

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

---

Report for July 1933.

Contents.

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References to the I. L. O.

The July 1933 issue of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, publishes at page 6 in the "Diary of the Events of the Quarter", a news item announcing the nomination of Sir Phiroze Sethna to represent Indian Employers at the 17th I.L.Conference. At page 10 of the same issue, brief paragraphs referring to the opening of the 17th session of the Conference and to the resolution submitted by the I.L.O. to the World Economic Conference are published. A brief account of the proceedings of the World Economic Conference, in the course of which a summary of the speech made by Sir Atul Chatterjee, representing the I.L.O., on 12-6-1933 is given, is also published in the same issue.

\* \* \*

The Press Report issued by the All India Railwaymen's Federation, Madras, dated 30-6-1933, publishes a review of the Director's Report to the 17th I.L.Conference. Passages from the report dealing with the economic depression and the question of wages have been extensively quoted.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 29-6-1933, the National Call of 29-6-33, the Hindu of 1-7-33, the Sunday Chronicle, Madras, of 2-7-33, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 9-7-33 and the Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, of 8-7-33 publish a communique issued by this Office on 27-6-33 under the caption "Rational Organisation of Society: I.L.O's Contribution" on the Report presented by the Director of the I.L.O. to the 17th session of the I.L.Conference.

(Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1011/33 dated 29-6-1933).

\* \* \*

The National Call of 25-6-33, the Hindu of 27-6-33, Federated India, Madras, of 12-7-33 and other papers publish a communique issued by this Office on 24-6-33 under the caption "The Influence of the Depression on Social Insurance".

(A press cutting of the communiqué from the National Call of 25-6-33 was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1011/33 dated 29-6-1933).

\* \* \*

The issue for the third quarter of 1933, dated July 1933 of the Anglo-Gujarati Journal of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, reproduces extracts from the Director's Report to the 17th I.L. Conference dealing with the social consequences of the depression and the problem of unemployment.

\* \* \*

Federated India, Madras, of 28-6-33 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 14-6-33 reviewing the report of the Director of the I.L.O. presented to the 17th session of the I. L. Conference.

(Copies of the communique were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/924/33 dated 15-6-1933. For a list of other journals and papers which published the communique vide page 5 of our June 1933 report).

\* \* \*

The Leader of 6-7-33 publishes an editorial article on the report of the Director to the 17th I.L. Conference under the caption

"Reforms at Geneva". The article directs particular attention to the portion of the report where it is mentioned that special attention is being paid to enlist the co-operation of overseas countries, and puts the query why India, which is represented on the Governing Body of the I.L.O., is denied admission to the League Council and states; ~~that~~

"The only plausible explanation is that as the League machinery is being utilized to promote the imperialist and other selfish interests of the western powers, India's presence would not conduce to the smooth working of that machinery and that the reason why India has been admitted to the Governing Body of the I.L.O. is that without her co-operation the Organization cannot function properly, the low standard of living and other unsatisfactory conditions of service of the Indian labourer being a menace to the prosperity of his western contemporary. We think the constitution of the League stands in greater need of reform than the I.L.O."

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 24-6-33, and the Times of India of 27-6-33 publish the communique issued by this Office on 20-6-33 giving the text of the speeches of Sir Atul Chatterjee and the Director of the I.L.O. on the opening day of the 17th session of the I.L.Conference.

(For a list of other papers which published the communique vide pages 4 to 5 of our June 1933 report. A cutting of the communiqué from the Hindustan Times of 21-6-33 was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/957/33 dated 22-6-33).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 4-7-33, the National Call of 10-7-33, the Hindu of 14-7-33, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 9-7-33 Labour Times, Madras of 10-7-33, the Advocate, Bombay, of 16-7-33 and Federated India, Madras, of 26-7-33, publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 3-7-33, giving the text of the speech delivered by Mr. Aftab Ali, the Indian workers' delegate to the

17th I. L. Conference, in the course of the debate on the report presented by the Director to the Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India of 19-7-33, the Hindustan Times of 21-7-33 and other papers publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 15-7-33 giving the text of the speech of Sir Phiroze Sethna, Indian Employers' delegate to the 17th I.L.Conference, made in the course of the debate on the Director's report.

(A news-paper cutting of the communiqué was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1201/33 dated 20-7-33).

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 18-7-33, the Hindu of 21-7-33, the Leader of 20-7-33 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 23-7-33 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 15-7-33 under the caption "Problems of Social Readjustment: Indian Suggestions Approved at Geneva". The communiqué gives extracts from the speech of the Director in reply to the discussion on his report to the last Conference.

(A newspaper cutting of the communiqué was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1201/33 dated 20-7-33.

\* \* \*

The Statesman and the Hindustan Times of 28-6-33 and the Times of India of 1-7-33 publish the news that the Director of the Geneva Office, in response to the views expressed at the 17th I.L. Conference that the competition of countries with lower labour standards than those prevailing in Europe should not be allowed to adversely affect the latter, made a statement undertaking that the problem would be the subject of special study by the Office.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 1-7-1933, the Hindustan Times of 2-7-33 and other papers publish a cable from Geneva dated 30-6-33 to the effect that the 17th session of the I.L.Conference concluded on 30-6-33.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 15-7-33 publishes a letter dated 14-6-33 from its Geneva correspondent under the caption "An Asiatic Labour Conference: Indian Proposal at Geneva", The article deals with the efforts made by Mr. Aftab Ali, the Indian workers' delegate to the 17th I.L.Conference, to bring about an Asiatic Labour Conference and stresses the desirability of holding such a Conference.

\* \* \*

The Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, of 8-7-33 publishes a note under the caption "The I.L.O. and Unemployment" contributed by Mr. Bertram Pickard. The note reviews the objects of the move for a 40-hour week for industry and the reasons which prompted the 17th I.L.Conference to adhere to the normal double discussion procedure in regard to this question.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 30-7-1933 publishes an article under the caption "The 17th International Labour Conference, 1933" contributed by Mr. K.E.Matthew, a member of the staff of this Office. The article reviews the proceedings of the last session.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 6-7-33 publishes a photo of the 17th International Labour Conference in session.

\* \* \*

The Advocate, Bombay, dated 30-7-33 publishes a note summarising an article published in a recent issue of the Press

Report issued by the Bengal Branch of the All India Trade Union Congress on the 40-hour week. The article criticises the measure as a hollow one and points out that the object underlying the Convention, viz., the alleviation of unemployment, will be defeated unless provision is made guaranteeing the equitable distribution of the 40-hours over all the days of the week without adversely affecting the standard of wages.

\*            \*            \*

The Hindustan Times of 14-7-33, the Statesman of 15-7-33, the Hindu of 14-7-33 and other papers publish a short summary of the speech made by Sir Atul Chatterjee at the World Economic Conference on 13-6-33, in the course of the debate on the proposal of the French delegation in favour of encouraging public works schemes and international loans.

\*            \*            \*

Indian Finance, Calcutta, of 30-6-33 publishes at pages 1277-1278 an account of the proceedings of the World Economic Conference in the course of which the main details of the I.L.O. resolution moved at the Conference are given.

\*            \*            \*

The Hindustan Times of 11-7-33, the Statesman of 16-7-33, the Advocate, Bombay, of 16-7-33, the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 16-7-33, and the Indian Social Reformer, Bombay, of 15-7-33 publish a communiqué issued by this Office on 7-7-33 dealing with the resolution moved at the World Economic Conference by Sir Atul Chatterjee on behalf of the I.L.O.

(Copies of the communiqué were forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1164/33 dated 13-7-1933).

\*            \*            \*



The Statesman and the National Call of 28-6-33, the Leader of 29-6-33 and other papers publish an Associated Press of India message to the effect that the Government of India intend introducing legislation in the forthcoming session of the Legislative Assembly to provide for the protection against accidents of workers engaged in loading and unloading ships. The message also refers to the I.L.O. Convention on the subject and makes it clear that the present legislation is intended to give effect to the Convention.

\* \* \*

The issue for the third quarter of 1933, dated July 1933, of the Anglo-Gujarati Quarterly of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, reproduces the second half of the article "The Development of Employers' Organisations in India" by Mr. A.H.Maru originally published in the February 1933 issue of the International Labour Review. The first part was reproduced in the issue of the journal for the second quarter of this year (vide page 7 of our May 1933 report).

\* \* \*

Labour Times, Madras, of 26-6-33 publishes an article under the caption "Mr. Mukundlal Unmasked", criticising certain statements recently made by Mr. Mukundlal Sarkar, sometime General Secretary of the All India Trade Union Congress. Regarding Mr. Sarkar's views on Indian participation in I.L.O. activities the following comments are made.

It is well-known that it is the policy of the Third International to boycott Geneva although there has been a welcome change in the recent World Economic Conference. But, there are in India, those who like to pretend that they are more "Red" than the "REDS" and it is this group which is responsible for demanding that no delegation should be sent to Geneva. Mr. Mukundlal himself knows

that those who believe in sending delegations to Geneva, do not all believe that the Geneva Conference will immediately result in the realisation of all or any of the demands of the workers. But, none are so blind as those who would not see. If any of the International Conventions are not ratified or not enforced after ratification in any country, it is due not to the fault of Geneva but the weakness of the working class in that country, in securing the enforcement of the Conventions. Mr. Mukundlal, if he is reasonable, will not deny that all the International Conventions so far framed at Geneva are calculated to do good to the workers if enforced in the respective countries. Mr. Mukundlal, should be aware of the fact that the demand for 8 hours working day with an hour's rest adopted by his Congress, is less radical than the proposal submitted by the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at the recent Conference for a 40-hours week. If more or better conventions <sup>which have been sanctioned</sup> ~~are~~ not legislated, the fault is due to the ~~anti~~ suicidal boycott policy adopted by any group, which thereby lessens the voting strength in favour of good Conventions.

\* \* \*

Speaking on the White Paper proposals in the C.P. Legislative Council, Mr. R.W. Fulay, the Labour representative in the Council, put forth a vigorous plea for the working classes. In the course of his speech he said that the White Paper held out no prospect of the Indian masses and the working classes ever securing an effective voice and control in the legislature and the administration of the country and demanded that the Federal legislature should be given definite power to ratify and give effect to the Conventions and Recommendations of the International Labour Conference in all constituent states and provinces,. He also pleaded for adequate representation of industrial workers through registered trade unions.

A summary of Mr. Fulay's speech is published in the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 30-7-1933.

\* \* \*

The Times of India of 24-7-33 publishes a summary of the

note on unemployment published in Industrial and Labour Information of 3-7-1933.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 21-7-33, and all other papers, in announcing the death of Lord Burnham, refer to the fact that he was President of two sessions of the I.L.Conference.

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National Labour Legislation.

Workmen's Breach of Contract Act(Repealing)Regulation,1933-Mysore.

Reference was made at page 11 of the October 1932 report of this Office to the introduction of a Bill in the Mysore Representatives Assembly with the object of repealing the Mysore Breach of Contract Act and certain provisions in the penal code relating to breach of contracts. The Bill was passed by the Assembly and received the assent of the Maharaja of Mysore on 26-6-33. It is to come into force on 1-10-33. The following is the full text of the new regulation:

Whereas it is expedient to repeal certain enactments whereby breaches of contract by labourers are made punishable under the Criminal Law: It is hereby enacted as follows:-

1. (1) This Regulation may be called the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act (Repealing) Regulation, 1933.

(2) It shall come into force on the first day of October 1933.

2. The enactments mentioned in the schedule are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the fourth column thereof.

THE SCHEDULE.

Year	No.	Short title.	Extent of repeal
1859	XIII	The Workmen's Breach of Contract Act, 1859.	The whole.
1860	XIV	The Indian Penal Code <del>is</del> as in force in Mysore.	Sections 490 & 492.
1923	XI	A Regulation to amend the Workmen's Breach of Contract (Amendment) Act,1859.	The whole.

A copy of the Regulation was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute D.1/1202/33 dated 20-7-1933.

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## Conditions of Labour.

### Enquiry into Socio-Economic Conditions of Workers in Bombay Match Factories: Labour Office Report. ✓

Between July and September 1932 the Labour Office, Bombay, conducted an enquiry into the socio-economic conditions of workers in the match factories in the Bombay Suburban District. One object of the enquiry was to compare the economic conditions of industrial workers in the suburbs with those in Bombay. Apart from this, the match industry, which is a new and growing industry, has some special features. The factories numbered seven and employed 3,996 persons, namely, 2,334 males, 1,567 females and 95 children. Two of the factories were at Kurla, two at Ghatkopar, one at Andheri, one at Santa Cruz and one at Ambernath. The Ambernath factory, which belongs to a Swedish company, is the largest and employs the most up-to-date machinery. The enquiry was carried out wholly by the permanent staff of the office. Its detailed results are published at pages 745-to 763 of the June 1933 issue of <sup>the</sup> Labour Gazette, (Vol.XII, No.10), Bombay. The report is divided into two parts, part I dealing with factory workers and part II with "home workers". The report furnishes statistical and descriptive information regarding homes and castes of workers, causes of their seeking employment, size and composition of families, workers and their dependants, literacy, income and expenditure, housing and indebtedness.

Indian Labourers in Ceylon: Free Repatriation Threatened.

Reference was made at pages 77-78 of our report for June 1933 to the proposal put forward by the Acting Controller of Labour, Ceylon, to stop free repatriation of Indian estate labourers from Ceylon on the plea that estate discipline would be unfavourably affected by the increasing number of applications for free repatriation. At a meeting of the Board of Indian Emigrant Labour held on 26-6-1933 it was decided that free repatriation of tea estate labourers should cease after 9-7-1933 .

The new minimum rates have created acute dissatisfaction among Indian labour ranks that in May <sup>1933</sup> alone the total number of those who were repatriated at public expense was 8,472. The figure ~~up to the end of~~ <sup>for the four months 30th</sup> April was 10,518. The number of labourers, seeking employment in Ceylon, correspondingly shows a vast drop compared with the figures for May last year. The number of Indian estate labourers who have immigrated to Ceylon this year up to the end of May last was 6,601, compared with 18,245 who immigrated in the corresponding period last year. The entire number of immigrants last year totalled 50,869. The total number of Indian labourers who have returned to India during the six months ending 30-6-1933 was 39,000 out of which 18,990 labourers belonged to the tea estates.

Factory Administration in Bombay, 1932\* ✓

Number of Factories. - The number of factories subject to the control of the Factories Act increased from 1,795 to 1,852. 127 factories were added to and 70 removed from the register.

There was the usual ebb-and flow in the seasonal industries and in factories just on the border line of the legal definition, but a few new factory industries were started, and the cigarette making industry grew in importance. A large factory for the hydrogenation of vegetable oils commenced operations in Bombay, and the textile industry again expanded in Ahmedabad, where 5 mills were opened, and extensions in several other mills were made. The older mills, probably as a result of changing demands and competition from the newer mills, re-organised their machinery to some extent. The number of factories that actually worked during the year was 1,575 compared with 1,541 in the previous year. Of these, 816 were perennial and 759 were seasonal concerns. 226 of the perennial and ~~759~~ 625 of the seasonal factories were connected with the cotton industry.

Number of Operatives. - The number of operatives employed in all industries based on the Annual Returns received from the factories, and including a weighted average of the operatives working on ~~the~~ night shifts in the textile mills, was 389,647 compared with 381,349 last year. There was an increase of 4,886 in the Bombay mills and 4,572 in the Ahmedabad mills. A few of the Bombay mills that had been closed for some years, restarted, and there was also an increase of night shift working. Employment in the engineering industry did not differ much from the previous year, but the match industry recovered to some extent. An increase in the dyeing and bleaching industry is not reflected in the statistics, since nearly 4,000 dhobis employed on a contract basis on hand bleaching operations in the compounds of the Ahmedabad mills are not shown in any table.

Inspections. - Of the 816 perennial factories, 81 were inspected once, 257 twice, 165 thrice and 290 more than three times, whilst 13 were uninspected. Of the 759 seasonal factories, 363 were inspected once, 298 twice, 82 thrice and 12 more than three times whilst 4 were uninspected.

Sanitation. - The mills in Ahmedabad have outpaced Municipal facilities and a drainage scheme has been under discussion for several ~~years~~ years. The disposal of trade waste has presented difficulties and in several localities has led to complaints

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\* Annual Factory Report of the Presidency of Bombay 1932. -  
Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press, 1933. Price.-  
Annas 3 or 4d. - pp.48

from the residents. The Municipality has taken action against several mills, and the mills have been forced to dispose of the waste in their compounds with insanitary results. It is understood that drainage improvements will shortly be undertaken. Some concerns have built dust collecting rooms in which the dust is blown and ~~is~~ collected. The statutory limewashing has been generally ~~effectively~~ <sup>effected</sup> and sanitation in the small Bombay factories has ~~been~~ improved. Conditions in the Dharavi tanneries were investigated. There has been a long history of neglect in this industry and its financial resources are very low. It has been possible with the co-operation of the Health Department of the Municipality to effect considerable improvements although the tanneries are not amenable to the Factories Act.

Ventilation. - All the new Ahmedabad mills have been equipped with efficient ventilating and cooling systems and the benefits both to the workers and the process are well recognised in this centre. A Bombay mill introduced a cooling and humidifying plant whereby departmental cooling powers were increased by about 50 per cent. The ventilation of other departments has also been improved. The boiling department of a soap factory, where wet kata readings obviously indicated the need, was improved out of all recognition by a plenum system blowing external air near the workers. Wet kata readings averaged 6.4 before the installation and 17.4 after. Both the workers and the management were gratified at the result and it is hoped to extend the method to a few industries where the removal of surplus heat is a difficult matter. Wet kata readings were taken in over thirty small factories in Bombay and several of them provided electric fans or other means to produce air movement. A few mills provided vacuum stripping apparatus in the carding departments.

Wages. - ~~Information is published from time to time in the Labour Gazette~~ The textile operatives appear to have been more successful than others in maintaining their rates of wages, and there seems to have been a greater fall in wage rates in seasonal industries than in industries located in the larger towns.

Employment of Women & Children. - The numbers of women and children employed in the last five years are as follows:-

Year.	Women			Children.		
	Bombay	Mofussil.	Total.	Bombay	Mofussil.	Total.
1928	28,173	46,919	75,092	122	5,061	5,183
1929	27,741	47,183	74,924	56	4,471	4,527
1930	31,404	46,561	77,965	83	4,306	4,389
1931	29,459	44,018	73,477	100	3,741	3,841
1932	29,916	44,061	73,977	114	2,678	2,792

The reduction in the number of children employed continued, and there was a fall of 1,049 under this head. This mainly occurred in



Ahmedabad where the cotton industry is following the lead set by the Bombay mills some years ago. The Certifying Surgeon has forwarded some interesting figures showing that out of 3,000 persons presenting themselves for certification 19.3 per cent came from Ahmedabad City, 14.6 per cent from Ahmedabad District, 38.4 per cent from Baroda territory and 27.5 per cent from other districts including the Punjab and United Provinces.

Owing to the economic depression, there was an increase in irregularities relating to the employment of women and it was necessary to institute prosecutions against fifteen factories for employing women before or after the hours laid down. Women were found employed in the seasonal factories as early as 4-45 a.m. and as late as 11-30 p.m. One hundred and eight convictions were secured. As the odds are in favour of the law breaker, it is not claimed that the Department was successful in preventing all the irregularities. Three factories were prosecuted for the irregular employment of children and fifteen convictions resulted.

Fencing of Machinery. - In spite of the general depression, general progress was made although considerable difficulty was experienced in obtaining the erection of transmission fencing in the new Ahmedabad mills. It was necessary to institute proceedings against several rice factories to obtain the necessary fencing of the low lying line shafts, couplings and belts, 23 concerns were successfully proceeded against for breaches of the safety requirements.

Accidents. - During 1932, 5,572 accidents were reported (37 fatal, 1,331 serious and 4,204 minor) as against 6,198 during 1931 (36 fatal, 1,261 serious and 4,901 minor). There was thus an increase in the number of fatal and serious accidents in spite of a fall in the total number of accidents. The rate per 100 persons employed fell from 1.62 in 1931 to 1.43. The first recorded fatality from lead poisoning occurred to a compositor engaged in a printing press. The Certifying Surgeon made an examination of the remainder of the workers likely to be affected and a couple of others have been kept under observation. It is hoped to introduce a scientific method of cleaning the type cases, the dust from which seems to have been the pre-disposing cause of the trouble.

Organisation of Safety Services. - In pursuance of the desire expressed by the I.L.O. that Factory inspectorates throughout the world should deal in their reports for 1932 with the organisation of safety services in industrial undertakings, the report considers the question in great detail. With the differences in caste and religion, and with the low standard of literacy, the problem is a matter of some difficulty in India. The "Safety First" idea has not spread to any great extent but a certain amount of ground had already been broken. In co-operation with the two railway companies in Bombay a set of four Safety Posters were produced some years ago, and these have been very largely exhibited in the engineering industries in the Presidency. The co-operation of the Millowners' Mutual Insurance Association was also secured and posters were

produced for the carding and spinning departments of the cotton mills. Assistance was later given to the Red Cross Society in the production of an all-India poster dealing with ~~the~~ universal risk connected with the wearing of loose clothing near machinery. The ordinary garb of the average Indian workman is entirely unsuitable, and advantage was taken of the amendments to the Rules in 1923 to secure that suitable tight clothing should be provided by the occupier free of cost to certain categories of persons exposed to special risk. This has undoubtedly prevented serious and fatal accidents to a large number of persons. The experience of the Millowners' Mutual Insurance Association with the carding and spinning posters was so encouraging that a set of posters for the weaving department was produced early last year. These too are now in fairly general use. The monthly magazine published by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, offered a new field for publicity, and monthly articles on accident prevention have been contributed for a long period. With the ~~exception~~ exception of a very comprehensive Safety Organisation set up by the G.I.P. Railway, little had been done in the factories of this Presidency in the way of specific organisations to further the cause of safety. Factories too, are not sufficiently large to warrant the employment of a safety engineer, and reliance has almost totally been placed on the activities of the inspectorate in this particular direction, although some factories have rules for specially hazardous work.

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, ~~kindly~~ arranged a conference with the Managers at which the various problems were discussed, and it was decided to set up Safety Committees in a few mills as a trial measure. Another useful agreement was that the Chief Inspector of Factories should meet a Sub-Committee of the Managers from time to time, review accidents, and discuss measures for their prevention. Safety Committees have accordingly been set up in the Jacob and Kastoorchand Mills, representative of the two largest groups in Bombay. Committees have also been formed in the R.I.M. Dockyard and the B.E.S. Tramways' Workshops, and promises from other factories have been secured. These Committees were addressed by the Chief Inspector of Factories on matters relating to safety and the prevention of accidents. The Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad, recommended the proposals to their members and three Committees functioned for some time and additional five were ~~organised~~ organised towards the close of the year. The Committees, composed of members of the superior staff, jobbers and in some cases workmen, meet once a month. Each member is charged with the duty of reporting to the manager any defects in the maintenance or adjustment of safety devices whilst recommendations to ensure additional safety are forwarded to the proper quarter. Accidents are reviewed and workers encouraged to secure First Aid treatment for minor injuries. The inspectorate has been concentrating for a long time on the adequate instruction of new workers and the Committees will materially assist in this direction. Unsafe practices, and the wearing of unsuitable clothing will be discouraged, and the Committees will assist in the dissemination of knowledge regarding safety.

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, started classes for First

Aid training in conjunction with the St. John's Ambulance Association in 1931. The first classes were very successful and three new classes were formed towards the close of the year, and have been attended by over 120 persons. The Safety Committee in the Jacob Mill has included the men trained in First Aid and a request from an Engineering Safety Committee to provide facilities for such training was arranged for, and representatives from this Committee attend the classes of the Millowners' Association. An All-India "Safety First" Association was formed during the ~~xiii~~ year (vide page 7-9 of our November 1931 report, pages 48-49 of our December 1931 report and pages 51 to 52 of our November 1932 report). The Chief Inspector of Factories served on the provisional committee and later on the local committee. He has also convened an Industrial Sub-Committee. The activities will naturally depend on the support the Association receives from industrialists and the public but on the industrial side a beginning has been made.

Reference has been made to the Sub-Committee of mill managers to meet and discuss accidents. Apart from other matters, it was considered desirable to paint a distinctive device on certain portions of machinery and guards where experience has proved that special measures are necessary. The crest of the Safety First Association is a map of India in blue surrounding the words "Safety First" and a red triangle. The Millowners' Associations in Bombay and Ahmedabad agreed to the suggestion to paint a distinctive red triangle on certain guards and portions of machinery, and this has been generally done throughout the cotton industry. The first "Safety First" poster therefore specially deals with this cautionary sign. The poster has been distributed free to all the mills, and the inspectors will endeavour to get the use of the red triangle as a cautionary sign extended in the smaller factories, whilst the poster will serve to remind operatives of the necessity of exercising special care wherever it is painted.

Prosecutions. - 335 cases were instituted against 72 factories by the full-time inspectors and 318 were successful. Thirteen cases are pending against five factories. The accused were acquitted in two cases. The fines imposed ranged from Re.1 to Rs.400 and totalled Rs. 8,541. It was necessary to institute more cases against seasonal factories for irregularities in the employment of labour and the marked reluctance of most of the small factory-owners to register their factories was countered by the institution of proceedings in three cases.

Housing. - A very novel development has taken place in Ahmedabad where the Textile Labour Association has sponsored a housing scheme to enable the lower-paid employees ultimately to own their own houses. 60 houses in lines of ten tenements have been built. The area allotted to each tenement is 725 square feet of which 350 square feet is ~~un~~built on. The houses have been well built and the standard is very much in advance of that usually prevailing. The Assistant Inspector has interested several ginning factories in the Surat and Khandesh areas in the direction of improving the accommodation provided or used by their imported labourers.

Welfare Work. - The volume of welfare work has increased although the progress has been somewhat uneven. The Belapur Sugar Factory has provided a hospital with medical facilities whilst assistance is also given to the schools established on the estate. A Provident Fund for the permanent employees has also been started. Some mills again co-operated in the health education activities of the Bombay Presidency Baby and Health Week Association and one-day exhibitions were held in the compounds of eleven mills in Bombay, six in Ahmedabad and one at Barsi and Gokak. The exhibitions were attended by over 57,000 mill-hands and their families. Nearly all the mills in Ahmedabad have provided dining-sheds for the use of the operatives, and these on the whole are kept clean. A few other mofussil mills also agreed to provide such facilities. The Millowners Association, Ahmedabad, has recommended the abolition of the practice of charging interest on advances of pay. A few mills at the Bombay centre permit money-lending activities amongst the hands at exorbitant interest rates and it is hoped that these will cease and the Ahmedabad example copied in other centres. The co-operative credit societies in the E.D.Sassoon group extended their activities considerably and with a view to create interest in the matter an article on indebtedness was sent to the Millowners' Magazine. A review of the medical facilities provided by the mills in Bombay was undertaken by the Millowners' Association with the object of co-ordinating and standardising the medical relief which, in several mills, is particularly well organised. Articles on accident prevention and welfare work have been regularly contributed to the excellent magazines produced by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, and Messrs. E.D.Sassoon and Company.

Creches. - As regards creches, the position in the Bombay mills was about the same as in the previous year. The average attendance in the 24 creches was 451 and the opium drugging of 189 children was stopped. A creche has recently been started in one of the Kurla Mills and promises secured from the mills in Khandesh are likely to materialise soon. Progress has been made in Surat and Barsi. A definite improvement in Ahmedabad may be recorded. Six excellent, eleven good and twelve fair creches are maintained by the mills at this centre, whilst most of the other mills have reserved a room for the use of the women and their infants. Attention has been given by the Certifying Surgeon to improving the standard of training of the persons in charge of several of them. The Agents of the Jubilee, Advance and New Textile Mills kindly co-operated in an arrangement whereby the nurses or ayahs receive a month's training in the excellent creches maintained by them. This has resulted in a general levelling up of the backward creches.

(The Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for 1928 is reviewed at pages 26-32 of the September 1929 report, that for 1929 at pages 19-23 of the August 1930 report, that for 1930 at pages 20-24 of the August 1931 report and that for 1931 at pages 19-22 of the June 1932 report).

Factory Administration in Burma, 1932\*

Number of Factories. - According to the Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act in Burma in 1932, the number of factories registered under the Indian Factories Act in Burma including the Northern Shan States at the end of the year 1932 was 1,073 as against 1,059 in 1931. Of these, 316 were classified as perennial and 757 as seasonal. Factories remaining closed throughout the year numbered 125 (44 perennial and 81 seasonal) leaving 948 factories which worked at some period during the year. During the year 35 factories were registered and 21 deleted; no new industries were started.

Number of Operatives. - The total number of persons employed in factories in Burma as obtained from the annual returns was 90,578. Perennial factories employed 42,652 and seasonal factories 47,926. The total varies little from that of the previous year, but there is a slight re-distribution of labour between perennial and seasonal factories. The total number of women employed in factories during the year, it is stated, was returned at 10,251 as against 10,272 in 1931. Of these, 2,524 were employed in perennial factories and 7,727 in seasonal. The seasonal factories which employ women are chiefly cotton-ginneries and rice-mills. During the year under report 462 children were reported as being employed in factories. The above numbers show a reduction in child labour, <sup>the number</sup> these being 574 of children employed in 1931.

Housing of Industrial Labour, Sanitation and Health. - The continued trade depression prevented any appreciable development in this direction. Existing accommodation, where seen, appeared to have been maintained in normal repair. The findings of the Rangoon Housing Conference mentioned in last year's report have not yet been published. Sanitary conditions in factories, is reported to have remained fair on the whole. The possibility of reducing the dissemination of dust in rice mills has been further considered in view of the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour, but the problem involved legal, technical and financial difficulties. The health of factory labour in general was reported good, and ~~appears~~ appears in no way inferior to that of the general population.

New Rules. - The draft rules for Match factories, reference to which was made in last year's report, came into force during the year under review. A set of rules to reduce the hazard of lead-poisoning was drafted, <sup>and</sup> was applied experimentally although not yet imposed by Government and requiring for their imposition more power than is given by the Factories Act. The rules embody the experience of medical officers in direct contact with the industry and its workers under the particular local conditions.

\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act, 1911, in Burma for the year 1932. Rangoon: Supdt., Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma 1933. Price Rs. 2 = 3s. pp.30.

Fencing of Machinery. - According to the report maintenance of fencing occupied even more than usually the attention of the Inspectorate during the year. Considerable attention was given during the year to the question of fencing paddy soaking tanks in consequence of the occurrence of three fatal accidents by drowning. These tanks vary in their construction and the manner of their use, and there is often real danger; a suitable form of fencing has been devised for use in such circumstances.

Number of Inspections. Altogether 638 factories were inspected during the year out of the 948 working. Steps for strengthening the Inspectorate are still under consideration. The appointment of the District Health Officers at Akyab, Myaungmya and Pyapon as Additional Inspectors, mentioned in last year's report, assisted the department in regard to factory hygiene in those districts.

Accidents and Prosecutions. - The total number of accidents reported during the year was 1,668 (17 fatal, 211 serious and 1,440 minor) as against 1,728 (19 fatal, 241 serious and 1,468 minor) in the previous year. Of these 1,668 accidents, 1,614 occurred in factories classified as perennial and 54 in seasonal factories.

During the year 19 convictions were obtained in 23 prosecutions against 23 persons as compared with 42 convictions obtained in 44 prosecutions against 33 persons in 1931.

Recommendations of Whitley Commission. - Much time was given to consideration of possible action on these recommendations. Amendment of rules in some instances awaited the passage of the revised Factories Bill. New rules relating to sanitation were published for criticism and embody Recommendation 25(b) (annual cleaning of factories) and 26 (adequate staff for cleaning latrines). During the year under report, Recommendation 50 to the effect that in every district all factory cases should go before experienced magistrates and where possible, the same magistrate, was given effect to by a circular from the High Court to all District Magistrates.

The Chief Inspector was authorised, during the year, by the Local Government to advise on all building plans of factories submitted voluntarily by intending factory owners and a press communiqué to that effect has been issued. (Recommendation 32).

White Phosphorous Matches Prohibition Act of 1923. - No irregularities under this Act is reported to have come to light during the year.

(Factory Administration in Burma during 1931 is reviewed at pages 23-24 of the June 1932 report of this Office).

Working of the Workmen's CompensationAct, 1923, in Bihar and Orissa, 1932.\* ✓

The daily average attendance of persons employed is reported to have been 137,126 adults and 1,556 minors as compared with 130,921 adults and 1,743 minors reported in 1931. (Last Year's reported figure of 130,921 is found to have been wrong. The correct figure is 140,921). Thus there has actually been a fall of 2,745 in the average attendance of adults. During the year under review, there was no case of occupational disease. 151 persons (including one minor) lost their lives as the result of accidents and the number of those who suffered from permanent and temporary disablement were 70 and 1,930 respectively, while the corresponding figures in 1931 were 122, 121 and 1,661. The total sums paid as compensation for the three classes of accidents were Rs. 67,055-0-6, Rs. 15,851-10-0 and Rs. 35,067-15-9 against Rs. 53,617-11-0, Rs. 44,327-5-1 and Rs. 42,219-0-3 respectively in the preceding year. Out of these amounts, Rs. 52,135-6-6, Rs. 6,335-6-0 and Rs. 55 respectively were paid through the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation as compensation for fatal accidents, permanent disablement and temporary disablement. The average amount paid as compensation for a fatal accident was Rs. 444 and for permanent disablement Rs. 226 as compared with Rs. 439 and Rs. 366, in 1931.

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\* Statistical returns under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 for the year 1932 - Government of Bihar and Orissa - Revenue Department - No. 140 Com. R.

There were no accidents of any class to minors in respect of which compensation was paid.

The report adds that the provisions of the Act are fairly widely known but, as observed in last year's report, there are still some workmen in North Bihar who are not fully cognisant of their rights under the Act.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1931 is reviewed at pages 21-22 of the July 1932 report of this Office.)

Board of Reconciliation for Travancore State;

Views of the Travancore Chamber of Commerce. ✓

The Travancore Labour Association recently applied to the Government of Travancore for the organisation of a Board of Reconciliation to consider questions regarding wage-reductions, strikes and cognate matters. The Government before taking any action on the subject, placed this question before the leading industrial organisations of the State in order to elicit their views. The following is the opinion expressed by the Travancore Chamber of Commerce:-

The Chamber, on going through the question carefully, was of the view that the time was not ripe for setting up a Board as suggested in view of the fact that labour in Travancore was still in an unorganised condition and that there was no suitable medium to carry negotiations. Moreover, labour conditions in Travancore



were so entirely different from conditions in the industrial centres in British India and other places and therefore the recommendations made by the Whitley Commission were not applicable to Travancore. The Chamber was, therefore, of the opinion that until there was a suitable medium for negotiations and also until business houses employing labour are registered and the necessary legislation is passed on the subject, it would not be of any use to set up a Board of Reconciliation. The Chamber was, however, anxious to have such a Board early and that the necessary conditions should be soon brought into existence.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation  
Act, 1923, in the United Provinces, 1932\* ✓

According to the report, the Act on the whole worked smoothly in the Province during the year under review and no particular difficulty is reported to have been experienced by the Commissioners. The daily average number of persons employed in registered factories increased from 93,223 in 1931 to 103,474 during the year under review.

During the year under report, there were 78 fatal accidents, 64 cases of permanent disablements and 770 cases of temporary disablement in respect of which compensations of Rs.51,685, Rs, 11,503 and Rs, 6,428 respectively were paid as against 66 fatal

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\* Report together with the prescribed Returns on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923) in the United Provinces for the calendar year 1932 - Allahabad: Supdt., Printing and Stationery, U.P. 1933. Price 6 annas - pp.9.

accidents, 65 cases of permanent disablement and 645 cases of temporary disablement in 1931 for which compensations of Rs.40,281 Rs. 18,187 and Rs. 8,378 respectively were paid.

The total number of accidents reported, it is stated, remained at 1,683, the same as in the previous year, but the number of serious accidents went down from 289 to 258. There was an increase in fatal accidents from 11 in 1931 to 23 during the year under review. The greater part of the compensation, as is seen from the returns, is paid for fatal accidents.

As in 1931 the railways accounted ~~m~~ for the majority of accidents, viz. 581 cases of temporary and 41 of permanent disablement and 48 deaths, ~~even though they employed less than 21,000~~  
~~persons as against nearly 36,000 employed elsewhere.~~

The figures regarding the extent to which references were made to Commissioners in case of accidents show that, while almost all fatal accidents were referred to Commissioners, only a fraction of the cases involving temporary disablement went up to them. The average amounts paid under the orders of the Commissioners for these classes of accidents were Rs.587 and Rs.103 respectively, while the average amounts paid without reference to them were Rs.1,175 and Rs.715 respectively. For cases of permanent disablement the Commissioners awarded Rs. 211 on an average as against Rs.155 paid direct in other cases. These figures show that the average compensation awarded by the Commissioners was higher than in cases settled direct.

As regards the disposal of cases by Commissioners, the year

opened with a pending list of ten cases. During the year 98 cases were filed as against 69 in the previous year. In addition, 33 cases were received from other provinces and two cases were transferred.

Thus, 113 cases were disposed of, 106 of them being uncontested, (66 being admitted, 38 allowed ex-parte, one dismissed and one ~~dismissed~~ withdrawn). All the seven contested cases were dismissed. The year closed with 26 cases pending. As usual, almost all these cases <sup>were</sup> concerned <sup>with</sup> the apportionment of compensation. The total compensation paid in cases referred to Commissioners amounted to Rs.46,662 against Rs. 49,500 in 1931. During the year 25 agreements for payment of compensation were registered as against 38 in the previous year. As usual, Cawnpore with 11 agreements topped the list. The majority of persons to whom compensation was awarded drew Rs.25 per mensem or less as pay. Thus, of the 67 cases of fatal accidents for which compensation was awarded, 57 concerned this wage-class; similarly, 21 out of 29 cases of permanent disablement and seven out of eight cases of temporary disablement occurred among the same class. There was no case of occupational disease during the year.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the United Provinces for the year 1931 is reviewed at pages 30-32 of the December 1932 report of this Office).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal, 1932\*

According to the report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during 1932, returns were received from 1,541 concerns during the year, 1,411 from factories including Railway workshops, 2 from Tramways, 2 from Port Commissioners and 126 from Mines. The total number of workers employed per day in factories coming under the Act was 515,635 adults and 4,806 minors as against 565,778 adults and 6,716 minors in 1931.

The total number of accidents for which compensation is reported to have been paid during the year 1932 is 2,029 against 2,334 in the previous year. Of these total accidents, 69 resulted in death, 286 in permanent disablement and 1,674 in temporary disablement, the corresponding figures for 1931 were 78; 283; and 1,973 respectively. Rs. 33,560 were paid as compensation for fatal accident, Rs. 45,598 for permanent disablement and Rs. 24,401 for temporary disablement as against Rs. 47,390, Rs. 63,711 and Rs. 29,900 respectively in 1931.

It is reported that, the Indian Seamen's Union continued to take a steady interest in Workmen's Compensation during the year, though the great majority of seamen's claims continued to be instituted direct. Other unions appearing from time to time included the Bengal Mariners' Union and the Calcutta Port Trust Employees' Association. The operations of the Khargpur Bureau on Workmen's Compensation were suspended for the greater part of the year.

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\* Government of Bengal Commerce Department - Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1932 - Calcutta; Bengal Secretariat Book Depot 1933. - Price - Indian, 3 annas; English, 4d. - pp.14.

The Bengal Nagpur Railway and ~~indeed~~ all the large railways, <sup>Confessing only a minimum number.</sup> continued to deal with claims, ~~with a minimum of contest.~~ The Calcutta Claims Bureau, which handles almost the whole of the insured Workmen's Compensation business organised in Calcutta, continued to act in close and valued co-operation throughout the year.

The draft Bill, reference to which was made in last year's report, was published during the year and the Commissioner made various recommendations, some of which were incorporated in the Bill. It is too early, at the time of writing, to estimate with any approach to accuracy the probable effects of the amending legislation, as the Bill is expected to be passed into law in the August session of the Council.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during 1931 is reviewed at pages 34-35 of the August 1932 report of this Office).

#### Factory Administration in Bihar & Orissa, 1932\*

Number of Factories, Operatives and Inspections. - According to the report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in Bihar and Orissa during the year 1932, the number of factories on the register at the beginning of the year ~~1932~~ was 318. 25 new factories were registered and 8 factories were removed from the register during 1932, leaving a total of 335 registered factories at the end of the year. Of these, 52 remained closed throughout the year. Of the remaining 283 working factories, 247 were perennial and 36 seasonal. The number of persons employed per day during the year was 65,515 (60,437 males, 4,840 women, and 238 children) as against 63,959 in 1931 or an increase of 1,556 persons. This small increase would appear to be due to the new sugar factories though the number of factories actually working during the year was only three in excess of the previous year's figure. The factories

\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in the province of Bihar and Orissa, 1932 by the Chief Inspector of Factories, B. & O. - Supdt., Govt. Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna. 1933 - Price Re. 1-8-0 - pp. 35

inspected or visited during the year, it is reported, numbered 322. The total number of inspections was 442. Of the 283 working factories, only two remained uninspected, one of them having worked for a short time and then closing down. The other was registered towards the end of the year. 11 factories which were known to be definitely closed were not visited.

Sanitation and Health of the Workers. - The report states that sanitation and water-supply remained fairly satisfactory during the year under report, and there was no serious violation of the rules. The health of employees continued to be normal. No epidemic and no industrial disease has been observed.

Wages. - The rates of wages paid showed a slight increase over 1931 in five trades, decreases in six, and no change in six. A cheapening of child labour during the year under report, to the extent of one anna is reported to have taken place.

Women and Children. - The reduction in the number of women and children which was observed in the previous three years, continued in the year under review. The number of women employed declined by nearly 10 per cent to 4,840 from a previous total of 5,369. The number of children declined by 57/2 per cent to 238 from a previous total of 558.

Fencing and Protection. - The report states that the standard of fencing is perceptibly improving. Accidents from unfenced machinery were certainly fewer than the previous years. The problem of safeguards in the case of new machinery or plant ~~is~~ has been increasingly met by the manufacturers. Six factories were prosecuted, during the year for not carrying out fencing orders.

Accidents. - The total number of accidents during the year was 1,814 as against 2,007 in 1931. Of these, 1,775 occurred in perennial factories and 39 in seasonal factories. The number of fatal accidents rose to 20 in the year under report from 13, the lowest figure recorded, in 1931. There were 459 serious accidents and 1,786 minor accidents during the year as against 374 serious accidents and 1,620 minor accidents during 1931.

Prosecutions. - During the year under review, there were 33 charges in all, resulting in 39 convictions against 16 persons. The corresponding figures for 1931 were 43 charges resulting in 42 convictions against 28 persons. This fall in the number of prosecutions ~~is~~ is reported to be due to the reduction in the number of inspectors.

(The Working of the Indian Factories Act in <sup>Bihar & Orissa</sup> ~~Burma~~ during 1931 is reviewed at pages 40-41 of the August 1932 report of this Office).

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam, 1932.\* ✓

The following details regarding the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam are taken from the Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam during the year 1932, submitted by the Chief Secretary to the Government of Assam.

According to the report, the total average number of adult and minor workers employed per day in Assam factories coming under the operation of the Act was 46,329 and 5,219 respectively. During the year under report, there were 26 deaths, 15 <sup>Cases of</sup> permanent disablements and 294 <sup>Cases of</sup> temporary disablements in respect of which compensations of Rs. 16,001-14-0, Rs. 1,674-7-3 and Rs. 2,321-9-9 respectively were paid. One case of permanent disablement owing to occupational disease was reported during the year and a sum of Rs. 52 was awarded as compensation for it. The total number of cases filed before the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation during the year was 37, of which 15 were transferred to other Commissioners for disposal. Of the remaining 22 cases, 17 cases, of which 14 were not contested and 3 contested, were disposed of during the year and 5 remained pending at the end of the year.

(The working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam during the year 1932 is reviewed at page 28 of December 1930 report of this Office.)

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\* Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Assam during the year 1932 - (Govt. of Assam - General & Judicial Department - Immigration Branch - No. <sup>Immgn</sup> 5711G.J. dated 26-6-33) pp. 6. <sub>241</sub>

Reduction of Hours of Work: Views of Ahmedabad Millowners. ✓

After his interview with the Mill-Owners and Labour Leaders of Bombay, to which reference was made at pages 35-36 of the report of this Office for June 1933, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of ~~Commerce and Industries~~ <sup>Labour,</sup> Government of India, visited Ahmedabad in order to discuss with the millowners and other employers of the place, the question of reducing hours of work to 9 per day and 54 hours a week. The millowners, according to the Bombay correspondent of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, are strongly opposed to the reduction of working hours, as such action, in their opinion, would reduce the output of the workers.

Commenting on the millowners' attitude the correspondent observes:-

The Ahmedabad capitalists, who are all Congressmen and Gandhites, have strongly protested against the rapid increase in labour legislation affecting industries during the past five years, while it is a recognised fact that India is far behind many other Western countries or even Japan in this respect. They demand that industry should not be burdened any more by further labour legislation. All that they want is adequate protection to withstand foreign competition. Can selfishness go further? Is there any justification for the propagation of Swadeshi which enable the Indian capitalists to feed themselves fat upon the blood of the poor consumers?

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab, 1932.\* ✓

According to the report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during the year 1932, the total number of accidents reported during the year was 1,091 as against, 1,142 in

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab for the year 1932. Lahore: Printed by the Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab, 1933. Price: Rs. 1-12-0 or 2s.8d.-pp. 6+x1



the previous year, and the number of accidents coming under the purview of the Workmen's Compensation Act decreased from 871 in 1931 to 504. The reasons for this decrease, it is stated, is that quite a large number of minor accidents which were reportable under the Indian Factories Act were not covered by the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The number of fatal accidents, permanent disablements and temporary disablements fell from ~~121~~<sup>121</sup> 1,239 and 820 respectively to ~~6~~<sup>6</sup> 226 and 472 during the year under review. The percentage of accidents coming within the purview of the Act to the total number of accidents reported fell from 76% to 46 during the year 1932. Compensation was paid during the year in 419 cases as against 703 in the previous year, which gives a percentage of 83 as against 80 in the preceding year. The total amount of compensation paid during the year was Rs. 30,897-3-8 as compared with Rs. 40,502-11-5 paid during the preceding year. Rs. 19,223-7-8 were paid in respect of accidents which had occurred in the previous year. Out of the total amount of Rs. 30,897-3-8, Rs. 10,457 were paid in respect of fatal accidents, Rs. 1,045 for cases of permanent disablements and Rs. 6,102 for temporary disablements.

There were 32 accidents under the Indian Mines Act to which the Workmen's Compensation Act was applicable; four resulted in death, five in permanent disablements and 23 in temporary disablements. Compensation was paid in respect of 2 fatal accidents, 3 permanent disablements and 15 temporary disablements during the year as against 2 fatal accidents, 1 permanent disablement and 23 temporary disablements in the previous year. Compensation was

also paid during the year in respect of 2 fatal accidents and 6 temporary disablements which occurred in 1931. The total amount of compensation paid was Rs. 2,641-7-0 as against Rs. 2,161-3-0 paid in the previous year.

70 fresh proceedings were filed under section 10 and 18 under section 8 with the Commissioners appointed under the Workmen's Compensation Act. 30 cases were pending from last year. Of these, 65 were admitted by the employers, 11 were allowed ex-parte, 5 were dismissed for non-appearance, 3 were withdrawn, 1 was summarily dismissed under rule 21, 1 was dismissed under rule 22, 7 were allowed, 2 were allowed in part and 2 were dismissed after being contested, leaving 25 pending at the close of the year. Of these, 89 were registered as filed, one was registered after modification, and four were not registered on account of other causes, leaving 19 pending at the close of the year.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Punjab during the year 1931 is reviewed at pages 14-15 of the October 1932 report of this Office.)

#### Strikes in the Textile Industry. ✓

References were made in the earlier reports of this Office to the intense unrest prevailing among cotton mill operatives on account of retrenchment measures forced on mill managements by the <sup>s</sup>pressure of Japanese competition in <sup>the</sup> textile piece-goods market. In spite of the increases in the import duties of non-British textiles, effected by the Government of India on 6-6-1933 to relieve the situation (vide pages 51-54 of our June 1933 report), the

cotton industry continued to be in a bad way during the month under review. The movement of textile goods was slow during the month with the result that stocks in mill godowns accumulated rapidly. In almost all centres, wage cuts were effected and the workers countered by resorting to strikes which were, almost all, short lived. There was, however, no general strike in any centre, the strikes being confined to employees of individual mills. The Ahmedabad centre reported a great number of strikes. Reports of strikes were also received chiefly from Bombay, Nagpur, Delhi, Jubbulpore, Chalisgaon, Amraeti and Coimbatore.

Reduction of wages has been responsible for a strike in the Naihati Jute Mills, Calcutta, declared on 28-6-33, which affected over 3,000 workers.

Victimisation in M. & S.M. Railway:

General Secretary of Unions Discharged from Service.

References were made in the reports of this Office for October 1932 et seq. to a strike in the M. & S.M. Railway which began on 24-10-1932 and ended on 24-12-1932. The strike, it will be remembered, was begun as a protest against the retrenchment policy adopted by the administration. A small committee of European and Indian citizens of Madras city effected a compromise by working out a provisional agreement. Subsequently, however, differences arose over the interpretation of certain clauses of the agreement (vide pages 31-32 of our January 1933 report) in regard to the reinstatement of certain workers. The union alleged motives of victimisation and bad faith against the administration for their refusal

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to re-entertain a section of the workers and decided to terminate direct action in favour of legal action to get the workers, whom the Agent refused to reinstate on the plea that they were surplus, taken back into service.

Thereupon, the Agent asked the General Secretary of the Union, Mr. G. Krishna Murti, to withdraw the charges of bad faith and victimisation, which the General Secretary refused to do. The Agent then wrote to the Union on 24-6-1933 as follows:-

Since your Union has initiated and promulgated certain unfounded accusations against this administration and has failed to withdraw them, it has been found necessary as already intimated to you, to discontinue direct intercourse with your Union. Under these circumstances, I have to inform you that this administration is unable to agree that the General Secretary of your Union should continue to be an employee of the M. and S.M. Railway Company. Mr. G. Krishnamurthy, ~~your~~ your General Secretary, has, accordingly, been instructed to resign his position as General Secretary of your Union within one week from date.

The General Secretary refused to be subjected to the control of the Agent in the matter of legitimate Union activities consistent with the Trade Union and Trade Disputes Acts, carried on outside his duties as an employee of the Company. On 10-7-1933, the Agent issued orders discharging Mr. Krishna Murti from service. As a protest against this order the employees of the Perambur workshops struck work on 11-7-1933, but were persuaded by the Union to resume work, an undertaking being given that necessary action will be taken in the matter by the Union itself. In <sup>a</sup>the statement issued by Mr. Giri on 11-7-33, he has stated that the issue raised by the Agent is an all India one, vitally affecting the right of association of workers for lawful trade union purposes. Before taking any direct action, the Union has applied to the Government of India on

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12-7-33 to appoint a Conciliation Board under the Trade Disputes Act to examine the validity of the Agent's action. The decision of the Government of India on this question is awaited by the Union with anxious expectation.

The labour unrest at Perambur is likely to be intensified by a circular issued on 16-7-33 by the Agent, in which is foreshadowed further retrenchment in the Perambur workshops in November 1933.

Ahmedabad Calico Mills' Workers' Distress Fund Scheme:

Conditions of Grant. ✓

At page 32 of the February 1933 report of this Office, reference was made to the workers' distress fund started in the Ahmedabad Calico Mills for the relief of needy workers in commemoration of the Golden Jubilee of the mills. A scheme has now been drawn up by the authorities of the Mills regarding the distributions of grants from the fund and the conditions under which workers become eligible for financial help. The following are the main features of the scheme:-

Stress of Unforeseen Circumstances.- When any worker of the Mill finds it ~~xxx~~ hard to maintain himself or his family in consequence of persistent illness, or when the worker's family have temporarily no means of subsistence or stand in need of monetary help to enable them to go to their native place after the death of the worker, or when the worker or his family find it difficult to maintain themselves in consequence of unavavoidable and unforeseen circumstances, an application for relief may be made if the worker has served in the mill continuously and satisfactorily for at least a period of twelve months.

Serious & Sickness.- When a worker is overtaken by consumption or a disease of equally serious nature which naturally takes long to cure or has lost his limb or limbs owing to accident, or when he is unable to maintain a large family on his pay he may apply for relief if he has put in ten years' continuous and satisfactory service.

Old Age or Loss of Limbs.- When a worker is obliged to discontinue service owing to old age or loss of limbs and is therefore unable to maintain himself and his family, he may apply for relief if he has joined the company before his thirtieth year and has also served continuously and satisfactorily for a period of twenty years.

Relief under the present scheme cannot be claimed as a matter of right. The company has reserved to itself the right to modify or cancel the scheme at any time.

Economic Conditions.

Textile Industries in Kashmir State: Barker Enquiry Report. ✓

Some time back the Government of Kashmir State invited Professor Alfred F. Barker, M.Sc., F.T.I. of the Leeds University to investigate the present condition of the textile industry in the State. A brief survey of the report Professor Barker recently submitted to the State is given below.

Organisation of Textile Industries. - Regarding the organization of the textile industries in Kashmir, Prof. Barker observes, "Kashmir is so renowned for its shawls and carpets that the fact that it has developed ~~into~~ an extensive normal wool manufacturing industry almost passes unnoticed. It is interesting to note that the effect of the introduction of British wool fabrics into India has been to create a demand for better and more beautiful fabrics of native production, and this demand is now being met specially through the activities of the All-India Spinners' Association.

Indebtedness of Handicraftsmen. - The poverty of the people, and sometimes their extravagance in certain directions, have run them into the hands of the money-lender, who, today, is not usually the friendly village financier of the past. A case is made out for State interference on one of two lines: (1) the State might buy out the present financier, or by legislation take his place in the village community; or (2) the State might encourage such organizations as the All-India Spinners' Association to finance on sound lines village industries.

Woollen Industry. - The tweed industry of Kashmir well merits attention as not only are simpler types of hand-spun and hand-woven cloth produced, but fancy styles of real merit are placed on the market and exported to other parts of India in considerable quantities. It is not unlikely that wool, or silk fabrics, may come much more into favour in the tropics than has been the case heretofore. It would be a feather in the cap of Kashmir and India if she could export goods of this type to China and other countries as against the machine-made tropicals of Japan. Such an export trade would lead to a greater demand of "pashmina" and this could possibly be supplied by increasing the number of Cashmere goat.

Shawl & Carpet Industry. - It has been stated that during the reign of the last two Maharajas, between 30,000 and 40,000 persons were engaged in the shawl industry, the output being valued at about Rs. 28 2.8 million per annum. The 1901 census records 5,037 shawl weavers, and today the number is probably much smaller than this,

while the value of output has correspondingly decreased. Should a demand of Kashmir shawl again rise it is difficult to see how it could be met as most of the necessary skilled labour has disappeared.

The hand-made carpet industry of Kashmir is now the largest single industry in the State. Although the work is done by hand, the industry is highly organised and has all the essentials of a large-scale modern concern. There are six large firms engaged in this industry with 715 looms employing up to 3,575 men. Thus, directly or indirectly, about 12 per cent of the population of Srinagar earn a livelihood from this industry. The annual production is valued at about Rs. 1.8 million, of which Rs. 600,000 go to the workers. Unfortunately, since 1929, only some hundred of these looms have been working, this being due to the decreased demand from Europe and America.

Recommendations: (1) Central Organisation for Production of Special Patterns. - The report suggests that there should be a central organization which is specially concerned with the production of special patterns. Whether it is to be the All-India Spinners' Association's work subsidised by the State or whether there should be a central organization for this in Srinagar is for the State to decide. At this central institution is to be housed:- (a) an extensive textile library; (b) a museum, where appliances and patterns etc., are exhibited, and (c) a well-equipped research and investigation plant. The salesmanship and economic control must receive the most careful thought and consideration.

(2) Textile Institution for Technological Investigation and Research. - The next recommendation is that Kashmir should create the link by and through which she may gain that which is best from European developments, and give to Europe in return something of that wonderful craftsmanship which she brought over from the past. With this two-fold object in view, it is suggested that a Textile Institution for Technological Investigations and Research should be instituted at Srinagar. As Kashmir can rely upon the inherent craftsmanship and artistic skill of the trained votaries of its village industries, it seems that the development of such an institution as this is more important than the development of the usual Textile Teaching School. The following are some of the problems which such an institution should tackle:-

1. possible introduction of hand cards to improve and speed up hand spinning;
2. carding and combing and recarding of "pashmina" to improve the regularity in pashmina yarns and fabrics;
3. the designing of a better portable hand loom, along with a more efficient method of warping;
4. the introduction of a simple taking-up and letting-off mechanism for pit and frame hand looms;
5. the possibility of the "Fly Shuttle";
6. the advantages to be gained from the use of "weft spools" as against the "weft sticks";
7. the best build of fly shuttle and thread hand-loom;
8. the machine making of healds and reeds;
9. the designing of a special fly-shuttle hand loom for weaving of fine "Pashmina" yarns;
10. the possibilities of using the Jacquard Loom in the production of elaborate Kashmir fabrics; and
11. the special study of manufacturing of "Pashmina" into fabrics of high grade in natural and other colours.



Development of Industries in Ceylon:  
Scheme for a New Industries Department. ✓

It is reported that the Ministry of Labour, Industry and Commerce, Ceylon, is anxious that an economic survey of the island should be made, trade indexes showing the state of the islands export trade month by month be prepared for the guidance of the public, and a thorough examination be made of the island's industrial possibilities.

As it is found impossible to deal with these steps without a trained and specialised staff, a scheme is being considered by the Ministry of Labour for the formation of a new Department of Industries and Commerce based on the Indian model. It is also stated that selected men from Ceylon will be sent to India to learn the methods adopted in an Indian department of industries. It is expected that when the proposed new department is established, Ceylon's trade representatives will be placed under its control.

Development of Bombay Fishing Industry: Bombay  
Government's Scheme. ✓

A comprehensive scheme is being worked out by the Bombay Government for improving the fishing industry in the province <sup>which</sup> ~~and it~~ is expected to produce valuable results. A recent investigation by Government revealed the fact that although the number of people employed in the fishing industry in Bombay totals nearly three-quarters of the men engaged in the industry in Great Britain, the

output is less than 5 per cent of the quantity produced in Britain. The Industries Department of the Bombay Government is now busily engaged in devising measures to secure simultaneously an increase of production with improved methods of distribution. It has been demonstrated that the seas along the Bombay coast could yield catches almost equivalent to the North Sea banks, but practically the whole Presidency is under-supplied with fish and outside the coast strip there is a vast market capable of consuming almost unlimited quantities of this valuable diet, if it could be supplied in good condition and at reasonable prices.

The industry is at present conducted on a purely individualistic basis and makes no use of mechanical motive power. Every machwa (Indian fishing boat) is engaged in a fight against wind and tide in getting its catch to land in good condition, and in consequence never has time to secure a full boat load. The need of the moment is, therefore, to organise a system of tenders under motor power which would unfailingly bring the fish to market in good condition and enable the actual fishing boats to remain at sea continuously for much longer periods. The kolis (native fishermen) are evincing much interest in the scheme. Their principal concern, however, is that they should retain their present independence and not become mere wage-earners in capitalistic enterprises. In this aspiration, they have the Bombay Government's full support.

Hand in hand with the development of production, the improvement of transport and railway cold storage facilities between Bombay and the inland distributing centres are being attended to. It is proposed shortly to convene a meeting in Bombay, at which the

railway authorities, the shipping interests, the Port Trust and the principal market authorities will be represented to consider the question.

It is expected that there are few Swadeshi industries, the expansion of which could be more easily and advantageously secured. A comparison with England suggests that Bombay may be enriched by many millions of rupees if the scheme succeeds.

Development of Industries; Sir Frank Noyce's Discussion  
with Bombay Government. ✓

Reference was made at pages 35-36 of the report of this Office for June 1933 to the exchange of views on labour problems between Sir Frank Noyce, Member for Industries and Labour, Government of India, and the labour leaders of Bombay. A Conference between the Governor of Bombay, the Members and Ministers of the Bombay Government and Sir Frank Noyce was held at Government House, Bombay, on 30-6-33, when various questions in the industrial sphere, of common interest to the Government of India and the Bombay Government, were discussed.

The Conference was attended by the secretaries of the respective departments, the Directors of Agriculture and Industries and the Labour Commissioner. Among the matters discussed were the campaign to assist industries, improving the supply and distribution of fish, <sup>and the labour the</sup> and fruit export trade to England, the helping of the

tanning industry wherein Bombay ranks second in India, and questions relating to the match making, canning and bottling industries. In connection with labour, the reduction of working hours to nine, the possibility of organised short-time working as a substitute to the closing down of mills, welfare work, conciliation boards and the need for an economic census were also discussed.

Protection of Tenants and Debtors:

Bills to be introduced in the C.P.Legislative Council. ✓

It is understood that Lala Jainarain and Mr. Fulay, members of the C.P.Legislative Council, have given notice of two Bills - the C.P.Reduction of Interest Bill, 1933, and the C.P.Usurious Loans (Amendment) Bill, 1933, — to be introduced at the next session of the Council.

Bill

The C.P.Reduction of interest Bill seeks to protect landlords and tenants who pay rent or revenue not exceeding Rs. 5,000, as distinguished from other debtors, and the Usurious Loans (Amendment) provides for the absence of a definition of what constitutes an excessive rate of interest in the Usurious Loans Act of 1918 which had led to to difficulties of interpretation in the courts, with the result that the Act has been almost a dead letter.

Industrial Ministers' Conference, 1933, Simla. ✓

References were made at pages 36-37 of our May 1933 report and at page 47 of our June 1933 report to the intention of the Government of India to hold a conference of Ministers in Charge of

Industries and Provincial Directors of Industries. The Conference met on 13-6-33 and was attended by the Ministers in Charge of Industries and Directors of Industries of the various British Indian Provinces and of some of the more important Indian States. The proceedings of the Conference were formally opened by H.E. the Viceroy. The Conference lasted from 13-6-33 to 15-6-33 and was presided <sup>over</sup> by Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of the Department of Industries and Labour with the Government of India.

The items on the agenda of the Conference were:-

(1) State aid to industries; (2) Development of cottage industries and marketing products with particular reference to handloom industry; (3) encouragement of exhibitions and industrial fairs; (4) Co-ordination and development of statistics bearing on industries; (5) Preparation of industrial directories; (6) Issue of an all-India industrial journal; (7) Technical scholarships abroad; (8) Middle class unemployment; (8) Co-ordination of industrial research; (10) Value of cheap electrical power to rural development; (11) Private enterprise vis-à-vis Government institutions, including jails; (12) Preparation of annual reports of Industries Departments on uniform lines and (13) Utilisation of services of Trade Commissioners.

The Conference was not open to the press and, although a brief record of the proceedings was kept, no details of discussions or conclusions were published. It was agreed not to bring forward any resolutions, but the President summed up ~~the sense of~~ the sense of the Conference on each item and recorded the conclusions which were arrived at. The hope was expressed at the Conference that similar Conferences should be held at regular intervals.

Development of Indian Sugar Industry;  
Conference of Agricultural Ministers, Simla, 1933. ✓

A Conference of the Ministers of Agriculture of the British Indian Provinces and of the Indian States of Hyderabad and Mysore and of representatives of the Government of India to discuss questions connected with the future development of the Indian Sugar industry was held at Simla from 10 to 12-7-1933. The Conference was presided over by Sir Fazli Hussain, Member in Charge of Education Health and Lands with the Government of India. Provinces like Assam and Central Provinces, which are not sugar-producing ones were not represented. The items on the agenda were the following:-

1. To consider whether, having regard to the present demand for sugar in India and its possible expansion in the future, the present rate of development of the sugar industry is satisfactory or excessive or inadequate;

2. To consider whether either sugar-cane growers or sugar manufacturers are unduly benefited at the expense of the consumer and whether the benefits of protection granted to the industry are being fairly distributed between different interests;

3. To consider whether, in the interests of sound development of sugar-cane cultivation and sugar manufacturing industry, it is desirable and practicable to regulate the relations between sugar-cane growers and sugar manufacturers either by zoning the licensing of factories, or fixation of cane prices, or other means; and

4. To consider whether legislation is necessary for better regulation of the Indian sugar industry and, if so, to what extent such legislation should be central and to what extent provincial.

The following brief sketch of the past and present history of the sugar industry in India would help understanding of the various questions raised at the Conference and the differing views expressed on them:-

Indian Sugar Production. - Despite climatic drawbacks and old methods of cultivation and manufacture, India has always been contributing to the world sugar production to a very great extent. Even then India is importing every year quite a large quantity of sugar in order to meet its consumption as the home production falls

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short of the requirement. According to the latest figures available, India produces about 11 per cent of the total world output of sugar and consumes about 15 per cent.

Comparison with Java, Cuba, etc. - There are about 28,86,000 acres of land under cane plantation in India at present, which is greater than that in Cuba and about 5 times greater than that at in Java. The United Provinces alone has a greater area under cane than that Java has. The Indian yield per acre, however, is much lower than either that of Java or Cuba or Hawaii. The Indian production of refined sugar per acre is only 1/3 of that of Cuba, 1/6 of that of Java and 1/7 of that of Hawaii. There is, therefore, sufficient scope for improvement both in the cultivation of sugar-cane and the method of manufacture. Most of the recently constructed sugar factories are being worked on modern lines. The researches, which are being carried on under the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research at different places in the various provinces and presidencies, have also considerably helped in improving the conditions obtaining in the industry, but much remains to be done. If the rapid development which the industry has been making since protection has been granted by the Government continues, it will not be before long that India will become self-supporting in respect of sugar.

Indian Sugar Committee - 1910. - The Government of India as well as the people became alive to India's suitability as a manufacturer of sugar immediately after the Great War. Due to the War, the beet sugar industry in Central Europe became disorganised with the result that the world output of sugar decreased and the price rose excessively. In the year 1920-21, Java white sugar was quoted as high as Rs.40 per maund. It was only then realised that India could be the only country which could come to the rescue of the world as it possessed an extensive area under cane cultivation. Therefore, in 1920, a Sugar Inquiry Committee was set up by the Government to make a detailed survey of the sugar industry in India. If the findings of the said Committee had been strictly acted upon, India would have been by now amongst important exporting countries. But the conditions began to change after the War as the Central European countries re-organised their beet sugar industry. Java, too, in the meantime, by systematic researches, better cultivation and the use of modern plant lessened its cost of production. Similarly Cuba, Hawaii, Russia and Japan also increased their production of sugar. The result was that the world production of sugar began to increase and, as statistics prove it, the production has surpassed the consumption with disastrous effect on price. The situation has been further aggravated by the general trade depression.

Tariff Protection. - The price of Java white sugar continued falling since 1926, the Government of India, on the other hand, continued raising the duties at intervals. These duties were based entirely on revenue considerations. This condition prevailed up to 1930-31. All these years Indian public opinion was pressing the Government to protect the sugar industry. In 1925, the then ad valorem duty of 25% was found to be very low and, therefore, a specific duty of Rs.4-8-0 per cwt. was introduced in its place. It was subsequently raised to Rs. 6 per cwt. in 1930. Even this

was found inadequate, the question was then referred to the Tariff Board for thorough investigation. Finally in September 1931, the duty was increased to Rs. 7-4-0 per cwt. in pursuance of the recommendation of the Board.

(The above information is taken from the Memorandum submitted by the U.P. Chamber of Commerce to the Simla Sugar Conference).

The following is a brief review of the proceedings of the Conference:-

1. On the first item on the agenda the following resolution was adopted:-

Whereas the recent development of the sugar industry in India has been rapid, although it cannot be said to have been excessive, and whereas owing to the general fall in the prices of agricultural produce there has been a natural tendency towards increase in areas under sugar-cane, this conference is of the opinion (1) that when the modern factories now under construction are working at full speed, it is likely that these and the existing ~~existing~~ ~~factories~~ factories will produce sufficient white sugar to meet the existing demand for white sugar; (2) that in view of the consideration that whilst the potential supply of raw material is very large, the demand for sugar in India is limited, further extension should be carefully watched in the interests of the establishment of a sound industry; and (3) that if production of sugarcane expands beyond actual requirements, it will be extremely difficult and indeed almost impossible for any reasonable level of prices for gur (unrefined Indian sugar) to be maintained.

The Conference passed the resolution, there being a number of dissentients belonging to several provinces to each clause as put. Sir Fazl-i-Husain said that the Government of India's idea of holding the Conference was not to formulate a programme for the provinces, but to survey the position and promote an efficient industry. He appealed to all provinces not to enter into a sort of cut-throat competition amongst themselves, but to look at the problem for the whole of India.

2. On the second item on the agenda, there was a general discussion, but no definite resolution was adopted.

3. Sharp differences in views were manifested at the Conference when the question whether the relations between growers and manufacturers should be regulated by legislation or not was discussed. A committee was appointed to consider the subject. The Committee agreed by a majority that if a fair price is not being paid for sugar-cane to the growers by some of the factories, then some measure aiming at fixation of the minimum price is desirable and necessary. The majority of the Committee agree generally with regard to fixation of prices, including methods for enforcing it, subject to the condition that the commission of the contractor should be paid by the factory, and should not be deducted from the prescribed minimum price. In the opinion of the Committee, zoning is not a necessary condition to minimum price fixation, but if any



system of zoning is adopted, the fixation of the minimum price is a necessary adjunct.

4. Regarding the subject of whether there is need for legislation for better regulation of the Indian sugar industry, which was the fourth item on the agenda, the Conference considered a rough draft-bill submitted by the Hon'ble Mr. Srivastava (United Provinces). The Bill provides that in future no factory shall be established and no operations be carried on in any factory, present or future, except under licence from the Local Government who will be assisted at the time of the issue of licences by a committee consisting of two representatives of cane-growers, two of factories and one nominee of the Local Government. Areas of operation should be assigned to each factory. No factory should buy sugar-cane from any person other than the landholder or tenant upon whose land the sugar-cane was grown or by a contractor licensed under this Act. The Local Government from time to time may notify the minimum price at which factories or contractors shall buy cane. There should, the Bill proposes, be inspection of such factories by district magistrates or other persons.

In support of this draft Bill Mr. Srivastava presented a memorandum pointing out the need for action as a policy of drift would no longer be fair to growers or factories and might lead to an agrarian revolt. A zoning system should accompany fixation of a minimum price. If such a price was fixed, objection to zoning would lose force, Zoning combined with fixation of price would always eliminate the old economic ideas of endless competition and war and introduce an element of peace and stability in industrial organisation. A further development would be that the contractor would be replaced by co-operative societies in zone areas and therefore incorrect payments or wrong weighing would also disappear.

The Conference arrived at no definite decision on the question whether legislation should be initiated immediately for the control of the industry.

Indo-Japanese Trade Negotiations. ✓

At pages 51 to 54 of our June <sup>1933</sup> report and in earlier reports references were made to the crisis in the Indian textile industry brought about by Japanese competition in the Indian piece-goods market and to the raising of duties on non-British textile goods by the Government of India. The grant of further protection to Indian textile interests evoked strong protests from Japanese cotton interests and as a retaliatory measure they decided to boycott Indian cotton. (Japan has been importing on an average 1,250,000 bales of Indian cotton annually, amounting nearly to 50 per cent of the total cotton export from India).

The boycott threat, while it has not succeeded in coercing the Government of India to cancel the recent increases in import duties imposed on Japanese textile goods, has been responsible for further antagonising Indian feelings towards Japan. This aspect of the situation is brought out in a communication sent on 7-7-33 by the Board of the East India Cotton Association, Bombay, to the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association, Osaka. A relevant passage states:

"<sup>We</sup> ~~They~~, however, apprehend that your Association's resolution boycotting the use of Indian cotton may provoke retaliatory sentiments in the minds of the Indian masses, who may seriously consider the question of boycotting not only Japanese textiles but also other Japanese goods!"

The Japanese boycott, however, has very seriously affected Indian cotton growing interests as the price of Indian cotton has already depreciated to the extent of Rs.15 per candy. The growing concern for the interests of cotton growers in this country finds expression in a resolution for the forthcoming August Session of the Assembly presented by six members. The resolution asks the Governor-

General-in-Council either to raise the duty on all foreign cotton imported into India so as to increase the consumption of Indian cotton, or to introduce legislation entirely prohibiting the import of foreign cotton into India.

The Japanese trade delegation to which reference was made at pages 53-54 of our June 1933 report has not yet been sent. According to the Hindustan Times of 22-7-1933, the delegation is to consist of two officials with ten non-official advisers drawn from the major industries of the country. Baron Sawada and Mr. Terao, Director of the Trade Bureau, Commerce Department with the Government of Japan, are to be chosen as the delegates. They are expected to arrive in India towards the end of September next and the negotiations are to begin in October. The Japanese advisers intend touring the country in order to establish contacts with Indian industrialists.

In spite of the protection afforded, ~~to~~ the textile industry in India continued to be in a bad way during the month under report. In Ahmedabad and in other mill centres stocks accumulated greatly, the tendency of management to effect wage cuts continued, and strikes and lockouts were reported from several cotton centres.

Employment and Unemployment.

Agricultural Training for Educated Youths;

Bengal Government's Scheme. ✓

At page 56 of our June 1933 report an account was given of the scheme initiated by the Government of Madras for the training in practical agriculture of unemployed educated youths belonging to the middle classes. Below is given an account of a scheme on similar lines initiated by the Agricultural Department of the Government of Bengal for <sup>imparting</sup> ~~initiating~~ sound agricultural training to educated Bengali youths of the bhadralok (middle) class at the Government Agricultural Farm , Faridpur:

Principal Features.- The scheme was introduced in Faridpur in March 1928 as an experimental measure for three years, but in view of the satisfactory results obtained during those years this scheme is ~~still~~ being continued. Five bhadralok youths are being trained annually in agriculture at the Government Farm at Faridpur and at the end of a year's training provided with 15 ~~times~~ bighas of khasmahal land each. It is reported that they work as common labourers of the farm and are given daily wages at the rate of Rs.12 a month each. They are treated in all respects like the other farm labourers and ~~are~~ required to perform with their own hands all such operations as ploughing, laddering, weeding, jungle-cutting, carrying baskets of manures, cleaning the cattle-shed, transplanting paddy in mud, cutting and steeping jute and extracting fibre therefrom. The youths are taught self-help and <sup>the</sup> ~~the~~ dignity of labour in various other ways. Most of them are required to live in the coolie shed of the farm side by side with the other labourers of the farm. They are not ordinarily permitted to obtain any allowance from their home to supplement their earnings on the farm for the purpose of meeting their dietary expenses.

Terms of Government Aid. - After one year's training, each young man is given 15 bighas of khasmahal land free of rent for three years and an advance of Rs.200 in cash to enable him to purchase a pair of bullocks and the necessary implements. The loan of Rs. 200 is given on the personal or joint security of two persons acceptable to the Collector of the district. The advance with its usual interest is recoverable in 4 annual instalments commencing with the second year. Each youth is required to live on the land and to bring the land into cultivation with his own hands; he is not allowed to let out the land or in any other way to sublet any portion thereof. If, however, at the end of three years the work is found satisfactory, an ordinary raiayatwari settlement is concluded

on the usual terms obtaining in the Government estate in which the land is situated, no salami being charged. An agreement for the experimental period of three years is signed by each yough.

Results Achieved. - Since the inauguration of the scheme four batches numbering 20 have completed their training, the last batch of five having been released from the farm on the 31st July 1932. All the four batches have been provided with land and loans as promised under the scheme. That their training on the farm has stood them in good stead will be borne out by the fact that the first two batches built their houses mainly with their own hands. They have improved in health and the only thing which has caused them embarrassment is the present low price of agricultural produce.

Criminal Tribes in Bombay Presidency:Working of Settlements - 1932 - 33\* ✓

The following is a summary of the report on the Working of the settlements established under the Criminal Tribes Act and allied institutions in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31-3-1933, submitted by the Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer with the Government of Bombay.

Population. - According to the report, the population of all the Settlements as it stood on 31-3-1933 was 7,839, as against 7,786 the figure for the last year. There is thus a small rise of 53. During the year, 41 registered persons with 50 dependents were interned in the Settlements newly on the recommendation of the Police. Out of the number discharged from Settlements, 168 persons including dependents were recalled to Settlements during the year from the Free Colonies attached to Settlements and villages, either for breach of conditions of license, or on conviction for offences. Thirty-nine persons who had hitherto been living in the Settlements as dependents of registered settlers were registered and continued in the Settlements by an order under section 16 of the Criminal Tribes Act, ~~xx~~ The excess of births over deaths in the Settlements was 124. 73 registered persons with 204 dependents were released on license to the free colonies, and 34 registered persons with 79 dependents were released on license to villages during the year. The population of the free colonies as it stood on 31-3-1933, is 5,669 as against 5,752 the figure of the last year.

Employment. - It is reported that owing to the unstable economic conditions and the general trade depression, employment during the year under review was not steady and that strenuous efforts were needed to provide work in the settlements. The majority of the settlers were employed in Factories, Railway Workshops, Weaving and Spinning Mills and in construction work on Nira Right Bank Canal. The rest were provided with work such as road making, metal breaking, masonry, wood cutting in the forests, field work, or casual labour. Almost all the new arrivals were either interned in the Reformatory Section of the Bijapur Settlement where they were employed in the Weaving Factory, in chappal (slipper) making or gardening, or in the Nira Project Settlement where they were employed on canal construction work.

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\* Annual Administration Report on the Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency - Part I - Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1933 - Price Annas 2 or 3d - pp.30.

Health, Housing and Sanitation. - The health of the settlers and of those living in the Free Colonies is reported to have been satisfactory. There was no serious epidemic. The health of the settlers at the Kambharganvi Settlement who had been suffering from malaria showed a slight improvement. Plague and small-pox were prevalent in many districts where settlements are located, but with the co-operation of the Health Department, and with the efforts of the dispensaries attached to all the larger Settlements the settlers escaped with very few cases. During the year there were 341 births in the Settlements as against 217 deaths and in the free colonies 316 births as against 164 deaths. The excess of births over deaths of 124 in the Settlements and 152 in the free colonies denote the care taken by the medical and nursing staff and also an increasing tendency on the part of the settlers and the free colonists to avail themselves of the treatment given in the Settlement Dispensaries.

Almost all the settlers live in huts of their own construction. The report points out that this has proved healthier for the settlers than living in houses, as the huts are open to the sun and air, and are thus more sanitary than many houses. Settlers who were released on license under section 18 of the Criminal Tribes Act, and who desired to remain on the Free Colonies attached to the Settlement were granted plots on a small occupancy price, and were encouraged to build houses of their own. The practice of building substantial houses on the free colonies is increasing more and more. It is stated that the growth of the Free Colonies, and the advance in construction of the houses on them is perhaps the most distinctive feature of Settlement work in recent years.

Education. - Education in the Settlements is compulsory. Out of a total population of 7,839 of all ages in settlements proper, the numbers attending Day and Night Schools during the year under report were 1,625 and 254 respectively. The corresponding figures for the free colonies were 1,202 and 196 respectively against a population of 5,669. These figures show a rate of 239.6 for settlements and 246.6 for free colonies. In addition, 121 children from the settlements and free colonies attended outside Vernacular Schools, and 15 children attended English Schools. Manual training is a special feature of the settlement schools. There has been a general advance in the number of boys and girls who reach the Higher Standards before leaving school. During the year under review, 67 boys were apprenticed, 3 for Masonry, 23 for Carpentry, 5 for Tailoring, 25 for Agriculture and 11 for Weaving.

Co-operation. - The various co-operative credit and producers' societies in the settlements showed satisfactory progress during the year under report. The amount of deposits was Rs. 31,938-2-6 on 31-3-1933 as compared with Rs. 30,169-12-2 in the previous year. Efforts were made to secure deposits from the settlers to enable them to buy plots for building houses on the free colonies or elsewhere or to buy lands after their release from the settlements. The staff co-operative credit society of the Backward Class Settlement Department had a successful year, the share capital being Rs. 6,375 as against Rs. 5,755 the figure of the last year. The report states that a campaign is now in progress to ensure that every member of the staff who is eligible to join the Provident Fund does so, and that those who are not eligible put money regularly into a Post Office Savings Account.

Free Colonies. - The practice of building good houses on the free colonies is spreading. The staff at Indi, Gadag, Baramati, Sholapur, and Hubli are specially to be congratulated upon the orderly development of their colonies during the year. The improvement in appearance and the general condition of the colonies attached to all the Industrial Settlements showed that the people are beginning to look upon these places as their permanent home and to feel pride in them. Many persons in the Free Colonies who were freed from the operations of the Criminal Tribes Act continue, however, to live in the Free Colonies of their own choice, and to receive the advantages of education for their children and the general amenities of the Free Colonies, as well as assistance in finding employment in times of need. It is intended ultimately as the settlers reform and the Settlements are closed down, that the Free Colonies will be absorbed into the Municipal or other local areas, the persons living in them being treated as ordinary members of the public.

Special Establishments. - The number of residents in the Women's Home at Hubli as it stood on 31-3-1933 was 14 as against 12 on 31-3-1932. Twelve women were newly admitted into the Home during the year and ten were discharged. The children's Homes and Hostels established in Baramati, Sholapur and Hubli closed the year with 88 inmates, 32 having been discharged from the Homes during the year and 40 newly admitted. Progress has been satisfactory. Only children of specially bad parents, or who are uncontrollable by their parents, or who are themselves of criminal tendencies are placed in these Homes.

(The Working of the Criminal Tribes Act in the Bombay Presidency during 1931-32 is reviewed at pages 56-58 of the July 1932 report of this Office).

Opium Sale Statistics-1931-32; Produce Control Scheme.

The report on the operations of the Opium Department of the Government of India for the year ended 30-9-1932 shows that the net profits of the Department suffered a drop of Rs. 5.8 millions, the profit for the year amounting to Rs. 60,58,174 as against Rs. 11,441,693 in 1931. The drop was mainly due to the sales of provision opium decreasing by 1,977 chests in keeping with the policy of the Government of India for the cessation of this trade at the end of 1935.



The area sanctioned for cultivation was 60,000 bighas (A standard bigha is 5/8th of an acre), the area of produce was 59,219 bighas and that of failures 885 bighas. The gross produce amounted to 10,483 maunds (a maund = 80 lbs.), 1,478 maunds more than the anticipated outturn. The average price paid by the Department for the opium delivered was Rs.69-13-8 per bigha, and each cultivator received Rs.34-13-5, as compared with Rs.52-6-0 and Rs. 24-13-0, respectively in the previous year. The expenditure for the year increased from Rs. 4107,219 to Rs. 5,000,118; the net increase of Rs. 892,899<sup>was</sup> due chiefly to the very heavy outturn.

A produce control scheme was in contemplation for some time and the scheme was tried in a few districts in 1931-32 and it has been extended to all districts with latitude to officers, by way of experiment, to apply their individual views to the details of its working. The data so obtained may make it possible to devise a definite scheme for general use.

#### Indore Bill to Restrict Expenditure on Marriage Feasts. ✓

In discussing the question of indebtedness of workers, the Whitley Commission observe in their report: "Our information goes to show that the most important single cause of borrowing is the expenditure on festivals, and particularly marriages. Births, deaths and other events of life may lead to the necessity for taking small loans, while periods of unemployment due to sickness, dismissal or trade stoppages have an appreciable effect. In Bombay, in particular, the strikes of 1928 and 1929 appear to

have enhanced substantially the extent of indebtedness. But the single large loan, which plays an important part in binding permanent fetters on the worker is usually required in connection with a marriage. It is not uncommon for a worker to spend on a marriage the equivalent of a year's wages and to borrow the whole of that sum at a high rate of interest." Prudence cannot save the worker from such extravagant expenditure as he is too often coerced by social pressure into what may cause his own enslavement for years.

The Indore State has been taking a lead in minimising the evil effects of such social customs. In 1931 the State passed an Act called "The Indore Nuktā (Funeral Feasts) Act, 1931, which aims at **checking extravagant expenditure on funeral feasts** (vide pages 57-58 of our June 1931 report). Recently a Bill has been introduced in the State Legislature with a view to reduce the marriage expenses of middle and lower classes families. According to the Bill bridal parties shall consist of not more than 50 persons, while at marriage dinners not more than 200 persons shall be invited. Failure to comply with these conditions would render the person concerned liable to a fine of Rs. 1,000, or one week's simple imprisonment, or both.

Another piece of legislation to ameliorate social evils has been recently initiated in the Baroda State. The Baroda Government has recently introduced in the State Legislative Council a bill called the "Caste Tyranny Relief Bill -1933" which aims at removing restrictions on inter-social relationships in regard to marriages, caste dinners etc. The measures of social legislation initiated by Indore and Baroda are significant in that they indicate a tendency for state action in a sphere regarded hitherto as more or less taboo *for the State*

Co-operation.Progress of Co-operation in the Punjab, 1931-32\* ✓

The following details regarding the progress of co-operation in the Punjab are taken from the Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies in the Punjab for the year ending 31st July 1932, submitted to the Government of the Punjab by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Punjab.

According to the report, the co-operative movement in the Punjab continued to stand staunchly against the strain of agricultural and industrial depression, and though the year under report has necessarily been a difficult one, the report of the Registrar clearly demonstrates the sound basis on which the fabric of co-operation in the province was founded. The rapid expansion which characterized the movement in the last 15 years has necessarily received a check. Whereas 871 new societies were registered in 1929-30 and 720 in 1930-31, only 483 new societies were registered during the year under report. In respect of agricultural credit societies, the total number has actually declined for the first time, in spite of the fact that in view of the existing depression liquidations were avoided wherever possible.

The following statement records the statistical progress of the year:-

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\* Report on the working of Co-operative Societies in the Punjab for the year ending 31st July 1932. Lahore: Printed by the Supdt., Government Printing, Punjab. 1933. - Price Rs.2-8-0 or 3s.9d. pp. 65+xvi.

Class.	Societies.		Members.		Working Capital.	
	1931	1932	1931	1932	1931	1932.
					<u>Millions.</u>	
Provincial Bank.	1	1	13,090	12,970	Rs. 10.8	Rs. 15.6
Central Credit.	119	119	22,770	22,905	" 70.9	" 70.9
Central Non-Credit.	44	46	5,561	6,969	" 0.6	" 0.7
Agricultural	17,541	17,590	569,296	570,332	" 84.9	" 83.9
Non-agricultural.	3,037	3,120	110,320	110,154	" 13.9	" 13.9
Total.	20,742	20,876	721,037	723,330	181.1	185.0

Workers' Societies. - The report states that the number of societies under the head of Production and Labour has increased from 1 in the previous year to 3 in the year under report, 2 English Press societies and one Urdu Press, all in Lahore. According to the report, the progress of these societies are not quite satisfactory. The Lahore Model Town Society is reported to have built 172 houses during the year as against 151 in the previous year. During the year under review the number of industrial societies and their membership decreased from 314 in 1931 to 308 and from 5,721 in 1931 to 5,648 respectively. The average membership per society remained at 18 as in the previous year. Of the 314 industrial societies, 187 were of weavers and 60 of shoe makers. The remainder included those of <sup>dyers</sup> dyers, smiths and furniture makers among others. There was also a decrease in the working capital of these societies which came down to Rs. 621,000 from Rs. 672,000 in 1931. The value of raw materials advanced to members amounted to Rs.76,000 as against Rs.110,000 in

the previous year and the value of members' goods sold was Rs. 81,000 as against Rs. 111,000 in the year 1931.

(The progress of Co-operation in the Punjab during 1930-31 is reviewed at pages 58-59 of the report of this Office for February 1932.)

Progress of Co-operation in C. P. and Berar, 1931-32\*

The following information regarding the progress of Co-operation in the Central Provinces and Berar is taken from the Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 30-6-1932, submitted by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, C.P.

Societies and Membership. - According to the report, the partial failure of the cotton crop and the unsatisfactory yield of the spring crops combined with the continuance of low commodity prices resulted in a further deterioration of the co-operative movement in the Central Provinces and Berar during the year under report. Only 57 new societies were registered as against 175 in the previous year. The report points out that the number of new societies registered was the lowest since 1924-25. 239 societies were wound up during the year as against 204 in the previous year. The number of co-operative societies of all types thus declined from 4,108 to 3,926 of which 3,738 were primary agricultural credit societies. The total membership, however, showed a slight increase of 323, having risen from 125,614 to 125,937.

Recoveries. - The report states that the cash recoveries of the year were the lowest since 1922-23. The total, of both principal and interest, recoveries of the loans advanced by Central Banks to the societies was Rs. 1,192,621 and Rs. 473,779, respectively, in the Central Provinces and Berar as against Rs. 1,251,233 and Rs. 857,373, respectively, in 1930-31. There was a fall of 5 per cent

\* Report on the working of the Co-operative Societies in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 30-6-1932. - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1933 - pp.30-xix - Price Re. 1-8-0.

on an average in the Central Provinces and 45 per cent in Berar. The total demand which the central banks had to recover during the year was Rs. 12,958,938 and the actual recoveries amounted to Rs. 1,666,400, that is to say, 12.9 per cent of the demand as against 16.9 per cent in the last year. In addition 7,662 acres of land were acquired by the Berar banks for lack of bidders at auctions held in the course of coercive recoveries.

Cash Advances. - The report points out that there was a decrease in cash advances to societies by central banks. They fell to Rs. 705,675 and Rs. 235,810 in the Central Provinces and Berar, respectively, from Rs. 1,064,439 and Rs. 794,247, respectively, in 1930-31.

Outstanding Loans. - The total loans outstanding against members of societies practically remained the same in the Central Provinces, increasing by a nominal sum of Rs. 22,145 from Rs. 7,001,815 to Rs. 7,023,960. In Berar they increased from Rs. 10,511,287 to Rs. 10,926,897. The percentage of overdues to the total dues increased from 62 to 70 in the Central Provinces and from 70.3 to 80 in Berar. Excluding the sum due from societies under award and liquidation, the overdues amounted to 51.6 per cent in the Central Provinces and 54.1 per cent in Berar as against 43.2 and 47.4 per cent, respectively, in the preceding year.

Agricultural Credit Societies with Unlimited Liability. - The total number of rural credit societies with unlimited liability, it is reported, decreased from 3,915 to 3,738. 41 societies were registered during the year under report as against 161 in the previous year, and 218 societies were cancelled against 196 in the previous year. The working capital of societies, excluding those under liquidation, decreased from Rs. 16,755,200 to Rs. 16,111,338 and the loans due by members from Rs. 13,963,521 to Rs. 13,379,728. The total cash recoveries of central bank loans due from societies fell from Rs. 945,184 to Rs. 854,453 in the Central Provinces and from Rs. 459,321 to Rs. 162,225 in Berar. Similarly cash recoveries of loans of societies from members also declined from Rs. 1,239,259 to Rs. 1,225,819 and from Rs. 755,908, to Rs. 386,325 in the Central Provinces and Berar, respectively. The membership of societies other than those under liquidation fell from 58,016 to 55,121. The average number of members per society, however, remained the same as last year, viz., 15.

Central Banks. - The number of Central Banks remained the same as in the previous year, while the total working capital slightly increased from Rs. 24,563,481 to Rs. 24,604,946 and the share capital declined from Rs. 1,913,859 to Rs. 1,816,643. It fell from Rs. 1,178,960 to Rs. 1,139,023 in the Central Provinces and from Rs. 734,899 to Rs. 677,620 in Berar; reserve and other funds increased from Rs. 3,140,998 to Rs. 3,428,323. Of these, Rs. 1,916,766 represent provision for bad and doubtful debts. Bad debts amounted to Rs. 714,650 and Rs. 950,085 in the Central Provinces and Berar and doubtful debts, to Rs. 372,277 and Rs. 482,860, respectively. Bad and doubtful debts have increased in the Central Provinces by Rs. 127,557 and Rs. 9,493 respectively

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while in Berar bad debts have decreased by Rs. 9,454 and doubtful debts increased by Rs. 67,804. Deposits from individuals fell from Rs. 14,131,258 to Rs. 13,158,626 for the whole province and from Rs. 4,782,097 and Rs. 9,349,161 in the Central Provinces and Berar to Rs. 4,652,578 and Rs. 8,506,048 respectively.

Reserve funds of Societies. - The reserve funds of central banks and societies increased from Rs. 4,799,875 to Rs. 5,089,360. Of the total amount, the Provincial Bank owned Rs. 210,000, the central banks, Rs. 1,118,766, the primary agricultural societies Rs. 3,596,386 and other kinds of societies, Rs. 164,208. The figures include the reserve funds of societies under liquidation which stand at Rs. 463,034. Reserve funds constitute 4.5 per cent of the working capital of central banks and 19.1 per cent of that of primary societies.

(The progress of the Co-operative movement in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1930-31 is reviewed at pages 62-65 of the July 1932 report of this Office).

#### Poona Co-operators' Conference: Summary of Decisions.

Reference was made at pages 57-58 of our June 1933 report to the informal conference to discuss outstanding questions connected with the co-operative movement held at Poona on 2 and 3-6-1933 under the auspices of the Government of Bombay. A brief summary of the decisions of the Conference gathered from the information then available was given in the June report (see page 59). The following is a fuller summary of the more important of the decisions reached by the Poona Conference:-

Recovery of Arrears through Land Revenue Authorities.- As regards the proposal of the Thomas Reorganization Committee to withdraw the privilege of recovery of all future loans of co-operative societies as arrears of land revenue, the opinion of the majority was that as the special recovery staff appointed for recovery of dues of co-operative societies is at present working satisfactorily under the controller of the Collector, there is no need to transfer control to the Registrar, especially as such a course involves certain legal difficulties. Two members agreed with the Thomas Committee's proposal on the ground that recovery through the revenue agency was a negation of the co-operative principle.

Loans on Land Security.- As regards the proposal to give societies the privilege of setting off their claims against the purchase price of the land sold in satisfaction of those claims, the conference considered that such a step is necessary to remove the difficulty which societies find in obtaining cash to pay the deposit and the balance when the auction is confirmed. To reduce the temptation to lend money too readily against the security of land ~~and~~ and the possibility of societies becoming large landholders, the Registrar should permit societies to acquire land only on the specific condition that they would reconvey the land to the original occupants within a fixed period of time on payment of societies' dues.

Registration of New Societies.- The conference was of opinion that there should be no embargo either on the propaganda work to be done by the Department or on the registration of new societies. The Conference considered that the policy now being followed by the Department of liquidating such societies as cannot be revived in spite of all the attempts to do so should be continued, and the Registrar's discretion should not be fettered. Some speakers suggested that before liquidation, the ~~Instit~~ Institute and the financing bank should be consulted, but undue haste in cancellation should be avoided.

Land Mortgage Banks.- The Conference was of opinion that land mortgage banks are necessary if the burden of agricultural indebtedness is to be lightened. The present time is opportune for an attempt to reduce indebtedness since moneylenders are likely to be willing to accept very considerable reductions in claims in return for cash. The Conference proposed that a small committee should be appointed to investigate this question in detail as was done in 1916. The Conference considered that Government should assist the land mortgage banks by guaranteeing the rate of interest on debentures issued by them, ~~and~~ and, if possible, by ~~subscribing~~ ~~ing~~ a portion of the capital raised. It was further suggested that in selected areas a scheme of voluntary debt redemption should be carried out on a restricted scale through the agency of these banks.

Honorary Organisers.- The majority of speakers were of opinion that the existence of honorary organisers was a valuable asset to the movement and that the recommendation of the Reorganization Committee to withdraw the travelling allowances of these organisers should not be accepted. Several speakers were, however, of opinion that in order to secure co-ordination of non-official effort for the improvement of societies, the honorary organizers should be more closely associated with the Co-operative Institute.



Education.

Educational Assistance Rules for Education of Railway  
Employees' Children; Special Officer's Report to Railway Board. ✓

It will be remembered that the Railway Board issued a set of Rules in September 1930 for the grant of assistance towards the education of the children of State-Railway subordinate employees who receive salaries within certain limits, other than persons in inferior service, ~~and~~ so as to eliminate all racial discrimination in the case of future employees (vide pages 16-17 of our April 1932 report and page 25 of our February 1933 report). Towards the end of 1930 a senior officer of the Education Department, Mr. W. Erlam Smith, was placed on special duty to make a detailed estimate of the expenditure entailed by the introduction of the rules, and further to report on the administration of the schools maintained by the State-managed Railways. A series of recommendations have recently been made by the Special Officer to the Railway Board. The more important of the recommendations are:

1. That beneficiaries are slow to grasp the salient points and to take advantage of facilities which involve perhaps some slight change of family habits. There is a wide field of endeavour open to Employees' Unions to undertake propaganda to bring the facilities offered by the New Educational Assistance Rules, to the notice of the staff;
2. That the New Educational Rules be made applicable to those who hold substantively permanent posts;
3. ~~That~~ <sup>The question</sup> whether, like inferior service staff, labourers should be deprived of the benefit of the New Educational Rules, calls for decision;
4. That an employee may claim, with reference to any school distant more than five miles by rail or more than three miles by road from his station, that his child cannot obtain education of the requisite standard at the station;
5. For purposes of Rule 3, the term 'child' includes not only legitimate children but also children adopted by regular legal process and wholly dependent on him;

6. That assistance will not be given in respect of a child enrolled at a school not recognised by the Educational Authority;

7. ~~That~~ <sup>The question whether</sup> educational assistance should be extended up to and including the High School or Senior Cambridge classes, is a matter requiring consideration; and there is a general agreement among parents that school education which ends at the middle stage, leads nowhere;

8. That assistance in respect of a child shall cease when he attains his seventeenth birth-day;

9. That the Agents of Assam Bengal Railway, Bengal Nagpur Railway, Eastern Bengal Railway and G.I.P. Railway have expressed ~~views~~ in favour of extension of benefits to men drawing upto Rs. 500/- per month;

10. The application of the present New Rules will cost very much less than had been estimated by Railway Administrations;

11. No assistance should be admissible for any month in which a child has put in fewer than half the number of possible attendances at school;

12. That the higher over-riding maximum of Rs.20/- per child if granted would benefit Anglo-Indian and Domiciled Communities most, and Indian Christians and others on the Eastern Bengal Railway would derive no extra benefit;

13. An Indian school shall be held to be a school not of the requisite standard for European and Anglo-Indian children and vice-versa;

14. An employee who has been compelled to send a child away from his station to a Boarding School at which instruction is given in the employee's home language on the ground that at his station there is no school giving instruction in the employee's home language, shall be entitled to assistance as if there were no school of the requisite standard at his station. Similarly, if a child of a railway employee is refused admission to a school of the requisite standard at the station at which its parent is posted, because of there being no vacancy or for any other reason and the child is therefore compelled to attend a Boarding School away from its parents' headquarters, the parent shall be entitled to assistance.

#### Educational Survey in Cochin. ✓

Some time back the Government of Cochin State directed their Director of Public Instruction to conduct an educational survey of the State with a view to reorganise the educational system.

The State Government has recently appointed a Committee to consider the various recommendations contained in the survey report of the Director of Public Instruction. The terms of reference to the Committee include an enquiry into the existing organisation of education, buildings and equipment, curricula of studies, the new policy suggested for primary education, and the constitution of school boards.

From the educational point of view, the Cochin State takes a leading place among the Indian provinces and States and, naturally, the incidence of unemployment among the educated classes is very high in the State. It has long been felt that a basic cause of such unemployment is the defective nature of the existing educational system which unduly emphasises academic courses at the expense of technical instruction. As a result of the educational survey, it is expected a technical and vocational bias will be given to education in the State.

Progress of Technical Education in the Punjab - 1927-1932. ✓

The following facts regarding progress made in respect of industrial education in the Punjab during the quinquennium ended 1931-32 is taken from a special report on the subject issued by the Punjab Government:-

At the beginning of the quinquennium, there were 22 industrial schools in the province, 16 of which were conducted by Government and 6 were aided. The number of pupils on the rolls then was 2,524 and the total expenditure incurred by Government Rs. 188,422. At the end of the quinquennium the number of schools rose to 30, and of pupils to 4,429, while the expenditure increased to about Rs. 400,000. The innovations during the period included the creation of the post of a whole time Inspector of Industrial Schools and the opening of three special institutions for wood-working at Jullundur and for metal working at Ambala and Sialkot. At the beginning of the <sup>quin</sup>quennium under review there were only two industrial schools for girls with a roll of 114 and 179 respectively. In 1927 an industrial Instructress was appointed to organise industrial education for women, and technical schools were started by the Red Cross Society in 1928. In the following year, four new schools for girls were opened. The total number of girls receiving training ~~in 1923~~ in 1932 was 739.

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AGRICULTURE.

Subsidiary Occupations for Agriculturists;

Punjab Indebtedness Committee's Findings. . ✓

The chronic indebtedness of the Indian agricultural classes has been attracting considerable ~~in~~ attention in recent years and it is being increasingly felt that one of the most efficacious <sup>remedies</sup> ~~is~~ <sup>for it is to devise means</sup> means for supplementing the income of the ~~and~~ farmers and thus help to reduce the incidence of agricultural indebtedness. In 1932 the Punjab Government had appointed a Committee on Indebtedness to investigate the question and to suggest remedies. The Committee's report, which has recently been submitted, lays stress on the conclusion that the one remedy for the indebtedness of the agriculturist is "to find remunerative occupation for him either as an alternative or in conjunction with agriculture". The following is a summary of the report:

Subsidiary Occupations. - The report states at the outset that it is concerned only with occupations "in conjunction with agriculture", that is, with those that are secondary or subsidiary to agriculture, the object of which should be to supplement and not supplant the main occupation of the small holder. Discussing the nature of suitable secondary occupations, the report states that it will be difficult to suggest a single occupation which will serve this purpose at all places. Local needs and individual circumstances must be taken into account in determining what occupations would be suitable. A secondary occupation should be simple, practicable, useful and above all, subsidiary to agriculture. Among the secondary occupations suggested are: dairying, poultry keeping, keeping of sheep and goats, growing of fruits and vegetables, bee-keeping, ginning, carding, and spinning of cotton and wool, silk-worm rearing, bone crushing, & oil-pressing, sugar making, tanning, rope, mat or basket making, lac culture, carting for hire, etc.

Need for Organisation. - The occupations, and industries suggested above, says the report, appear to be simple, but organization is required before these can be taken up as secondary occupations by the agriculturists. Considerable propaganda work should be done to overcome prejudice against occupations regarded as being beneath dignity or as the customary duties of certain

hereditary castes, and against the employment of women and children among certain classes of agriculturists. A system should be devised for spreading information, obtaining tools and raw materials for the workers and for supplying the necessary funds.

Marketing of Products. - Arrangements should be made for the disposal of such products as are not required for local consumption. This requires the services of men with intimate understanding of and real sympathy with rural needs. Educated young men with agricultural training may be employed by a Government department or the district boards or encouraged to start on their own with State aid and patronage. Special grants of land may be made to approved persons on condition that they organize village industries and similar conditions may be attached to grants which are now being made to selected educated young men. University graduates in agriculture, who have received special training in co-operative methods and have equipped themselves with information, both technical and commercial, relating to small industries, would serve the purpose admirably.

Migration.

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Finding Employment for Repatriates from  
South Africa: Special Officer's Report. ✓

Reference was made at page 79 of our June 1932 report to the appointment of a Special Officer for the Madras Presidency to assist in securing suitable employment for emigrants from South Africa. The appointment was made in pursuance of an undertaking by the Madras Government to see that, on arrival in India, such emigrants are helped as far as possible to settle in occupations to which they are best suited by their aptitude and resources. According to the report of the Special Officer for the year 1932, there was, contrary to expectations, a large increase in the number of emigrants who availed themselves of the scheme of repatriation from South Africa during the last year. In 1932 repatriates numbered 2,478 as compared with 1,435 in 1929, 690 in 1930, and 1,410 in 1931. The Special Officer attributes this to unemployment caused by the general economic depression and the steady displacement of the Indian labour by local Dutch labour. The following is a summary of the steps taken by the Special Officer to settle returned emigrants and to secure employment for them.

Efforts to Settle Emigrants. - The Special Officer was on tour for 112 days in the year and visited 422 families in or near the villages. Almost all the family groups were advised to settle in villages and they did so. The emigrants were, as a rule, discouraged from settling in towns, as the prospect of getting employment was very remote while the cost of living was higher. Purchase of land or loan on mortgage of land with possession was advised and money was disbursed to the repatriates only after some form of investment was decided on. In many cases, the Special Officer had to satisfy himself of the genuineness and the benefit of the transactions by local enquiry and sometimes with local inspection. The Special Officer's aim was always to tie down the money at credit of the emigrants in some form of investment so that ready cash in their hands may not be inducement for wasteful expenditure. This saved many a family from destitution. In many cases where immediate investment in lands was not possible, the

money was deposited in the prudential deposit account, with the Madras Provincial Co-operative Bank.

Employment for Emigrants. - The emigrants were uniformly made to settle in the villages. ~~The nature of the employment in the Colony was also in that direction.~~ About 25 per cent, were agricultural labourers and only a few of the younger generation had experience as cooks, waiters, railwaymen, miners, etc. There was no great difficulty with regard to this class as they managed to find work for themselves with the recommendation of the Special Officer regarding their antecedents. He was not quite successful with regard to unskilled labourers who applied to him for assistance to secure jobs. Owing to the trade depression and all round retrenchment in all offices, he succeeded only in rare instances. 61 emigrants applied to him for odd jobs on monthly wages. All of them were suitably recommended. There were 17 applicants for assignment of land for cultivation. They were duly recommended to local officers, but unfortunately it was found that in most of the cases the land applied for was communal poromboke and the application had to be rejected. In a few cases, the emigrants had to reject the offers of the Revenue Officers owing to unsuitability of the land for cultivation.

Indians in Natal, 1932:

Report of Protector of Indian Immigrants. ✓

According to the report of the Protector of Indian Immigrants in Natal, East Africa, for the year ended 31-12-1932, there were no arrivals during the year, emigration to Natal having been stopped by the Indian Act of 1911. The number of births registered during the year was:- Males 3,260 and females 3,058, being in all 1,253 less than the figures for last year and giving a birth-rate of 42.82 per thousand. This is the lowest birth-rate since 1918. The number of deaths reported for the year is, men 921, women 924 and children 1,172 as against 696, 650 and 835 respectively during the previous year, showing an increase of 836 and giving a death-rate of 20.45 per thousand, the highest since 1911. The high death-rate is account-  
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for by the malaria epidemic.

The approximate number of Indians in the colony on 31-12-1932 was 147,516. There were only 21 Indians (males) under reindenture on 31-12-1932. There are approximately 17,000 Indians (men) employed in the province, out of a population of 35,818 (men). The average rate of wages for Indians who reindentured is 42/6d. per month. The number of coal mines employing Indians is 15. The amount deposited by the Indians with the Mines Stores, Ltd. (Natal) on 31-12-1932 was £ 544-9-0 by 37 depositors.

Rise in Rubber Prices; Repercussions on Indian Labour in F.M.S.

Recently the prices of rubber in the Federated Malay States has taken a decided turn for the better after a spell of depression for more than three years, the present ruling price being 10 to 11 cents a pound. During this period, there had been an enormous drop in the Indian labour population from roughly 330,000 in January, 1930, to 177,000 in January, 1933. If rubber remains at 11 cents, a serious shortage of labour in the very near future appears to be inevitable, for there is only just enough labour in the country to meet the requirements of estates working under the worst slump conditions. With the recent rise in prices, estates are again able to make a modest profit, and a number of managers who <sup>were keeping their estates</sup> ~~have been~~ on a care-and-maintenance basis have received orders to re-open. There are 300,000 acres of estate rubber out of tapping in Malaya at the present moment, and if a large part of this

temporarily abandoned acreage is suddenly brought back into production, the consequent rush for labour is sure to be great.

The effects of the rise in rubber prices and the inadequacy of labour supply has resulted in labour "crimping" from estates which had kept their labour forces together during the slump period. The principal menace, however, comes not from estates which are going back into tapping, but from small holders who possess more trees than they can tap themselves and find it remunerative to hire tappers at present prices. This sudden demand for labour has inevitably brought about also a rise in the wage rates from the present subsistence wages of 30 cents a day for a male labourer and 25 cents for a female labourers.

In order to devise means for the supply of labour to cope with the rising demand, a meeting of the Council of the Planters' Association of Malaya was held during the third week of June 1933. The Controller of Labour, Malaya, addressed the meeting and made a strong plea for raising the wages of labourers in order to attract labour from outside.

He proposed non-recruited immigration since Kangani recruitment will not be allowed until normal conditions are assured. Negotiations on this matter are now being conducted with the Government of India. He stated that this form of immigration will not supply large numbers unless conditions improve and become really attractive. The wage conditions up to recently in certain limited areas and on a certain small number of estates outside those areas have been the wages imposed by the period April to July, 1932, when rubber was under 2d. a lb. and such wages did not comply with the Indian Immigration Committee standard. The last few weeks have reduced the extent of those areas and the number of the estates concerned; but he insisted those cases of under-payment must disappear entirely and quickly. Outlining his policy, the Controller of Labour said that he would encourage healthy estates which are re-opening, by supplying labour at the expense of unhealthy ones and has warned the latter that legal proceedings will be taken in cases where estates have taken undue advantage of the labourers. He declared that he would press for closer approximation of actual working conditions to legal standards as prices improve until, when normal times come, the old working system is re-established.

Workmen's Compensation Act in Malaya:

To Come into force on 1-10-1933.

At the last meeting of the Federal Council of the Federated Malaya States held at ~~Kuala Lumpur~~ <sup>Kuala Lumpur</sup>, in reply to an interpellation regarding the date on which the F.M.S. Workmen's Compensation Enactment, (Enactment No. 1 of 1929) would come into force, the Government stated that it was proposed to bring the Workmen's Compensation Enactment, 1929, into force on October 1, 1933. It is understood that the Governments of Johore and Kedah (unfederated) are considering the introduction of similar legislation.

Indian Money Lenders in French Indo-China:

Expulsion Order Rescinded.

Reference was made at pages 62-63 of our March 1933 report to the expulsion of four Indian bankers, belonging to the Nattu-Kottai Chetty community, Madras, from French Indo-China by the French authorities for their refusal to write off nearly eighty per cent of the outstanding debts due to them. Subsequently two more Indian bankers were served with expulsion orders. This action of the Government of Indo-China caused great alarm and indignation among Indians in this country and in Indo-China. As a result of representations made by the British Ambassador at Paris, the Governor-General of Indo-China rescinded the expulsion order early this month against the second batch of two Indians who had not left the country. According to a Reuter's message, Mr. Eden, Under-Secretary,

Foreign Affairs, with the British Government stated in the House of Commons that negotiations are continuing between the Government of Indo-China and the first batch of four Indians who were expelled and an amicable settlement is expected soon.

Indian Labour in Siam; Allegations of Ill-treatment,

Dr. Lanka Sundaram, M.A., Ph.D., who has been touring Malaya, Siam and Indo-China, recently issued a statement on the conditions of Indians in Siam, in the course of which it is stated that a considerable number of Tamil (Madrassi) labourers are being sweated by Chinese employers in Singora, situated in the South West portion of Siam, and that no check is exercised over this state of affairs either by the Siamese Government or by the Government of India. It has been estimated by Dr. Sundaram that there are 50,000 Indians in Siam. Dr. Sundaram's allegations have caused considerable indignation in this country. According to the Kuala Lumpur correspondent of the Hindu, Madras, the British Vice-Consul at Singora has submitted a memorandum to the Government of India bearing out Dr. Lanka Sundaram's statement concerning the ill-treatment of Indian labourers there. Notice has been given by Mr. Gaya Prasad Singh, M.L.A., of a number of questions regarding Indians in Siam, based on Dr. Lanka Sundaram's statement, to be put in the forthcoming session of the Legislative Assembly. A suggestion has been made that the Agent of the Government of India in Malaya should be asked to visit Singora and report on the conditions of Indians there. It is understood that the Government of India are considering the desirability of such a move. *See step.*

Indian Labourers in Malaya: Wages & Cost of Living.

The following statistics about Indians in Malaya are taken from the Annual Report on the social and economic progress of the people of the Federated Malay States for 1932 issued by Mr. M.B. Shelly, M.C.S., Acting Chief Secretary to Government, Federated Malay States.

General Conditions. - According to the report, the prevalence of what amounted to almost stagnant conditions in commerce and industry led to a reduction in the general wages rate during the year under review. Wholesale commodity prices declined by 18 per cent, retail food prices by about 11 per cent and the general cost of living by 13 per cent for Asiatics, 11 per cent for Eurasians and 8 per cent for Europeans based on prices in Singapore. House rents, as indicated by municipal assessments, declined by 20 per cent in Kuala Lumpur as compared with 1931.

Wages of Indian Labourers. - The bulk of the labour in the Federated Malay States is employed on rubber estates and tin mines. The labour on the former is recruited mainly from Southern India, while that on the latter is mainly Chinese. There was a marked tendency during the year to reduce the gross earnings of South Indian labourers. This was effected in non-key areas (i.e. areas in which standard rates had not been prescribed) by reducing wage rates and in key areas by demanding a full nine hour-day for a full standard day's wage or alternatively, acceptance of payment in proportion to the number of hours worked. To meet the new situation, to ensure frugal comfort to all labourers and to keep conditions level in both key and non-key areas, a scheme was evolved with the unanimous approval of the Planters' Association of Malaya, whereby a monthly sum representing a decent subsistence wage for the worker was fixed by the Indian Immigration Committee and all labourers on properties where this wage was found not to be earned, were mustered and informed that if they desired to return to India they would be repatriated. On the whole, the scheme is considered to have achieved the purpose for which it was intended.