of the Department of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, which previously had its place in Calcutta (vide page 44 of our April 1933 report).

(The Hindu, 21.11.1933).

The economic survey is estimated to cost Rs.60,000 spread over a period of two years. The two British experts are arriving in India shortly before Christmas. If they are unable to complete their work in the current cold weather, they will be requested to return to India in the cold weather of 1934-35. The experts to be selected in India, will, however, continue their work beyond April 1934. One of these experts is said to be Professor Ghosh of the Bombay University. Of the other two one will be an Anglo-Indian, and the third a Muslim.

The Cotton Talks.

At pages 50-51 of our September 1933 report and at pages 30-37 of our October 1933 report ^{accounts were given of} the progress of the cotton talks which are going on between the Government of India and the Government of Japan ^{of the talks} and between the trade delegations from Lancashire and Japan and the Indian millowners. The terms of the agreements arrived at between Lancashire delegates and the Japanese delegates and between the former and the Bombay millowners were given in our October report (pages 35-37). The Indian reaction to the Indo-British agreement, has been decidedly hostile. With the exception of Anglo-Indian newspapers, the Indian press as a whole ^{as also} and Indian textile interests outside Bombay have condemned the pact. The following comments on the agreement which appeared in the Hindu of 31-10-1933 reflect nationalist opinion on the subject:

" As regards the merits of the provisions, little need be said. The recognition by Lancashire that "the Indian Cotton Textile industry is entitled for its progressive development to a reasonable measure of protection against imports of the United Kingdom yarns and piecegoods" is no consolation to us. Nor is the admission that India requires a greater measure of protection against foreign countries than against Lancashire of any consequence to us. India knows that she is entitled not merely to a half-hearted "reasonable measure of protection" against British goods but to the fullest measure of protection. No body in India wishes to penalise Lancashire. But for an agreement to be acceptable to this country it must be shown that it will not be injurious to its larger interests. In the present case, it has not been shown that the proposed agreement will not be injurious. On the contrary, it is generally feared that any relaxation of the protective tariffs in favour of Lancashire might detrimentally affect the products of Indian mills, especially those producing the finer varieties of cloth falling within the range of competition of Lancashire. It is significant that to the agreement that has now been arrived at the parties are only the British delegation and the Bombay Mill-owners' Association Indian mills outside Bombay - and their number is by no means insignificant - have refused to become a party to it. These presumably represent in a larger measure than the Bombay mills the concerns spinning finer yarn and weaving finer cloths. Even in the matter of the encouragement of the use of Indian cotton in Britain, the British delegation will but recommend that some effective

a

action be taken. In the case of Japan, we insisted on the linking of the import quota for piecegoods with the export quota for cotton. In the case of Lancashire, no such thing has been done. How can an agreement of this kind which is beneficial neither to the Indian manufacturer nor the Indian grower of cotton nor even the consumer be acceptable to India."

The pact has created a schism in commercial and industrial circles ⁱⁿ of India. On 21-11-33, at a meeting ^{of the committee,} of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay, a resolution moved by Mr. Walchand Hirachand to the effect that the pact was detrimental to the interests of the country in general and the textile industry in particular, and that the Committee felt that it cut at the very root of the recommendations of the Tariff Board, was adopted by 11 votes to 9. (Times of India, 23-11-33) As a result of this resolution Mr. H.P. Mody resigned from the Indian Merchants' Chamber ~~as well~~ and Sir Manmohandas Ramji, President of the Chamber, who supported ^{Mr} H.P. Mody, resigned his presidentship. A general body meeting of the Chamber is to be held on 2-12-1933 to consider the resolution.

As regards the progress made in the negotiations between the Government of India and Japan, during November the principal terms of the quota system agreed upon by the two governments were settled. Authentic information regarding figures of the quotas regarding Japanese piece-good imports into India and Japanese ~~raw~~ raw cotton purchases from India are not available. According to the special correspondent of the Statesman ^{at Delhi,} It would appear that the most authentic report was one published in London as a result of a cable from Tokyo early in November which gave the terms as follows:

Japan to agree to purchase one million bales of raw cotton against a quota on piecegoods of 325 million yards (some papers give the figures as 400 million yards) each additional ten thousand bales to permit of a further two million yards of piecegoods.

Japan at that time asked that conditions in regard to periods be made more flexible and the categories reduced in number. *(Statement 28-11-33)*.

This settlement of broad principles as above has not brought about complete agreement, as differences of opinion have begun to manifest themselves in matters of detail. The Japanese Government have accepted the Government of India's proposals that the 400,000,000 yards quota should be made up as follows: 45 per cent grey, 13 per cent bordered grey, 8 per cent bleached, and 34 per cent coloured goods. The Japanese spinners wanted a twenty per cent allowance with a view to varying the imports of different categories to ensure smooth trade operations, but the quota was to remain unchanged. The Japanese Government reduced this allowance to fifteen per cent and later finally reduced it to ten per cent. *(Times of India 30-11-33)*. The Government of India, it is stated, are unable to accept these terms and have consulted non-official experts on the matter. The experts have advised the Government not to yield as they fear that such concessions will be exploited by the Japanese to the detriment of Indian interests. The advisers also have pointed out that precautionary steps should be taken to ensure that the ^{quota} assigned to Japan is not exceeded in practice through the importing of cloth of larger width, which, when cut into two after import into India, might increase Japanese yardage.

An Agreement has not yet been reached, ^{upto 5-12-33,} but negotiations are still proceeding. In the meanwhile the extended period given to the operation of the old Indo-Japanese trade agreement expired on 10-11-1933.

Coal Output Restriction; Indian Mining Association's Scheme. ✓

Reference was made at pages 46(a) to 46(c) of our October 1933 report to the crisis through which ^{the} Bengal and Bihar Coal industry is passing through and to the suggestion of the Indian Colliery Owners' Association, Calcutta, made in a letter to the Railway Board, Government of India, to restrict output of coal in India. It is now understood that following several meetings between the Committee of the Indian Mining Association and Mining Federation, the general lines of a scheme for the restriction of output, as agreed to by the Members of the Indian Mining Federation, had been approved and the scheme has been placed before members of both the organisations for consideration. Provided a majority of members are in agreement with the proposals, representations are to be made to the Government of India with a view to the necessary legislation on the lines of the scheme being enacted. Details of the scheme have been asked for and when received will be communicated to Geneva.

(Proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, held on 22-11-33).

Indian Jute Industry; Japanese Competition Menace ✓

According to the Times of India of 29-11-33 which reproduces a note by the Jute Correspondent of the Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, a certain Japanese Jute mill has offered Indian buyers in Bombay a Jute of a quality equal to that of the Bengal mills, but at a

lower price. The jute mill industry of Bengal has enjoyed the monopoly of manufacturing hessians during the last 80 years. Although there are jute mills at Dundee and on the Continent, they cannot be termed as competitors of the Bengal mills since they limit their productions to the finer quality of goods. The Bengal mills, owing to cheap labour and easy access to raw materials, have always remained in a prosperous condition. But the establishment of jute mills in Japan is becoming a great menace to this monopoly industry. The local jute mills not only supply the home requirements of gunnies and hessians, but exports to meet the requirements of practically the whole world. The cotton mill industry of Bombay and Ahmedabad which are the best purchasers of jute in India, purchase their requirements from Calcutta.

It is stated that underselling by the Japanese mills is not, however, an impossibility. The low freight of the Japanese steamships, the rationalisation of their industries, the efficient way of manufacturing and the manipulation of the currency have made it possible for them to beat down the Indian home industry in Indian markets themselves. The following figures showing the present comparative cost of jute manufactures in Japan and Bengal unmistakably confirm the possibilities.

Jute mills in Calcutta (cost per ton of jute manufacture);		
Cost of 1 ton jute	-----	Rs. 134
Cost of manufacture	-----	Rs. <u>200</u>
Total.....		Rs. 334
Cost in sterling at 18d. 18d. ^{18 1/2} /-.		6012d.

Jute Mill in Japan (cost per ton of jute manufacture);		
Cost of 1 ton jute (Rs.134)	-----	2862d.
Export Duty (25 Yen at 14 1/2 a Yen)	-----	363d
Cost of manufacture (200 Yen)	-----	<u>2900d</u>
Total		6125d

The extremely narrow margin between the present manufacturing costs of Japanese and Bengal mills emphatically suggests that if only the former can economise their costs by even a small percentage as may quite well be, the Bengal mills would be in jeopardy.

(The Times of India, 29-11-1933).

Public Health.

Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1932-33* ✓

The following information regarding health conditions in the Asansol Coal Mines is taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1932-33. The area of the mining settlement under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health is 413 square miles and the population in 1932-33 was 382,680 of which 47,659 people were living in municipal areas.

Vital Statistics: Births and Deaths:- During the year 10,383 births were registered against 10,645 in the previous year, the birth rate being 27.13 against 28.04 per 1000 of population. There were 119 still births registered during the year. Male births exceeded female births by 401. The proportion was 108 to 100. The number of deaths registered during the year for all causes was 7,010 against 7,793 in the preceding year, the death-rate being 18.31 against 20.52 per 1000.

Infant Mortality.- 1,487 infants under one year died during the year as against 1,438 in the previous year. The infant mortality rate calculated on the number of births registered was 143.21 per 1000 against 135.08 in the previous year and 138.3 the average of the last 5 years. This increase in infant mortality is reported to be due to greater prevalence of malaria in the Mining Settlement. About 60 per cent of the infant deaths occurred within a month of birth, and 35.7 per cent within one week of birth.

Principal Causes of Deaths.- Principal causes of deaths in the Settlement were (1) fever, including malaria, (2) pneumonia, (3) respiratory diseases and (4) dysentery and diarrhoea.

The number of deaths returned as due to fevers, including malaria, during the year under report was 3,042 with a death rate of 7.94 per mille. 43.4 of the total deaths were reported to be due to fevers. The report points out that fever mortality has been steadily increasing in the mining area and that this is mainly owing to the high incidence of malaria. The decline in mortality from ~~this cause~~ → respiratory diseases since 1929 continued during the year under report, the mortality rate being 2.19 against 2.3 per 1000 in the preceding year. The number of deaths from respiratory diseases (including pneumonia) was 842 or 11.9 per cent of total mortality. The death rate from pneumonia was 1.25 per 1000. There were 277 deaths from dysentery and diarrhoea with a death rate of 0.72 against 0.79 per 1000 in the previous year. Only 72 deaths were reported from child-birth against 81 in the previous year. The maternal mortality was 6.9 per 1000 children born against 7.6 in the previous year. There were 65 deaths from ~~cholera~~ cholera as against

* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1932-33. 1933. The Saraswati Press, Asansol. pp.42.

309 in the previous year. The death rate was 0.16 per 1000. There were 36 deaths from small-pox compared to 8 in the previous year. The death rate was 0.09 per 1000.

Housing Conditions.- The report points out that the conditions of houses for miners differ in different collieries. Only 30 per cent was found to come up to the Board's standard after a detailed survey in the previous year. The decline in coal trade during the year stood in the way of any concentrated effort on the part of the collieries to improve the housing condition of the miners. The Board's staff inspected the miner's dwellings frequently and regularly throughout the year in order to ensure general cleanliness and prevent overcrowding. Minor defects are usually removed by mine-managers at the instance of the staff in course of their inspection.

Sanitation and Water Supply.- Bye-laws calculated to improve the general sanitation of the Mining Settlement including the colliery areas were framed by the Board during the year and are awaiting sanction of the Local Government. The majority of collieries are provided with sanitary wells. A few used pit water which is pumped up and chlorinated before use. Village water supply is dependent mostly on tanks. Some are provided with wells built by the Local Board. Tanks are reserved for drinking purposes under the Epidemic Diseases Act in villages whenever found necessary.

School Hygiene and Health Propaganda.- Medical inspection of school children in Primary and High schools was carried out by the School Medical Officer of the Board. Altogether 45 Boys' Schools were visited, of which 7 were H.E. Schools, 3 M.E. Schools, 6 U.P. Schools, 21 Lower Primary and 8 Madrasas. The number of boys examined by him was 3,340. In addition, 4 girls' schools including one High School was also visited. Lectures on personal hygiene and simple precautions to be taken against prevailing diseases like small-pox and cholera were delivered by the Board's Sanitary Assistants in the primary schools. In addition to lantern lectures on prevailing diseases, the Board's Propaganda Officer was engaged for a considerable period during the year in carrying out house-to-house propaganda to combat the outbreaks of small-pox, to assist the leprosy staff in organising village co-operation and also to enlist support of the people in anti-malaria campaign.

Maternity and Child Welfare.- The work of the Board's midwives of which there were 6, consisted of ante-natal visits to expectant mothers, free maternity service, supervision of dais' work, post-natal visits, care of the new born baby and advice to mothers. 885 ante-natal cases came under the supervision of the midwives, besides the 1245 cases re-visited during the year. 134 maternity cases were conducted and 34 were witnessed, the dais having conducted labour 557 post natal cases were visited during the year by the midwives as against 248 cases in the previous year.

Finances of the Board.- The financial position of the Board, the report states, was sound and satisfactory during the year. There was no loan outstanding. The total income of the Board excluding opening balance of Rs. 102,576/- amounted to Rs. 118,918/- against Rs. 128,345/- in the preceding year, showing a decrease of Rs. 15,769/- which was due partly to the reduction in the rate of cess and partly to falling off in the collection. The total expenditure of the

Board amounted to Rs. 161,914/- against Rs. 116,273/- in the previous year. The credit balance of the Board at the end of the year under report was Rs.59,580/- Cess was levied during the year under review on mine-owners at Re.1-10-0 per 100 tons on the annual output of the mine and on royalty-receivers at 20% of the road cess payable as against Re.1-12-0 and 24% in the preceding year. The cess assessed on mine-owners for the year under report amounted to Rs.97,913-4-0 as compared with Rs.102,994-8-0 for the previous year. The decrease was due to reduction in the rate of cess. The cess assessed on the Royalty-receivers for the year under review amounted to Rs. 19,577-8-0 as compared with Rs. ~~18,139-14-0~~ 18,139-14-0 for the previous year.

(The report on the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 48-50 of the May 1933 report of this Office).

Health Conditions in Jharlia Coal Mines, 1932-33.* ✓

The Annual Report on the Working of the Jharlia Mines Board of Health for the year 1932-33, published by the Government of Bihar and Orissa gives the following details regarding the health conditions in ^{the} coal mine area in Jharlia.

Jharlia Mines Settlement. - The estimated labour population during the year 1932-33 was 511,085, i.e. 6,349 more than the census figures of 1931. There were 16,704 births (8,574 males and 8,130 females) during 1932 as compared with 15,631 (8,065 males and 7,566 females) in the previous year. The rate of birth per mille was 32.68 against 30.97 in 1931, the birth rate being increased by 1.71. The death rate showed a decrease by 0.4, there being 8,012 deaths (4,241 males and 3,771 females) as compared with 8,110 (4,355 males and 3,755 females) in 1931. The death rate per mille was 15.68 against 16.18 in the previous year. The rate of increase of population, i.e. the excess of birth rate was 17.01 in 1932 while that of 1931 was 14.9.

* Jharlia Mines Board of Health Annual Report for 1932-33 by the Chairman, Jharlia Mines Board of Health. - Supdt., Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna. 1933.

Colliery Population. - According to the report, the average daily labour force employed in 1932 was 56,390 as compared with 61,504 in 1931. Of these, 31,294 men and 6,629 women were under ground workers and 13,740 men and 4,727 women were above ground workers. The total number of births in 1932 among the colliery population was 1,942 (988 males and 954 females) as against 2,008 (1,048 males and 960 females) in 1931, the rate per mille being 17.22 against 21.77 in the previous year. The total number of deaths came to 980 (552 males and 428 females) as against 1,205 during the previous year and the death rate per mille was 8.68. as compared with 13.06 in 1931. During the year under review, there were 51 cases of cholera with 11 deaths and 396 cases of small-pox. No death was recorded for small-pox among the colliery population during the year. 529 accidents were reported in 1932 of which 88 were fatal, 337 reported as recovered and 104 minor as against 113 fatal, 289 reported as recovered and 106 minor giving a total of 508 in 1931.

Dhanbad Municipality. - The Jharia Mines Board of Health undertakes the administration of the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, the control of Epidemic Diseases and all vaccination work within the municipality. Sum of Rs.10,000 which was allotted by the municipality for the completion of the Jharia Drainage scheme was increased to Rs.12,240 during the year and was paid to the Government. The report states that, the work ^{was} under disposal by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, at the end of 1932. Many minor drains were constructed by the Board, to the great improvement of sanitary conditions. The conservancy ^{arrangement} undertaken by the municipality continued during the year and it is stated that year by year the area of its operation is extended as circumstances dictate.

Water Supply. - In the course of 1932, five collieries were connected to the Jharia Water Board mains, bringing the total number of connected collieries to 168. 34 still remain unconnected for various reasons but chiefly because they are small collieries and cannot afford a connection. Of these, only 19 are working at present. During the year notices were issued by the Board on six collieries requiring them to link up. Villagers were encouraged to accept the responsibility of protecting the water-supply of their own villages in times of danger, rather than rely on chaukidars supplied by the Board.

Housing in Collieries. ^{area.} - The moratorium first granted in 1926 suspended the Housing Rules, but there has nevertheless been a progressive, if slight, improvement year by year. The number of permanent licenses for non-standard houses has been decreasing since 1926. But in the year under review, there was an increase in both the permanent licences and temporary licences issued. It will be noted that, in spite of financial stringency in the Coal Industry, the number of permanent licences in 1932 was 22,312 as compared to 21,192 in 1931.

Food Adulteration. - During the year 106 prosecutions were

made under the Food and Drugs Adulteration Act, of which 84 ~~th~~
^{entered in} were convicted, 4 were dropped as the accused could not be traced, 7
 were withdrawn and 11 were pending at the end of the year ~~and~~
 under report.

Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. - Though the maternity and child welfare work suffered a set-back for a few months owing to there being no Maternity Supervisor at one time and Health Visitor at another, the Board was able to open a new centre at Sijua. At the suggestion of Government, steps are being taken to obtain powers to compel collieries to employ midwives, just as they employ doctors. The duties of the midwives and Health Visitors are not confined to attending child birth. Every encouragement is given to the indigenous dais to undergo training and they attend the cases under the supervision of the midwives. Antenatal and postnatal care of the mothers, and supervision of the health of the children are included in their duties. The Victoria Memorial Scholarship Fund continued to subscribe Rs.25 per month during the year, and the Board allotted Rs. 5,000 for the Maternity and Child Welfare scheme. When the industrial depression lifts, the scheme will be extended to other parts of the coalfield till the whole area is covered. A new Maternity Ward has been added to Dhanbad Hospital (two of the beds have been endowed) for patients who require hospital treatment. The Board's Motor Ambulance is available for the conveyance of maternity as well as accident and other cases.

Leprosy Relief Scheme. - The Board has extended its activities towards the leprosy relief scheme with three clinics for the present, one at Jharia, the ~~other~~^{others} at Kamtapahari near Katras and the third within the Dhanbad municipal area. At present nearly 1,000 lepers have been brought under treatment. A much larger number (about 9,000), however, still remain untreated. The paucity of funds prevented further extension of the scheme. Though later in the year by a resolution of the 10th January 1933 the Board transferred its responsibilities in the matter of leprosy to the Dhanbad and District Leprosy Relief Fund subscribing Rs.1,500 towards the fund, the Board's Chief Medical Officer continues to supervise and direct the clinics and the Board's laboratory is used for the preparation of medicines and examination of clinical materials, etc.

The Board and the Whitley Recommendations. - During the year under review the following recommendations as referred to in the report of the Royal Commission on Labour were received by the Board from Government and considered:-

(a) Recommendation no.203(c) of the Royal Commission on Labour regarding prevention of malaria. - The Chief Medical Officer of the Board has expert knowledge of malaria and its prevention, but as there is no malaria in the subdivision except at Topchanchi Reservoir, where a few Water Board employees live, the Board takes no measures for the prevention of malaria, but the monthly sick returns from the collieries are scrutinised and enquiries made

locally by the Chief Medical Officer. Remarks about malaria in the Labour Commission's Report, therefore, do not refer to the Jharia Mining Settlement.

†b) Recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour regarding the registration of still-births. - It has always been the practice of the Jharia Mines Board of Health not to include still-births amongst the births or the deaths, but to show them in all reports quite separately from both. The remarks in the Labour Commission's Report, therefore, do not apply to this Board.

(c) Proposed restriction on the employment of women in quarries and open workings. - The Board considered this question at a meeting but could come to no definite decision as to the weight to be carried by women. The Chief Inspector of Mines in India has the matter in mind.

(d) Recommendation of the Royal Commission in India on colliery housing. - The Board considered the above recommendation and it was of opinion that -

- (i) All existing arched dhowras, already under the rules, provide for windows and roof ventilation. The general tendency now is not to construct arched dhowras. The Board has approved of about half dozen type plans of "dhowras" which are not of the arched type which have been circulated to all the colliery owners for adoption in future.
- (ii) It is not possible to provide simple structures for washing and bathing for each block of houses. It may, however, be feasible to provide bathing and washing facilities at exits of mines wherever water is available.
- (iii) The system of license forms for house accommodations objected to by the Labour Commission in Chapter XV under heading 'Moratoria' of the report has already been abolished.
- (iv) The Board agreed with recommendation regarding standard electric lights near house lines wherever possible.

(e) Recommendation 110 of the Royal Commission on Labour. - The Board considered the above recommendation of the Royal Commission together with the opinions received from the various Associations and it was decided that the Board should not be enlarged but it should now consist of only two Government officials (Additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad and the Chief Inspector of Mines in India) in place of a four as hitherto, eliminating the Additional Superintendent of Policy of Dhanbad and the Inspector of Mines, Sitarampur, and substituting instead one Labour representative and one woman on the Board. That is to say, under section 6 of the Bihar and Orissa Mining Settlements Act the number of members will remain as eleven, but, instead of four Government officials, there would be only two Government officials.

(The Health conditions in Jharia Mines during 1931-32 ^{are} reviewed at pages 50-53 of the September 1932 report of this Office).

Safety Methods in Tata Iron & Steel Company,
Jamshedpur.

The following information on the progress of the Safety First Movement in the Tata Iron & Steel Company, Ltd., Jamshedpur, is taken from Notes on the subject forwarded to this Office by Mr. J.J.Ghandy, General Superintendent of the Company, along with his letter G.5/5307/25-8 dated 17-11-1933:-

The "Safety First" movement might be said to have really started in India with the passing of the Government of India's Factory Act of 1931 which superseded the different Provincial Factory Rules in force up till then. When this Act became law, the Tata Iron & Steel Company were already equal to the occasion, and they can justly claim to be the pioneers in India of the Safety Movement on any extensive scale. The birth of the Steel Industry in India marked the utilization of heavy and high-powered machinery with the enormous hoists and other mechanism which a modern plant implies. These huge machines appeared to the simple Indian peasant who subsequently found employment in the plant like some gigantic structure produced as if by a wizard's wand. This strangeness and unfamiliarity of the workers with modern industrial conditions was a factor which seriously increased the accident rate and caused the Government to look on accident prevention with grave concern, particularly with reference to the steel industry. Investigations, however, revealed that the high accident rate in the steel industry was not due to any lack of preventive measures or vigilance on the part of the Jamshedpur management and the Inspection Authorities were satisfied that everything possible was being done to minimise accidents.

Reasons for High Accident Rate in India. - The steel industry of India, as represented by Jamshedpur, cannot be compared to that of England, Europe or America in the matter of a stable industrial population, climatic conditions, education and standard of living. These factors have a direct bearing on the accident rate and do account for more accidents than would ordinarily be the case in the older established industries of European countries. No industry in the world can boast of the same diversity of languages and creeds that find a place in the Tata Iron and Steel Works, where people from all over the world and from the four corners of the great "continent" of India have found employment. This immigrant body of workers, after a lapse of many years, are only now beginning to settle down to an industrial life and thereby, helping to form that stable population so necessary for the successful operation of an industry which demands a high standard of skill. The cost of inculcating ideas of Safety First has been, and still is, an expensive item in the budget of the Steel Works at Jamshedpur and, though no expense has been spared in providing every safeguard that man can devise, numbers of accidents (several of them fatal) still occur in the works due principally to the thoughtlessness, negligence or ignorance of the operatives themselves. But, the Indian worker in his fatalist frame of mind, accepts these accidents as "acts of God", and is not disposed to exert himself for their prevention.

Special Conditions in Steel Works. - The following extract from the Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories for Bihar and Orissa for the year 1921 illustrates conditions in the Works twelve years ago some of which, unfortunately, still persist, in spite of the efforts of those responsible for the prevention of accidents;

"The conditions which produce ~~such~~ accidents in the Steel Works are not paralleled by any other Factory in the province, nor possibly in India. A conglomeration of many smaller factories to aggregate the same number of employees would not make an establishment resembling this in the nature of its dangers. The dangers in the normal small factory are of kinds that can be counteracted one by one by simple and inexpensive precautions. By far the commonest is the unfenced machine. There are such dangers in the Steel Works under consideration and I have found the Management always quite ready to carry out orders or recommendations with regard to them. But the characteristic danger in these Works is of another kind and is much more vague and much more difficult to deal with. It is the danger inherent in a combination of conditions which I would place in the following order of importance:-

(a) The enormously high ratio of ignorant labourers to the small handful of skilled and educated officials.

(b) The fact that, in addition to the mere extent of the establishment, its plant units are mostly on a great scale of size and power.

(c) The circumstance that, in spite of the size of the Works and of the tracts of open country around them, the plant is relatively congested."

Fatalistic Outlook of Indian Worker. - "It may be freely admitted that of these conditions those which are purely physical, (b) and (c), inherently dangerous as they are, would not produce in a Steel Works in Europe or America a remarkable accident rate. It is the first condition (a) the ignorance, obstinacy, instability and secretiveness of the Indian labourer which brings the two latter conditions (b) and (c) into action as causes of accidents. The secretiveness of a partly trained coolie makes it difficult to find out of what exactly he is ignorant and to enlighten him; his instability discourages his immediate superiors from taking much trouble over him, for when he has been taught the conditions governing some particular place or job it is doubtful whether he will repay his instructor by remaining at it; and in his obstinacy he adheres to his rustic customs in spite of warnings that they endanger his life amongst heavy industrial plant. Taking all three conditions together and trying to view these Works as they appear to the coolie, we have a tangle of black magic extending beyond all ones powers of reasoning and in which one is fated to be hurt sooner or later. Perhaps it is because he cannot realize that what is dreadful and incomprehensible to him is not so to his master that general warnings for his safety have little force with the coolie. He continues to sleep under railway wagons or beside ingot moulds over which tons of molten metal may be poured at any moment, to walk on railway tracks, to ride on crane loads, to stand in a dangerous place to do work that could be done nearly as easily in a safe place, to trust to luck whether an electric conductor is alive or harmless, to undercut an excavation till a landslide smothers him; and generally to behave to an almost incredible degree as if his own actions could have no influence whatever upon his safety, It is due to the managements of this and other large Works that their great difficulties in this way should be adequately recognised In this Steel-Works the Management certainly give an amount of attention to Safety which no other firm in the province, or perhaps in India, give; and their expenditure under this head must be considerable. They have a Safety Committee which investigates all accidents and prescribes safety measures."

Progress during decade 1921-31. - In the twelve years which have elapsed since this report was written great strides have been made in accident prevention and the improvement is reflected in the Report of the same official for 1931 which says;- "During the last quarter of the year the Steel Industry was free from fatal accidents (and, I may observe, remained so during the first quarter of 1932, constituting a record for this industry)."

After the war the need for expanding the plant of the Tata Iron & Steel Co., was felt and this work was put in hand so that in 1925 what was known as the "Greater Extensions" comprising a Duplex Plant, New Rail & Blooming Mills, Sheet Bar & Billet Mill, Sheet Mills, Plate Mill and Merchant Mill with the latest in mechanical and electrical equipment, came into operation and occupied the tracts of open country referred to by the Chief Inspector of Factories in para (b) of his report already referred to. These extensions have resulted in increasing the area of the Works to approximately $2\frac{3}{4}$ square miles.

General Safety Committee. - Prior to 1919 safety measures were carried out by a Committee of Superintendents from the various Departments styled "The Progress Committee". It was their duty to inspect, improve equipment where necessary and generally report on progress. At the end of 1919, it was changed to "Progress and Safety Committee", and in 1920, when the work on "Greater Extensions" was in full swing, the Safety-Department was organised and the work supervised by the newly formed General Safety Committee which superseded the old "Progress and Safety Committee".

At about this time the Steel Company became affiliated to the British Industrial Safety First Association, now called the National Safety First Association, London. The Safety Posters of this organisation were received regularly and exhibited throughout the Works on specially designed boards erected in the most conspicuous places. Unfortunately, these posters were in English and although the illustrations created much interest among the workmen there was ground for apprehending that they may be misinterpreted and steps were taken in 1922 to remedy this defect by having translations in the vernacular added. Since then this has been done regularly.

On entering the main gate into the Works the road leads under a safety sign which cannot fail to catch the eye of the casual visitor or to serve as a constant reminder to the workman as he enters on his daily task. This at once demonstrates the active interest taken by the management in the Safety First Movement and is an introduction, to the organization that is entrusted with its operation. (~~Illustration of safety gate to be shown~~).

Work of Departmental Safety Committees. - In addition to the General Safety Committee there are twenty one Departmental Safety Committees, drawn from the different classes of workmen of the various departments. All these Committees meet monthly, or oftener as occasion demands, and discuss accidents which have occurred and suggest remedies for the prevention of their recurrence. Some of the measures carried out at the instigation of these Committees include:- (1) The guarding of machinery; (2) Fencing of railway tracks; (3) Covering of drains and pits; (4) Erection of danger warnings and safety gates at important level crossings; (5) Covering of electric switch boards; (6) Installation of danger signal lights; and lagging of exposed steam pipes.

Safety Department Staff. - The staff of the Safety Department, as apart from the Safety-Committees, already mentioned, comprises a Safety Inspector, who also acts as Secretary to the General Committee, two Assistant Safety Inspectors, two clerks, a Stenographer and other minor office assistants. It is their duty to investigate all accidents and prepare the necessary reports for submission to Government as required by the Act. The Inspector and his two Assistants are also responsible for the regular inspection of the Works and bringing to light any defects or dangers which might result in accidents.

Accidents Statistics. - Statistics are maintained in the Safety Office and from these monthly accident charts are prepared and circulated to each department, These charts show the number of accidents during the month and the corresponding position on the chart of the department concerned in relation to the number of accidents which have occurred in that month. Charts are also prepared showing the total number of accidents on the plant and the accident ratio per 1000 employees.

In 1921 a Suggestion Box was introduced and Safety Award Buttons were given for the best suggestions received. This scheme has been supplanted by a general suggestion scheme, now in operation where each department has its own Suggestion Box. Suggestions are collected and sent to a Committee for disposal, those pertaining to safety being sent on to the General Safety Committee, and where these are adopted rewards are paid according to the merits of each.

Expenditure on Safety Methods. - Other safety measures carried out have been:- 1. The provision of goggles for men working at Furnaces, at Grind Stones, Arc Welding etc. 2. The provision of gloves, boots and aprons to men working in hot places and handling hot material. 3. The provision of Respirators and Pulmotors for men working in places likely to be infected with gas. The total amount spent annually on these items is in the vicinity of Rs. 43,000 or £ 3,000. Safety Rules Books have been printed dealing with General Safety Rules as applicable to each department, together with a separate book of Rules relating to traffic operations and rolling stock. A copy of each of these rule books is handed to each new employee on enrolment by the Employment Bureau and, although these books are printed in English, each man is required to have them translated to him in his particular language by a responsible employee of his department who is deputed to do this.

Common Causes of Accidents. - The following tables show (a) the classification of Accidents by Causing Agents from 1926 to 1930 and (b) the total number of accidents classified according to the degree of Injury and the Accident Rate per 1000 employees from 1926 to 1932.

contd.

Classification of Accidents by Causing Agents from 1926 to 1930.

No. of accidents. (1926)	Rate per 1000 men employed.	No. of accidents (1927)	Rate per 1000 men employed	No. of accidents (1928)	Rate per 1000 men employed.	No. of accidents (1929)	Rate per 1000 men employed.	No. of accidents (1930)	Rate per 1000 men employed.	Causing Agents									
										Falling or slipping weights.	Burns.	Persons falling or stumbling.	Miscellaneous.	Cranes, Winch, Hoists & the like.	Hand tools in use.	Machin Tools	Rolling Stock on lines (Engines & Trolleys)	Electric Machinery (Conductors of apparatus)	Chemical
569	1.65	520	1.63	482	2.16	597	2.69	520	2.35	50	55	38	16	16	17	6	4	1690	
350	1.02	326	1.02	244	1.09	261	1.20	241	1.09	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	61	
343	1.01	324	1.01	247	1.11	319	1.47	278	1.25	88	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	77	
88	0.26	74	0.23	70	0.32	140	0.64	132	0.59	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	
77	0.23	26	0.09	40	0.18	33	0.15	15	0.07	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	
61	0.18	56	0.18	49	0.22	35	0.15	47	0.21	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	
50	0.14	43	0.13	15	0.06	17	0.08	14	0.065	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	
55	0.16	44	0.14	30	0.14	36	0.16	35	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	
38	0.11	45	0.14	33	0.15	53	0.24	72	0.32	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	
16	0.05	9	0.05	14	0.06	9	0.04	10	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	
16	0.05	25	0.079	17	0.07	3	0.014	18	0.08	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	
17	0.05	28	0.09	4	0.02	3	0.014	9	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	
6	0.02	8	0.026	6	0.024	-	-	2	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	
4	0.012	7	0.02	8	0.04	9	0.04	12	0.05	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	

Statement showing the figures of lost-time accidents of the total plant, excluding Contractors' labour, town employees, non-employees, outside factory cases etc.

Year	Daily average No. of employees.	Degree of Injury			Total	Rate per 1000 employees.
		Minor	Serious	Fatal.		
1926	28,522	1,382	275	33	1,690	4.94
1927	26,571	1,256	251	28	1,535	4.81
1928	18,551	926	307	24	1,257	5.64
1929	18,153	1,133	359	11	1,503	6.90
1930	18,468	1,031	354	20	1,405	6.34
1931	17,597	926	295	4	1,225	5.80
1932	16,472	763	239	11	1,013	5.12

Causes of Accidents Analysed; Peculiar Indian Conditions.

The causing agents shown in Table A above are classified on broad lines and do not bring out many of the minor contributing factors for which conditions in India are to blame and the equivalent of which would be difficult to find in other countries. For instance, the penetrating heat of a tropical sun causes ignorant people to seek shelter in the shade, sometimes under wagons and sometimes in places which are made dangerous by the presence of gas etc. Similarly, the high winds and blinding rain of the terrific dust storms preceding the monsoon drive people to shelter in dangerous places with the same disastrous results. The poorer class of workmen still goes bare-footed and thus lays himself open to injury by stepping on hot ashes, projecting nails or other dangerous objects. The proportion of accidents through this cause is about 50% of those caused by burns, the commonest and most natural steel works' hazard. The custom of the Indian to wear loose clothing, and, in the cold weather, to cover the ears with their turbans or mufflers are other causes of accidents connected with machinery and rolling stock. Another very dangerous condition is the flimsy and inflammable nature of the clothing worn by the lower classes of labour. This adds considerably to the risk of burns and accounts for many of the accidents under this head.

Fall in Accident Rate; Value of Safety Propaganda. - The spread of education and the gradual stabilizing of an industrial population is, however, bringing about changes which make these dangerous practices apparent and many workmen are now seen in suitable dungaree suits or ~~light~~ tighter fitting clothing when working near machines or furnaces. The figures in Table (B), while showing a decided improvement in the 'fatal' accident rate. (1.15 per 1000 employees in 1926 compared 0.66 per 1000 employees in 1932), do not on the whole show that improvement in the actual accident rate which one might expect from the constant attention given to safety and the money that is spent on providing safeguards. There is, however, some satisfaction in knowing that the accident rate tends to fall, which, in itself, shows that progress is not retarded.

The Human Factor. - In the whole of the Works the greatest hazards are found in the Sheet Mills where the accidents rate is about 14.00 per 1000 employees. This is due to cuts and burns caused by the sharp edges of the sheets, by acid in the Pickling Plant and also to men slipping and falling on hot sheets in the process of handling hot-packs. These causes are matters of concern and are now under investigation with a view to reducing the number of accidents they cause, but, whatever the causes, the human factor still remains and will always have a bearing on accidents of this description. Other accidents, as already pointed out, are of a seasonal nature, . These fluctuate according to conditions existing at the time, and in spite of timely warnings and the vigilance of the Safety Department they still continue to occur.

Post-Accident Procedure & Care. - On an accident, however trivial, occurring, "Injured on Works" Forms are prepared in

whether there is a genuine desire on the part of labourers in proceed to Malay again, whether the Madras Government would be in a position to inform the Committee in what particular areas or districts in that presidency people show an inclination to go abroad to work in the Federated Malay States, and the probable number who are willing to leave India in case emigration is permitted again. The Committee have also asked for comparative prices and rates of wages in the recruiting districts in the presidency and in the Federated States. On receipt of this information and on the merits of the case, alone, it would appear, the Standing Emigration Committee is willing to re-open the question of further assisted non-recruited emigration to Malay States from India.

Decision Postponed to January 1934. - Another meeting of the Malayan Government representatives, the Standing Emigration Committee and the Government of India over the question of the resumption of recruited Labour, will take place in January, 1934.

(The Hindu, 21 & 22-11-1933).

triplicate by the injured party's department and sent with him to the First Aid Station where the Medical Officer enters the nature of the injury and the degree of its seriousness. Accidents involving loss of time for 48 hours or more are reportable to Government and the Safety Department then call on the Department concerned to submit an Accident Report on the form prescribed by Government. This form gives a short description of the accident and its contributory causes. After the Chief Medical Officer has entered his prognosis of the case, the forms are forwarded to the Chief-Inspector of Factories, together with a more detailed report, in the case of serious or fatal accidents, which is based on the investigations of the Safety staff. The more serious and fatal accidents are subsequently investigated by the Chief Inspector of Factories to the Government or by in the case of Electrical Accidents, by the the Electrical Engineer and Inspector to Government. These investigations are made to fix responsibility and to take such action as the case warrants.

Hospital & X-Ray Equipment. - The Steel Company maintains an upto date hospital with an X-Ray Department attached. The Main Hospital has accommodation for 140 in-patients who are distributed in different wards according to the nature of their complaints. In addition to the Main Hospital, there are five out-door dispensaries where patients are treated and supplied with medicine. Two First Aid Stations exist in the Works and three fully equipped Motor Ambulances are always available for the transportation of stretcher cases. The following staff of doctors and nurses are employed whose duty takes them through the twenty four hours of the day;-

- 25 fully qualified Medical Officers;
- 1 fully qualified Lady Doctor;
- 1 fully qualified Dental Surgeon;
- 16 fully qualified Nurses; and
- 3 Probationer Nurses.

First Aid Facilities. - Each department is in possession of First Aid Cabinets which are kept fully equipped at all times. On an accident occurring First Aid is usually given in the Department and the patient is then sent on to one or the other of the two First Aid Stations in the Works with his "Injured on Works" Form properly filled up. Should the accident be of such a nature as to require more expert treatment the patient is removed to the Main Hospital in one of the Motor Ambulances and on arrival is met by the necessary staff who have previously been notified over the telephone. Cases requiring out-door treatment are attended to by the out-door dispensaries which are located at convenient centres, thereby placing medical aid within reach of all.

Leave with Pay for Injured Workers. - In nearly every case leave with pay is given to injured persons for such period as the Chief Medical Officer may think fit. All medical attendance is free and patients detained in hospital are taken care of by the Welfare Department and by certain visitors, deputed by the Bihar and Orissa Council of Women, in the matter of comforts, occupations and other amusements, not ~~extra~~ ordinarily provided for in hospital fare. In spite of this, reluctance is shown by certain classes to submit to treatment and to remain in hospital. In such cases the injury is aggravated and in consequence absence from work prolonged, which at once debars the injured party from enjoying the leave with pay ordinarily given. This characteristic is marked amongst the lower class aborigine workmen who live in dread of the surgeon's knife, which they think is used too freely in hospital. For the same reason it is difficult to encourage these people to report minor accidents which in time become worse through absence of proper treatment and results in prolonged absence from work and much suffering and discomfort.

Compensation for Accidents. - In 1924 the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act came into force, but it did not require this piece of legislation to impress on the Steel Company their obligations to their employees. This is testified to by the continued employment by the Company of workers crippled many years ago in sedantary occupations on the same rates of pay they were in receipt of when they met with their accidents. Since the inception of the Works, compensation has always been paid to the dependants of workmen killed in accidents on the Works and that on a more liberal scale than that laid down in the Act.

First Aid Classes. - In 1921, First Aid Classes were started under the Chief Medical Officer and selected workmen from each department ~~who~~ with a knowledge of English, were deputed to attend. On completion of the course such trained workers received certificates after duly satisfying the examiners. Nowadays First Aid forms part of the syllabus of the Technical Students who are destined to hold important posts in the Works. Such useful instruction enables injured persons to be attended to promptly in their own departments and minimises the dangers they are exposed to by delayed treatment.

The First-Aid classes and the consistent propaganda that the Safety Department has been carrying on have succeeded to a great extent in imbuing the workers with the true safety spirit. Instances have not been rare in which workers have risked even their lives to prevent serious accidents. It is worth recording that in recognition of two such acts of conspicuous bravery awards of the British Industrial Safety First Medal have been made to two of the Company's workers. In both cases the recipients of the medal were rewarded by the Company. The Company have also suitably recognised other minor cases of bravery. In the majority of these cases the men concerned have been drawn from the lower classes of workmen, a fact which furnishes excellent testimony of the grit and courage that is to be found in the ranks.

Safety Measures outside Works Premises. - The foregoing account deals with safety measures as practiced within the walls of the Steel Company. There are, however, other safety activities outside that call for attention. For instance, steps have been taken to guard all towers of high-powered transmission lines, where several ignorant youths have, before the taking of such protective measures, met their deaths by electrocution. ~~in the past in their endeavours to retrieve kites getting entangled in the wires overhead.~~ Other safety measures concern adequate lighting at night, both inside and outside thw Works, which has involved expenditure of considerable sums of money.

The margin was, therefore, only .67 as against .84 last year, and this decrease in the margin was largely responsible for the decrease in profits from Rs. 108,600 to Rs. 79,700.

Central Banks. - No new banks were registered but owing to the liquidation of the Gaya Sadr Central Bank, the total number of central banks and unions fell from 67 to 66. There was a decrease by Rs. 145,000 in the paid up share capital of the banks which stood at Rs. 2.26 millions at the end of the year. The working capital also fell from over Rs. ~~2.3~~ millions to Rs. ~~2.25~~ 5 millions, the former figure including over Rs. ~~1~~ .925 millions on account of the working capital of the Gaya Bank. The small balance of the decrease was caused by the repayment of deposits and restricted advances to societies. The paid up share capital and reserves constituted 10.04 and 7.6 per cent respectively of the working capital. There was a corresponding rise in the proportion of owned to borrowed capital, viz. from 1; 4.9 to 1; 4.7. The total reserves (including Bad Debt and other funds) rose from Rs. ~~1.631~~ to Rs. 1.721 millions, the former figure including the Gaya Bank's reserve of Rs. 18,657. Leaving that sum out of account, the increase amounted to Rs. .108 as against Rs. .123 millions in the preceding year. The total statutory reserve fund stood on 31-12-1932 at Rs. 972,000, of which Rs. 524,000 or 54 per cent was separately invested. The report points out with gratification that in the case of 6 banks, as against only 4 last year, reserves exceeded Rs. 40,000 and in the case of 17 as against 14 last year they exceeded Rs. 20,000.

Agricultural Societies. - There was a decrease of 200 in the number of agricultural credit societies of unlimited liability and of 4,355 in their membership during the year, but this fall was to some extent counterbalanced by an increase in the membership of grain golas. The total number of working agricultural societies of all classes at the end of the year was 8,599 with 231,232 members against 8,799 with 234,428 members at the end of 1931. Corresponding decreases of Rs. 1,300,000 and ~~Rs. 4,300,000~~ respectively took place in their working capital and deposits, which amounted to Rs. ~~2,600,000~~ and Rs. .885 millions respectively. Their reserves increased, however, by Rs. .133 millions and stood at Rs. 3.511 millions at the end of the year. The percentage of share capital and reserves to working capital showed a further increase from 2.13 to 2.307. The policy of cautious financing continued to be followed and only Rs. .698 millions were advanced to members during the year against Rs. 1.627 millions last year and Rs. 3.366 millions in 1930.

Non-Agricultural Societies. - The total number of these societies was 317 as against 329 last year but their membership rose from 27,460 to 28,660 and their working capital from Rs. 3.886 to Rs. 4.093 millions. Their reserve funds also increased from Rs. ~~.300~~ to Rs. .440 millions and they earned a total profit of Rs. .132 millions as against Rs. .117 millions last year. ~~The~~

~~working of the important societies of this type is discussed in the succeeding paragraphs.~~ The principal kinds of non-agricultural societies in the provinces were employers' societies, provincial employees' associations, weavers' societies, fishermen's societies, artisans' societies, societies for depressed classes, home industries societies, housing societies, thrift societies and co-operative press.

(The report on the working of ~~the~~ Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1931 is reviewed at pages 54-56 of the November 1932 report of this Office).

Progress of Agricultural Education in Burma, 1932-33.* ✓

The report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma, for the year ending 31-3-1933 gives the following information regarding the progress of agricultural education in that Presidency.

Agricultural College, Mandalay. - As mentioned in last year's report (vide page 62 of our September 1932 report) no further recruitment was done and only one class of students was in residence throughout the year, viz., the final or third year class consisting of 18 students. In March 1933 the Final Examination was held in which three of these students secured First Class and 12 Second Class Diplomas. One student was not eligible for the Diploma and 2 students failed. Government has not been able to offer appointments to any of the passed students, but the 8 best have been allowed to continue to receive their stipends of Rs.45 per mensem and are being posted for further training to the various experimental farms. With the departure of this third year class the teaching activities of the College come temporarily to an end and the institution will devote itself entirely to research until recruitment is resumed.

Pyinmana Agricultural School. - This school is situated at Pyinmana and run by the American Baptist Mission, the Government of Burma giving a grant of Rs.10,000 towards its maintenance, this grant having been reduced from Rs. 22,000 two years ago. The objects and functions of the school, stated briefly, are an attempt to provide an agricultural training in addition to the ordinary middle school curriculum, the main object being to train pupils who will

* Report on the operations of the Department of Agriculture, Burma for the year ended the 31st March 1933. -Rangoon; Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma. 1933. Price Re.1-8 =2s.3d. pp.26 + xxxiii

subsequently work their own lands. The school reopened on the 25th May 1932 with 80 pupils. (39 in the First year class, 14 in the Second year class, 13 in the Third year class and 14 in the Fourth year class.) During the year 25 students left leaving 55 at the end of the year.

Farm Schools. - The two farm schools described in the previous reports were continued at the Mahlaing and Hmawbi Agricultural Stations. At the Mahlaing farm school a ten months' course of practical training was given to twelve pupils who were chosen out of 107 applicants for admission. 11 of the 12 students successfully completed the course. Four have been appointed as temporary demonstrators in the department while the remaining seven have gone back to their villages to take up cultivation on their own account. The latter took back with them some of the improved implements of the department and will keep in touch with the district agricultural officers.

At the Hmawbi farm school ten students were enrolled for a nine months' course. Out of ten students, nine successfully completed the course. None of these were given work in the agricultural department and the Deputy Director reports that they have all gone back to work their own land or that of relatives.

(The report on the operations of the Agricultural Department, Burma, for 1930-31 was reviewed at pages 56-58 of our November 1931 report and that for 1931-32 at pages 62-64 of our September 1932 report).

Progress of Agricultural Education in Madras

Presidency, 1932-33.* ✓

The activities of the Department of Agriculture, Madras Presidency, in the educational line consisted, as in the previous year, in the running of an Agricultural College affiliated to the Madras University, three farm labourers' schools, and a practical training centre.

Agricultural College, Coimbatore. - The number of applicants to the College dropped from 321 to 180. Of this, only 48 were selected. The tuition and lodging fees for the students recently introduced by Government were levied on the students with effect from July 1932. 48 appeared for B.Sc., Ag., Part I, and 40 came out successful, two failed completely and six in one subject. For B.Sc. Ag., Part II, 59 were sent up and 54 qualified themselves for the degree. As a measure of retrenchment the amount of scholarship was reduced to Rs.20 from Rs.25 and the award of scholarship was confined from the beginning of the academic year only to two students of the Moslem community and three of the depressed classes, including backward communities.

Agricultural Middle Schools. - The middle school at Tali-paramba maintained by the Government was abolished in April 1932 as a measure of retrenchment and the school at Kalahasti could not be opened even during the year under report. The Agricultural middle school at Usilampatti, maintained by the Madura District Board, had a marked increase in the number of students under training. There were 38 students out of whom 20 were Kallars and 18 of non-Kallar castes.

Farm Labourers' Schools. - The three schools at Anakapalle, Coimbatore and Palur were continued during the year under report. At Anakapalle there were 32 boys for study as against 39 in the previous year in the day school and 20 adult labourers regularly attended the night school. At Palur the school for labourers' children and the night school for adults worked satisfactorily. At Coimbatore there were 10 boys in the day school and 10 adults in the night school, and the strength rose to 28 pupils -excluding nine farm boys at the end of the year. The vocational school at Muthanendal maintained by the Rammad District Board introduced agriculture in its curriculum and an Agricultural Diplomat was added to the staff.

* Report on the Operations of the Department of Agriculture - Madras Presidency - for the year 1932-33. - Madras; Printed by the Supdt., Government Press. 1933 - Price 8 annas. - pp.48.

Practical Training in Agriculture. - At Anakapalle there were, at the beginning of the year, eight boys under training, out of whom two have been entertained as demonstration coolies, one entered the Agricultural College and the rest went back to the land. There were at the end of the year seven literate boys for this course of study. At Samalkota, three men received training while one maistri from Guntur was given special training in jaggery-making.

Post-Graduate Research. - Research received adequate attention during the year under review. A new feature of the educational activities of the Department, says the report, is the encouragement of research by the members of the staff for post graduate degrees, under the guidance and supervision of Experts. A scheme of research financed by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research will shortly be introduced, and land for the opening of a farm in the Cuddapah district is being acquired for the purpose.

(The progress of agricultural education in Madras M Presidency during 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 63-64 of the January 1933 report of this Office).

Minimum Age for Dock Workers; Chairman of
Bombay Port Trust Reconsiders Views. ✓

Mention was made at pages 68-69 of our June 1933 report that the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce had asked for the views of the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust on the feasibility of the Trust instituting an alternative form of internal inspectorate to that suggested by the Government of India for supervising the prohibiting of the employment of children below 14 within Port limits (for details regarding the suggestions of the Government of India, vide pages 66-67 of our February 1933 report). The views of the Chairman of the Bombay Port Trust and of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce on the question were summarised at pages 66-67 of our August 1933 report.

As a result of differences between the opinions expressed by the two bodies, the Chamber had urged the Port Trust to reconsider its views in the light of the Chamber's views. As a result of the representations, the Chairman of the Port Trust again addressed the Director of Information and Labour Intelligence in connection with the proposal and stated that he was still of opinion that the delay which must inevitably occur in reporting cases to the Factory Inspector, or whoever would take the necessary legal action under the Act, would render the report nugatory except in very flagrant cases. The Chairman added that in deference to the views of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, he would, however, be prepared to recommend to the Trustees that the Port Trust undertook the necessary inspection in the Docks area. The Trust had no control whatsoever over the

labour at the Bunders and Basins and no machinery for effecting inspection. He regretted, therefore, that he could not recommend that the Trust ^{should} undertake ~~the~~ the responsibility for ^{the} inspection of these. It appeared probable that it would not be possible to carry out efficiently the inspection in the Docks area without additional staff. In the event, therefore, of the Trust being required to undertake this inspection, the Chairman requested that he might be informed whether Government would be prepared to reimburse the expense of any additional staff employed specially for the purpose.

(Summarised from the excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce, during the month of September 1933).

Migration.Indians in Malaya, 1932.* ✓

The following information regarding Indian emigrants in Malaya is taken from the Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1932.

Indian Population in Malaya. - According to the 1931 census, Indians numbered 624,009 and formed 14.2 per cent of the total population of 4,385,346 of all races in Malaya. The Indian community is the third largest community in Malaya, the first two being Malaya (including Malaysians) and Chinese. Indian population enumerated on estates numbered 304,157, comprising nearly 49 per cent of the total Indian population. The urban population amongst Indians was computed at ~~30.5~~ 30.5 per cent for the whole of Malaya. The remaining 20 odd per cent represented the rural Indian population. Thus, urban and rural Indian population (excluding estate Indian population) constituted about 51 per cent of the total Indian population, a large majority of whom belonged to the labouring classes employed in Government Departments such as Railways, Public Works, Posts and Telegraphs, etc., semi-official bodies like Harbour Boards, Municipalities, Sanitary Boards, etc., and by firms, companies and individuals in urban and rural areas. The rest are engaged in trade, business and the learned professions.

Provincial Distribution and Sex Ratio. - Of the total Indian population of 624,009 persons, 514,959 or 82.6 per cent were Tamils, 32,541 or 5.2 per cent were Telugus, 35,125 or 5.6 per cent were Malayalees, and 31,001 or 4.9 per cent Punjabis from N. W. India, and the remaining 10,383 or 1.7 per cent belonged to Bengal, Burma, Bombay, Bihar and Orissa, Nepal and other unidentified places in India.

The ratio of the number of females per 1,000 males of the more important provincial or linguistic classification amongst Indians were:- Tamils, 514; Telugus, 717; Malayalees, 209; Punjabis, 263.

Recruitment of Labour. - The suspension of recruitment of Indian labour for Malaya continued throughout the year under report. Ten adults with 4 minors and 3 infants were, however, assisted to emigrate to Malaya during the year. Besides these non-recruited assisted emigrants, deck passengers who emigrated to Malaya paying their own passage numbered 16,018 adults, 1,147 minors and 552 infants. Of these, 11,199 were traders and other business men and 6,518 were labourers. Besides these arrivals, 903 passengers came over to Malaya by the Messageries Maritimes Line during the year 1932, against 1,042 in the previous year.

* Annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1932. - Delhi: Manager of Publication 1933. Price Rs. 1-4 or 2 s. - pp.37.

Repatriation and Departures. - The report states that the very heavy exodus of Indian immigrant labourers and others, which commenced in August 1930, continued more or less throughout the years 1931 and 1932 owing to the economic depression. The failure in March 1932 of the Anglo-Dutch negotiations to evolve a joint scheme of restriction of rubber production and export depressed the price of rubber to less than two pence per pound and led to still greater reduction of estate staffs and labour forces, so much so that during the months of April, May, June and July 1932 seven extra steamers had to be run to Madras and Negapatam to carry repatriates. The total number of repatriates during the year under review was 56,476 (41,698 adults, 9,988 minors and 4,790 infants).

Expenses of Repatriations. - Of the 41,698 adult labourers repatriated to India, 5,608 were, according to the Labour Department of Malaya, unfit for work and the remaining were repatriated owing to the slump in trade. Repatriation was recommended in the cases of 98 persons who applied to the Agency.

Repatriation charges during 1932 amounted to \$900,835 as compared with \$1,278,145 during 1931. This expenditure and the policy of which it was the result were strongly criticised in certain quarters as not being in the best interest of Malaya or the rubber industry. The reports states that repatriation, which was conducted on principles that had been approved by Government, sanctioned by the Indian Immigration Committee and accepted by the Planters' Association of Malaya, was the most economical course, for it was not possible for the Malayan Administrations, faced as they were with financial stringency, to launch costly schemes of relief works to retain surplus Indian labour in Malaya for an indefinite period. The alternative to repatriation in these circumstances would have been a dangerous depression of the wage-level and consequent distress amongst a large body of wage earners.

Deck passengers who returned to India during 1932, paying their own passage, totalled 25,290 adults, 1,350 minors and 1,385 infants as compared with 40,535 adults, 2,513 minors and 2,180 infants during 1931. Of the deck passengers who returned to India in 1932, petty traders and business men numbered 15,363 adults with 740 minors and 749 infants and the remaining 9,927 adults with 610 minors and 636 infants (or 40 per cent of the departures) belonged to the labouring classes. Besides these persons who sailed by the British India Steam Navigation Company's vessels, 550 deck passenger left by the Messageries Maritimes ships during 1932, against 743 in the previous year.

Labour Force at the end of 1931 & 1932. - There was a considerable decrease in the number of Indians employed in British Malaya. The position of Indian labourers as a whole at the end of 1930 and 1931 was as under:-

	On 31st Dec. 1931.	On 31st Dec. 1932.
Straits Settlements. ...	37,734	31,127
Federated Malay States. ...	129,681	110,250
Unfederated Malay States....	46,670	36,550
Total.	214,085	177,927

It is stated that no shortage of labour was felt despite the heavy exodus of Indian labour since August 1930. Statistics of local engagements of Indian labourers registered during 1931 and 1932, by the Labour Department of Malaya, are shown below:-

	1930	1931	1932.
Straits Settlements ...	21,118	11,115	6,817
Federated Malay States..	59,477	30,074	34,212
Unfederated Malay States		Not available.	

The figures under "Local Engagements" give a rough idea of the extent of migration of Indian labourers from one place of employment to another. During the year under report, the sections of the labour laws of the Straits Settlements, Federated Malay States and the Unfederated Malay States, requiring the payment of a fee of \$1 per head for the registration of Indian labourers engaged locally, were repealed with advantage both to the employers and the employed. The strength of the labour forces consisting of Indians, Chinese and Javanese as they stood at the end of 1932 was as follows:-

	Indians	Chinese	Javanese.
Straits Settlements.	31,127	26,340	6,739
Federated Malay States.	110,250	55,672	8,808
Unfederated Malay States.	36,550	23,058	17,495
Grand Total.	177,927	105,070	33,042

Economic Position of Indians. - According to the report, the vast majority of Indian labourers are employed on Rubber Plantations as tappers, weeders, factory hands and miscellaneous workers. Government and Public Departments also employ a much larger number of Indian labourers than Chinese and others. Indian labourers are also employed in tin mines, and in special works such as the

Naval, Air and Military Bases at Singapore, in Hydro-electric works of Perak, in the oil installations of Singapore, in the oil-fields in Brunei and in pipe-line works connected with water supply.

Wages. - Weeders were generally paid the lowest rates of wages. Tappers earned a bit more than weeders and factory hands a few cents more than the tappers. In the special works just referred to, higher rates of wages prevailed. The temporarily reduced standard rates of wages for a day of nine hours' work, which were introduced from the 5th October 1930, remained nominally in force throughout the year under review. But the actual rates of wages paid to Indian labourers on an hourly basis in Malaya as a whole, considerably dwindled during 1932, as the industrial depression, particularly in rubber, was even more acute and marked than in 1931.

Co-operative Societies. - The report points out that there was considerable progress in the Co-operative movement among Indians in Malaya during the year. There were 106 co-operative societies in 1932 with a membership of 12,577 as against 78 societies and 10,730 members in 1931. There was a subscribed capital of \$ 173,995 and the deposits by members came to \$ 69. The movement has, it is stated, touched merely a 'fringe' of the Indian labour population working in over 2,700 places of employment and is confined to Selangor, Negri Sembilan and Province Wellesley. During the year under report it was extended to Singapore and Perak, where the possibilities of forming a net work of societies are immense. It is hoped that when normal trade conditions revive, this movement will be extended to all the other States and Settlements where Indian labourers are employed in large numbers.

Indebtedness. - Cases of indebtedness of labourers to their employers were rare during the year, but their indebtedness amongst themselves probably accounts, amongst other things, for the numerous 'collars' ~~collars~~ from estates and other places of employment. Indebtedness has probably greatly increased owing to the depression.

Health and Welfare. - The statistics obtained during the year shows that in Federated Malay States, the birth and death-rates per mille among the Indians were 29.1 and 15.7 respectively and in the Straits settlement 26.4 and 18.6 respectively. The rates of infant mortality during the year under report were 136 in Federated Malay States and 139.07 in Straits Settlements. Figures for the exact birth and death rates for the Unfederated Malay States are not available.

Health Boards. - Health Boards for co-ordinating the work of the prevention and treatment of diseases on estates and other places of employment functioned during the year under report in Malacca (S.S) and Kedah (U.M.S). The F.M.S. Health Boards Enactment, 1929, was repealed during the year and the Central Health Board and the local Boards created under its provisions were wound up, owing to the inability of rubber estates to pay additional cess. Their work was carried on by the Health and Labour Departments as before.

Housing Conditions. - All the estates and other places of employment were periodically visited by the inspecting officers of the Labour Department, and orders were issued under the provisions of the Labour Laws governing health, housing, water supply and sanitation, wherever necessary. Action was also taken on the defects or irregularities on estates and other places of employment visited ~~by me~~ and brought to the notice of the Controller of Labour, Malaya, during the year. Housing accommodation, water supply, sanitation, etc., were generally satisfactory, though their improvement was much impeded by the rubber slump.

Workmen's Compensation Benefits. - The draft Workmen's Compensation Ordinance of the Straits Settlements was passed with certain alterations during the year under review and the corresponding Federated Malay States Enactment of 1929 was also suitably amended, the most important amendment being the inclusion of estates employing not less than 50 labourers in the schedule of places of employment affected by these enactments, in consonance with the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Labour in India, with the result that accident compensation is extended practically to all workers in organised industries whether their occupations are hazardous or not. It is reported that these ordinances will come into force on 1-10-1933.

Education. - There has been a general falling off in the number of estate vernacular schools as a result of reduction of labour force. During the year the Government of Malaya refused grants-in-aid to those Chinese and Tamil schools which had not already got them.

Legislation. - There were no legislative enactments or amendments concerning Indian emigrants during the year, other than those mentioned above regarding Local engagements, Health Boards and Workmen's Compensation. A consolidated Labour Code similar to the Federated Malay States Code was enacted in June 1932 for Brunei. The Straits Settlements Labour Ordinance and the Labour Codes of Johore, Kedah, Perlis and Kelantan were also amended and brought into line with the Federated Malaya States Code.

Political Status of Indians in Malaya. - Indians have, in common with other communities, no Political or Municipal Franchise. There ~~was~~ nominated non-official Indian member on the Federal Council and another nominated non-official Indian member on the Straits Settlements Legislative Council. There was also a nominated non-official Indian member on each of the reconstituted State Councils of Perak, Selangor and Negri Sembilan in the Federated Malay States. Several Indians are also nominated members of Municipal Councils and Sanitary Boards, etc. Indians have also been made Honorary Justices of the Peace in the Straits Settlements and in the Federated Malay States for public services rendered by them. Brigadier-General Sir Samuel Wilson, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., K.B.E., the Permanent Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, paid a visit to Malaya during November - December 1932, in order to discuss the proposals to decentralize certain public services

in the Federated Malay States with the High Commissioner, the Malay Rulers and leaders of public opinion. Dealing with Indians in Malaya, Sir Samuel, in his report has stated;

"The non-Malays, who have made Malaya the country of their adoption, form a loyal section of the community and it has been the policy of the Government to accord full recognition to their status as British subjects (in the case of those born in the Colony) and British protected persons (in the case of those born in the Malay States).

"No one will deny the important part that the non-Malays, who have made Malaya their home, have played in its development and the share they are destined to take in helping its future progress, and I think that for this reason alone they are entitled to an assurance that their interests will not be allowed to suffer as the result of effect being given to a policy of decentralization. Moreover, subject to the policy of preferential employment of qualified Malays in the Government services, and the reservation of sufficient lands for Malay needs, I take the view that the persons born in the Malay States of non-Malay parents (although only British protected persons) should be treated in those States in exactly the same way as persons born in the Colony of non-Malay parents (who are British subjects) and should have the same professional and business opportunities as European British subjects."

It is hoped that the State Governments will, in practice, give Indian British subjects and British protected subjects a fair share of representation in the Councils and in the public services.

(The annual Report of the Agent of the Government of India in British Malaya for the year 1931 is reviewed at pages 69-73 of our August 1932 report).

Resumption of Labour Recruitment for Malaya;

Discussion between the two Governments. ✓

Reference was made at pages 71-72 of our July 1933 report to the rise in rubber prices in Malaya and at pages 73-74 of our September 1933 report to the fact that the Standing Committee on Emigration of the Legislative Assembly considered the proposal of Malayan Government to permit recruitment of labourers from India for the rubber estates in the Colony. A deputation from Malaya,

consisting of the Controller of Labour and the Chairman of the Malay Planters' Association arrived at Delhi in the third week of November 1933 to discuss with the Government of India their proposal for assisted voluntary emigration of Indian labourers for rubber estates in Malaya. An informal meeting between the Standing Committee on Emigration of the Central Legislature and the members of the Malayan deputation took place on 18-11-33. Sir Fazl-i-Hussain, Member of the Governor-General's Executive Council, presided over the meeting. The following is a brief summary of the proceedings:-

Malayan Government's Assurances re. Wages etc. Considered. - The meeting considered in detail a recent cable, from the Colonial Secretary, Malaya, in reply to a cable from the Government of India, explaining the adequacy of the standard rates of wages as reduced in August 1930. According to the Colonial Secretary, the Malayan Government recognised that wages were the first call on industries, and that it was their intention to see that improvement in the earnings out of rubber was passed on to the workers until the old conditions were restored. The present earnings might be taken to be satisfactory, being at least sixteen per cent better than were at any time during the first five months of the year. The cable added that it was the intention of the Malayan Government so to control non-recruited immigration that the numbers arriving would not be such as to depress earnings. Large areas were being re-opened and between April and August over 47,000 acres had been brought under tapping. Any insistence on uneconomic wage rates would check this movement, and opportunities of profitable employment would be curtailed.

Need for Further Information. - It would appear from the trend of the discussions that followed, that the Committee wanted, in the first place, to be assured whether prices in the Federated Malay States had really risen to such an extent as to warrant the resumption of importation of Indian labour, and secondly, in case prices had risen, whether they were such as to allow a flow of unrestricted or restricted Indian labour to Malay again.

Madras Government Consulted. - With a view to getting ^{the} desired information, it is stated, the Madras Government have been requested by the Committee and the Government of India to inform them