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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for December 1934.

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References to the I.L.O.

The Hindu of 6-12-1934 publishes a communique issued by this Office on 30-11-1934 summarising the address delivered by Mr. H.B. Butler at the 54th annual session of the American Federation of Labour.

\* \* \*

The Servant of India, Poona, dated 29-11-34 publishes an article by Mr. N.M.Joshi on the position accorded to labour in the Indian legislatures by the Report of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. The ~~statement~~<sup>which</sup> concludes with a paragraph on International Agreements in which the situation with regard to ratification of International Labour Conventions under the contemplated Federal Government is discussed.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 2-12-1934 publishes the same article by Mr. N.M.Joshi, in the course of which reference is made to the position with regard to ratification of International Labour Conventions.

\* \* \*

Mr. Joshi's article is reproduced in the December 1934 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, and in the issue dated 3-12-34 of Labour Times, Madras.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 18-12-1934 publishes an article from a special correspondent on the position of labour under the contemplated Federal Constitution and the situation with regard to ratification of International Labour Conventions.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 14-12-34, the Times of India of 15-12-34, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 16-12-34, the Statesman and National Call of 17-12-34, and the Leader of 23-12-34 publish the report of a lecture on the International Labour Organisation and India's international labour relationships delivered by Mr. N.M. Joshi \* under the auspices of the League of Nations Indian Bureau at Bombay on 13-12-34.

\* \* \*

The National Call and the Hindustan Times of 11-12-34, <sup>and</sup> the Hindu, ~~and~~ the Times of India and the Statesman of 12-22-34 publish ~~the~~ <sup>a</sup> ~~communiqué~~ <sup>communiqué</sup> issued by the Government of India on 10-12-34 regarding the subjects on the agenda and the date of opening of the 19th ~~session~~ <sup>session</sup> of the International Labour Conference to be held in 1935.

\* \* \*

The National Call of 18-12-1934, the Hindustan Times and the Statesman of 19-12-34, the Times of India of 22-12-34 and Commerce and Industry of 25-12-34 publish a communiqué sent out by this Office through the Associated Press regarding the return to Geneva of the Director of the I.L.O. from his official mission to the United States and Mexico. The communiqué is based on a communiqué issued by the Geneva Office.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times, <sup>and</sup> the National Call of 10-12-34 publish a summarised report of a representation made by the United Provinces Chamber of Commerce to the Government of India (Department of Industries and Labour) regarding the desirability of ensuring that the Indian delegations to the International Labour Conference are assisted by a full complement of advisers.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 12-12-34 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 13-12-34 publish an Associated Press message to the effect that the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> meet at Nagpur on 22-12-34 and that one of the items on the agenda ~~would~~<sup>will</sup> be recommendation of the personnel of the Indian labour delegation to the 19th session of the I.L.Conference. (The venue of the meeting was subsequently changed to Bombay).

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal of 6-1-35 publishes a lengthy report of the proceedings of the meeting of the General Council of National Trades Union Federation which met at Bombay on 24-12-34. In the course of the report several references are made to the I.L.O: (1) The General Council recorded the report submitted by Mr. Jammadas Mehta of the work done by him as workers' delegate to the 18th session of the I.L.Conference. (2) The General Council recorded its approval of Mr. N.M.Joshi's action in suggesting to the International Federation of Trade Unions that Mr. Jammadas Mehta should take his place on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at its January (1935) meeting so as to enable Mr. Mehta to proceed with the complaint he made against the Government of India with regard to the application of the Geneva Convention on Hours of Work to railwaymen. The Council appreciated the action of the I.F.T.U. in acceding to Mr. Joshi's request. (3) The General Council recommended the following persons to compose the Indian labour delegation to the 19th session (1935) of the I.L.Conference.

Delegate:- 1. Mr. V.M.Ramaswamy Mudaliar, Madras, Member of the General Council and Working Committee of the National Trades

Union Federation.

Advisers:- (1) Mr. V.P.Kolte, Nagpur, Hon.Secretary C.P. and Berar Municipal Employees' Association, Nagpur, and member of the General Council and the Working Committee of the National Trades Union Federation. (2) Mr. S. Guruswamy, Madras, Assistant General Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation.

\* \* \*

The Hindu of 25-12-34, the Times of India and the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 27-12-34, <sup>and</sup> the Statesman and the Leader of 28-12-34 publish reports of the meeting of the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation held at Bombay on 24-12-34 at which the General Council made its recommendations on the subject of the personnel of the Indian labour delegation to the 19th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Hindustan Times of 29-12-34 publishes a United press message from Bombay to the effect that the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation has recommended Mr. V.M.Ramaswamy Mudaliar, M.L.C. to be the workers' delegate to the 19th I.L. Conference and Messrs. Kolte and S.Guruswamy to be advisers.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, of 16-12-34, publishes an editorial article under the caption "Bridge the Gulf" in the course of which an earnest appeal is made for effecting unity in Indian trade union ranks. The article also makes the following remarks on the composition of the Indian labour delegation to sessions of the I.L.Conference and the need for nominating a bona fide workers as the workers' delegate:-

"One of the chief items on the agenda of this meeting is, we are told, the recommendation of a representative of Indian labour to the next International Labour Conference at Geneva. In this connection we wish to draw the attention of the Federation once again to the necessity of recommending a worker for this role. Till now the practice has been to send distinguished friends of labour as labour delegates to Geneva. This was not the ideal thing to do but till now it was said that there was practically no alternative on account of the paucity of labourers with adequate intellectual and educational qualifications who could fill this role with any degree of success. But this is no longer the case. Today there are any number of educated workers among all sections of labour who can be depended upon to present the case of Indian labour and to watch its interests, particularly at Geneva. In addition, they possess the advantage of being actual workers themselves who know all \* about labour at first hand and may be trusted to speak on labour questions with that intimate knowledge and intensity of feeling which only actual workers can be expected to have in the fullest degree. Even if they are academically inferior to outsiders, they are vastly superior to them in this respect and this consideration alone entitled them to be elected as the spokesman of labour.

"While we are on this subject, we would urge on the Federation to agitate for the inclusion of an Adviser in the labour delegation to Geneva which practice has been discontinued by the Government for some years now on the score of financial stringency. (Financial stringency always falls heavily on matters affecting the poor labourers only). It is not humanly possible for one individual to attend to all the work at Geneva unless he has the strength and energy of a demon. When advisers are sent by other countries and when they are included in the Indian delegation to the League of Nations Assembly - a much less practical body indeed, there ~~are~~ those who say that it is not a practical body at all, - we do not see any rhyme or reason in burdening one individual with the whole task of representing and attending to the interests of Indian labour at Geneva. We, therefore, hope that the Federation will pass a resolution demanding the restoration of the old practice in this respect!"

\* \* \*

The printed report of the proceedings of a meeting of the Committee of the Indian Mining Association, Calcutta, held on 21-11-34, publishes an item regarding the recommendation made by the Association to the effect that Mr. Amritlal Ojha should be nominated the Indian employers' delegate to the 19th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Times of India of 21-12-34 publishes a news item from its Calcutta correspondent to the effect that several Indian Chambers of Commerce and employers' associations have recommended Mr. H. Laljee of Bombay as the employers' delegate to the 19th I.L. Conference and Messrs. K.Dutt, I.D.Varashine, P.S.Sodhbans as advisers to the employers' delegate.

\* \* \*

The Leader of 28-12-34 publishes a photograph of Mr. Husseinbhoj A. Laljee of Bombay who has been recommended by several employers' associations for nomination as employers' delegate to the 19th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The November 1934 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes at pages 195-196 a report of the 68th session of the Governing Body held 26-28 September 1934. The report is taken from the October 1934 issue of "The Ministry of Labour Gazette", London.

\* \* \*

The same issue of the Labour Gazette reproduces the item on the new members of the I.L.Organisation published in Industrial and Labour Information dated 8-10-1934.

\* \* \*

The November 1934 issue of the Indian Post, Delhi, publishes the communique issued on 6-10-1934 by this Office on the proceedings of the 68th session of the Governing Body.

\* \* \*

The same issue of the Indian Post contains the account of an interview given to the Associated Press by Mr. N.M.Joshi on his return to India from attending the 68th session of the Governing



Body. In the interview Mr. Joshi gives a brief account of the proceedings of the 68th session and directs special attention to the complaint lodged by Mr. Jammadas Mehta regarding the failure of the Government of India to give full effect to the hours of work Convention as applied to railwaymen in India.

\* \* \*

The October and November 1934 combined issue of H.E.H. the N.S. Railway Employees' Bulletin, Hyderabad, publishes the communique issued by this Office on 6-10-1934 summarising the proceedings of 68th session of the Governing Body.

\* \* \*

The same issue of the Bulletin publishes a short note under the caption "India and the Washington Hours Convention."

\* \* \*

The Planters' Chronicle of 15-12-34 reproduces the following items from the October 1934 issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin: The 68th session of the Governing Body. (2) The I.L. Conference of 1935, and (3) Unemployment of Young Persons.

\* \* \*

Federated India, Madras, of 26-12-34, publishes the following items from the October 1934 issue of the I.L.O. News Bulletin: (1) New Members of the I.L. Organisation. (2) The Next Session of the I.L. Conference. (3) The Extension of International Protection to all Workers.

\* \* \*

Federated India of 12-12-34 publishes an appreciative notice of the recent I.L.O. publication: "Social Aspects of Industrial Development in Japan."

\* \* \*

The Statesman of 28-12-1934 publishes the summary of a letter addressed to the Government of India (Department of Industries and Labour) by Mr. H.P.Mody, President, Employers' Federation of India, regarding unfair industrial competition from Indian States, and urging the need for ensuring uniform labour legislation for both British India and Indian States. In the course of the letter it is pointed out that British India is at a disadvantage, as compared with Indian States, owing to the advanced labour standards which it maintains (in many cases owing to ratification of International Labour Conventions), and therefore, it should be made obligatory for the States to bring up their labour legislation to the level of the labour legislation of British India.

\* \* \*

Labour Times, Madras, dated 10-12-34 publishes the communique entitled "The I.L.O. and America" issued by this Office on 30-11-34.

\* \* \*

The same communique is published in Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 4-12-1934.

\* \* \*

The Printed Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during October 1934 publishes at page 10 the communique issued on 3-10-34 by the Government of India on the items on the agenda of the forthcoming 19th session of the I.L.Conference.

\* \* \*

The Indian Labour Journal of 6-1-35 publishes the report of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the All India Trade Union Congress held at Nagpur, on 2-1-1935 under the chairmanship of

of Mr. H.N. Shastri. The Executive Committee appointed a sub-Committee to negotiate with the different Trade Union groups in the country and report before the next meeting of the Executive Committee to be held at the time of the Annual session of the Trade Union Congress on the following basis: (1) The unequivocal acceptance of the principle of class struggle; (2) No affiliation to any foreign organisation. (3) The question of representation to Geneva to be decided annually and shall be binding on the Unions. (4) Acceptance of the principle of one Union in each industry. (5) Acceptance of the All India Trade Union Congress as the Central Organisation of the Indian working class. The members of the sub-committee are:- Messrs. Hariharnath Shastri, Shibnath Banerji, Khedgiker, Ruikar and Dr. Chitnis, with Mr. Ruikar as the convener.

\* \* \*

During December no messages having reference to the I.L.O. from Reuter or other European news agencies were published in the papers received in this Office.

\*\*\*\*\*

National Labour Legislation.

The Bengal Workmen's Protection Bill, 1934:

Select Committee Report Presented. +

Reference was made at pages 18-20 of the report of this Office for August 1934 to the decision of the Government of Bengal to introduce in the local Legislative Council, the Bengal Workmen's Protection Bill, 1934. The Bill is a short one of ~~five~~ clauses and provides that, whoever loiter~~s~~ at or near any mine, dock, wharf or jetty, railway station or yard or premises whereon any manufacturing process is carried on in such manner or in such circumstances as to afford just grounds for suspicion that he is so loitering with a view to recover any debt from any workmen employed in such mine, wharf, jetty, railway station or yard or premises, shall be punished with imprisonment, which may extend to six months or with fine or with both. The offence is made cognisable and non-bailable. No Magistrate, other than a Presidency Magistrate or Magistrate of First Class, is allowed to try cases under this Act.

The Select Committee report on the Bill was duly presented on 13-12-1934, <sup>the</sup> only change made by the Committee being that offence under it be bailable instead of non-bailable as in the original Bill.

(The Hindustan Times, 14-12-1934)+

The Calcutta Gazette, 20.12.1934,  
Part-IV pp 189-192.

Unfair Industrial Competition by Indian

States: Plea for Uniform Labour Legislation by Employers.

†

In reply to a communication dated 21-4-1934 from the Government of India (Department of Industries and Labour) asking the Employers' Federation of India to supply them the data of industries in Indian States in which industrial development will be feared to result in a serious set-back to the industries in British India, Mr. H.P.Mody, the President of the Federation, has recently addressed a letter to Government drawing attention to conditions in the textile, sugar, coal-mining and sericulture industries and requesting the Government to take action to ensure that labour legislation and conditions of its administration are identical with those in British India and that the introduction of the 54-hour week should be effected as early as possible in the States. The following are the main points raised in the letter:

Urgent Need for Uniform Legislation.- Mr. Mody points out that he had addressed the Government on 27-3-1934 regarding the necessity of taking early action to see that the States and British India are placed on an identical footing with regard to labour legislation, and had referred in that letter to the observations made in the Report of the Whitley Commission and to the position taken up by the late Lord Birkenhead in a communication addressed to the League of Nations on the 28th September 1927. Again in his speech at the annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India on April 7, 1934, at New Delhi he drew pointed attention to the anomaly of the position with regard to the Indian States, where conditions of labour are inferior to those prevailing in British India, and where, with the passing of the Factories Bill and other legislation, the disparity would become even more pronounced. The tendency was already observable of industries seeking a habitat in the territories of the Indian Princes.

Proof of Unfair Competition by States.- Replying to the Government of India's demand to be supplied with particulars

of industries and States in which developments might be feared which might result in a serious set-back to industry in British India, Mr. Mody says:

"It has taken my Federation some time to collect the necessary data with regard to conditions in the Indian States, but I am now in a position to establish that certain industries in British India are likely to suffer from competition from industries in the States, both on account of their less advanced labour legislation and the existence of other conditions."

Textile Industry.- The textile industry in British India, which is the one most seriously affected by the introduction of the 54-hour week, stands to suffer the most, because of its rapid rise in the Indian States, where the hours of work are longer. In the year 1919-20, there were in the Indian States only 405,000 spindles and 8,000 looms as against 6,300,000 spindles and 109,000 looms in British India. In 1932-33, however, the Indian States had 1,100,000 spindles and 21,000 looms as against 8,500,000 spindles and 168,000 looms in British India. It will be seen that the rate of expansion in British India has not been anything like so rapid as in the Indian States. This has been mainly due to the prevalence in the States of a lower scale of wages and taxation and inferior labour conditions generally.

54-Hour Week.- From the information available to my Federation, as yet no State has definitely undertaken to introduce the 54-hour week. Among the major States in only one State is the matter under consideration; in some it has not yet been considered; and, in others, it is stated that the change is not likely to be inaugurated at present because of the existing trade depression.

Sugar Industry.- Another industry which is likely to be affected is the sugar industry, although so long as the local Governments do not classify sugar factories as perennial factories, the question of the working hours will not affect the situation. But the fact that the States of Mysore, Travancore, Hyderabad and Rampur are interested in the development of the sugar industry, and finance factories for that purpose or are large share-holders in sugar companies in their areas, makes it more than probable that they would not be willing to introduce, or enforce with the same strictness as obtains in British India, measures of labour legislation such as the Factories and the Workmen's Compensation Acts.

Coal Industry.- Regarding the coal industry, the letter draws attention to the remarks made by the Hon'ble Member for Industries and Labour in the course of a debate in the Legislative Assembly on the 9th August last, in which he stated that the question of any regulation of coal output in British India would be seriously affected by the fact that a certain Indian State was capable of considerably production and states that it would follow, therefore,

differential legislation in the Indian States and British India would seriously prejudice the coal mining industry as well, particularly in view of the forthcoming Mines Bill. ~~Regarding the coal industry, the latter draws~~

Sericulture Industry.- Regarding conditions in this industry, Mr. Mody says: "Government are no doubt, aware that the sericultural industry of Kashmir, where it is a State monopoly, has obvious advantages in labour costs over the industry in British India. Now that there is a protected market for silk in British India, the advantages enjoyed by Kashmir should be considered to be appreciable, particularly when that State possesses the right to impose tariff duties against British Indian manufactures. I may also mention that the Mysore State has considerable pecuniary interests in its silk industry."

Low Standards of Labour Legislation in States.- The letter next deals with the question of the non-progressive and backward <sup>state</sup> of labour legislation in Indian States and says:

"While some of the States adopt the legislation introduced in British India, considerable delay takes place before the conditions are equalised. As regards the various Factories Acts and their amendments, it is well known how the States have lagged behind British India. The Workmen's Compensation legislation of some of these States is still behind that in British India, and it is understood that the amendments already introduced in British India are being only now considered by them. Moreover, some States have only recently introduced such legislation, and others do not even contemplate doing so."

Bounty-Fed State Industries.- Referring to this aspect of unfair competition from Indian States, the letter states:

"The policies now being pursued by some of the States, while perfectly legitimate, are calculated to give their industries a further advantage. I have already mentioned the encouragement of the sericulture industry in Kashmir and Mysore, and of the sugar industry in Mysore, Rampur, Travancore, and Hyderabad, and I have now to refer to the industrial policy of the Hyderabad State. This State has sought to protect its industries by a duty of 5 per cent against all imports of manufactures from British India, and at the same time has been fostering the development of large scale industries by financial assistance from the State Exchequer."

Industrial Policy of Hyderabad. -The letter refers in particular to the drive towards industrialisation recently initiated by Hyderabad State and states:

"In the Report of the Hyderabad State Department of Industries and Commerce for the Fasli Year 1338, it is mentioned that there is an Industrial Trust Fund of Rupees 10 millions to give state-aid to industries,. In the Report for the year Fasli 1340, it is stated as follows:-

"Hyderabad now presents unrivalled opportunities for manufacturers. No income-tax is levied in the State and there is an ad valorem duty of 5 per cent on all imports of manufactured articles - (this being the maximum rate allowed by treaty provisions). .... Government trust that as the present worldwide depression passes away, the opportunities for establishing factories in the State will attract increasing attention....."

" In consonance with this policy, the Hyderabad Government has advanced large sums of money to the coal, cement, textile, glass, tobacco, and marble quarrying industries, and it has recently been reported that the Industrial Trust Fund will take up a substantial portion of the share capital of a sugar factory to be promoted in the State."

Plea for Uniform Labour Legislation.- Mr. Mody's letter concludes thus:

"My Federation realise the constitutional difficulties in the way of the Government of India, but unless labour legislation is made uniform throughout the country, it will not be possible for British India to keep up the pace which has been set during the last few years."

(The Times of India, 28-12-34).\*

( The full text of this letter is in Delhi Office File 76 B1935.)



Conditions of Labour.

Labour Conditions in Indian Mines - 1933.\*

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

Number of Persons Employed.- During the year 1933 the daily average number of persons working in an ~~mine~~ and about the mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act was 206,507, as compared with 204,658, in the previous year. The increase was 1,849 persons, or 0.90 per cent. Of these persons, 112,355 worked underground, 41,587 in open workings and 52,565 on the surface. The numbers of men and women, respectively, who worked underground, in open workings and on the surface were as followed:-

	Men		Women.	
	1933	1932.	1933.	1932.
Underground.....	99,556	96,196	12,799	14,711
In open workings.	30,866	30,256	10,721	10761
Surface.	40,616	39,899	11,949	12,835
Total.	<u>171,038</u>	<u>166,351</u>	<u>35,469</u>	<u>38,307</u>

Number of Women Workers.- The number of women employed underground was 12,799, or 11.39 per cent of the total number of men and women employed underground. The percentage of women employed

\* Indian Mines Act, 1923, - Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year ending 31st December 1933. - Delhi. Manager of Publications, 1934 - Price Rs.2 or 3s.6d. - pp.172

employed underground in coal mines was 13.14, as compared with 14.84 per cent in 1932, 16.81 per cent in 1931, 18.39 per cent in 1930 and 23 per cent in 1929. The statistics furnished in the report show that the number of women employed underground is well below the permissible percentage on 1st July 1933. In many coal mines very few women are now employed. The provincial distribution of the women who worked underground was as follows:-

<u>Province</u>	Number of women employed underground		
	In coal mines.	In salt mines.	Total.
Bengal. ...	4,551	...	4,551
Bihar and Orissa.	7,292	...	7,292
Central Provinces...	846	...	846
Punjab. ...	...	110	110
Total	12,689	110	12,799 in 1933 as compared with 14,711 in 1932.

Distribution of Workers.- Coal Mines.- The number of persons employed in coal mines was 144,707, which is 3,782 less than the number employed in 1932. Of these persons, 45,509 were males employed in cutting coal, 17,845 were males employed as loaders of coal and 23,835 were women. Under Notification No.M.1265, dated the 25th April 1933, issued by the Government of India, in the Department of Industries and Labour, returns are now required of the number of persons actually at work, and also of persons who should ordinarily have been at work but were absent, on a selected day in February of each year. The returns relate only to coal mines. According to the returns for 1934, <sup>on</sup> the selected day in February 1934, 195,760 persons were either at work or were prevented from attending work. This figure is 41,053 more than the average number of persons employed in coal mines during 1933. Some of the more important district

comparisons are as follows:-

	Average daily attendance.	Attendance on selected day (absentees included)	Excess over average daily attendance.	Percentage excess.
a Coalfield. ..	60,181	75,982	15,801	26.3
Punjab Coalfield. ..	48,897	65,750	16,853	34.5
Central Provinces Coalfield.	11,161	14,240	3,079	27.6
Range Coalfield (Punjab).	1,516	2,227	711	46.9

In Other Mines.- The number of persons employed in metalliferous (including mica, stone, clay and salt) mines was 61,800, which is 5,631 more than the number employed in 1932. 50,166 were men and 11,634 were women. Of the women 110 worked underground in salt mines.

Average Output of Coal per Person. -Figures showing the average output of coal per person employed are given below:

	<u>Tons of coal per person employed.</u>			
	Underground and in open workings.		Above and below ground.	
	1933	1931-32	1933.	1931-32
British India. ..	174	180	125	128
Bengal and Bihar ..	178	183	128	130
Assam. ..	143	117	97	85
Baluchistan ..	50	79	48	70
Central Provinces. .	153	160	111	115
Punjab. ..	100	89	62	56

There was a further fall in the average output of coal per person employed. The average is the lowest since 1926. The decline may be ascribed mainly to the lessened proportion of coal mined by coal cutting machines. In comparing the figures with similar figures in other countries it should be remembered that both men and women are employed in Indian coal mines. In 1932 the output of coal per

person employed above and below ground in the United Kingdom was 255 tons. In the same year, i.e. 1932, comparative figures in certain other countries were Japan 288 tons; France 175 tons; Germany 314 tons; and the United States of America 669 tons.

Wage Position; Decline Registered.- There has been a further general reduction in wages. The wages of coal miners in Jharia and Raniganj coalfields decreased by over 10 per cent. The earnings of coal miners in the Giridih, Assam, Punjab and PENCH Valley coalfields fell slightly, while there was a slight increase in the wages of coal miners in Baluchistan. The earnings of mica miners were over 17 per cent. lower, while there were slight increases in Burma tin and Punjab salt mines. The average daily earnings of coal miners in the Jharia Coalfield in 1933 were about 60 per cent of what they were in 1930.

Conditions of Work. (a) Bengal and Bihar & Orissa.- In Bengal and Bihar and Orissa there was an ample supply of mining labour. There was a further reduction in the rates paid to workmen. The weekly earnings of many miners was also adversely affected by the fact that many collieries only worked three and four days per week during a considerable part of the year. A number of collieries had again to close down owing to the lack of demand for the coal produced by them. The low price of foodstuffs to a considerable extent alleviated the condition of the work -people. In spite of the depressed condition of trade the relations between employers of labour and workmen were amicable. At one colliery in the Raniganj coalfield there was a brief strike of two days duration due to a cut of one anna per loaded tub of coal paid to miners. The general health of persons living within the Raniganj and Jharia Mining Settlements was on the whole satisfactory.

In the area administered by the Asansol Mines Board of Health concentrated efforts at vaccination and re-vaccination, prompt isolation and segregation helped greatly to check the spread of the disease.

The iron ore mines in the Singhbhum district were again greatly affected by the depressed state of the market for pig iron with the result that the number of workmen employed was a very small percentage of the normal. At the copper mines in the Singhbhum district the supply of labour was again in excess of the demand. There were

no strikes. There was no outbreak of epidemic disease.

At the mica mines in Chota Nagpur the supply of labour was plentiful. There were no strikes during the year. Cholera and small-pox were prevalent to some extent about the middle of the year. Wages were lower than in 1932.

At the slate mines in the Monghyr district there was a strike early in the year of nearly two months' duration. The strike was due to a dispute as to rates of payment.

(b) Assam. - In Assam there was a plentiful supply of labour and wages were fairly steady. There were no strikes or epidemics.

(c) Central Provinces. - In the Pench Valley Coalfield there was some shortage of labour in the last quarter of the year. This was partially met by recruitment from outside districts. There was little alteration in the rate of wages. There was no strike; the relations between labourers and employers were good. Health conditions during the year showed some improvement over 1932. There were distinctly fewer cases of malaria than in the previous year. Small-pox was also less common.

(d) The Punjab. - There was no change in the labour conditions in the Punjab. The hereditary mining labour at Khewra was in excess of that actually required. The system of employing men for a limited period of each month and thus spreading employment reasonably equally throughout the community was continued at Khewra.

(e) Madras. - At the mica mines in the Nellore district labour was plentiful and there were no strikes or epidemics. There was no improvement in the mica industry and many mines had to be closed.

(f) Burma. - At the mines in the Northern Shan States worked by the Burma Corporation, Limited, there was at no period of the year any shortage of labour. The average daily number of employees in all departments of the Company's activities was 10,036. There were no strikes. The supply of labour in the Ravoy and Mergui districts was ample. Health conditions were generally good and the relations between workmen and employers were amicable.

Action on Recommendations of the Whitley Commission. - As recommended in the Whitley Report, provincial and district public health officers have been appointed as Inspectors of mines in matters relating to health and sanitation. The report states that much good is likely to accrue from these appointments. A yearly return of the total number of persons actually employed in coal mines is now required by regulation 3(4) of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations, 1926. The figures of the first return are given in the report.

There is a growing tendency to standardise the size of tubs at many of the more important coal mines as conditions permit. Underground latrines have been provided at Khewra salt mines. Inspectors of Mines are giving increasing attention to the conditions in coal mines in respect of cleanliness and sanitation. Towards the end of the year, the Governments of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa issued a printed pamphlet summarising the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour regarding the action to be taken by employing interests. The object of the pamphlet is to help to keep the recommendations of the Royal Commission before employers so that such recommendations may be taken up when opportunity occurs.

Output of Minerals: Coal.— The total output in 1933 was 18,160,681 tons of a declared value of Rs.55,204,208. The decrease in the output was 558,906 tons, i.e., 3.08 per cent and the decrease in value Rs. 7,037,567, i.e., over 11 per cent. The opening stocks in 1933 were 1,646,248 tons and the closing stocks 1,143,891 ~~tons~~.

Coal Trade Conditions.— The prices of practically all grades of coal continued to fall during the year, the sole exception being the coal of the Central Provinces. The average price of coal was lowest in the Jharia Coalfield. In consequence the wages paid to labour were extremely low and there was very little expenditure on development and maintenance at the mines. There was a decrease of over 300,000 tons of coal exported due in part, to the fact that less coal was taken by sea by railways in Southern India and Burma. Conditions as a whole so far as the rates for the various grades of coal are concerned were even worse than in 1932. During the year proposals were made for a restriction of output so as to stimulate prices. It remains to be seen whether the scheme will mature.

Coal Grading Board and Soft Coke Cess Committee.— The work of the Indian Coal Grading Board was continued during the year and maintained the same high standard. The quality of coal exported was generally excellent. During the year 18,96,155 tons of coal ~~were~~ exported under the supervision of the Board. The Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee continued to carry on extensive house to house

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propaganda in Northern and Western India. In order to investigate the possibility of improving the method of manufacture of soft coke the Committee decided to carry out research work and the investigation was entrusted to the Principal, Indian School of Mines. During the year 823,073 tons of soft coke were despatched from the coalfields as compared with 756,036 tons during 1932. Out of the output for 1933, 783,284 tons were despatched from the Jharia coalfield, a greater quantity than the whole of the output for 1932. The seams in Jharia Coalfield provide the chief source of this important domestic fuel.

Use of Electricity at Coal and Other Mines.- The number of coal mines using electrical energy was 120, as compared with 124 in the previous year, and the aggregate horse power employed at coal mines decreased from 80,721 to 74,430. During the year electrical plant was installed and brought into operation in four additional coal mines; electrical plant was reintroduced at one mine but was withdrawn from another mine and two mines using electricity were amalgamated and seven mines using electricity were closed. Electricity was used at 18 metalliferous mines, as against 15 mines in 1932, and 18 in 1931, and the aggregate horse power employed was 9,169 showing an increase from last year of 9.5 per cent.

Coal Cutting Machines.- The number of coal cutting machines in use decreased from 157 to 105 i.e., a decrease of 52 machines. All the machines in use were worked by electricity. 32 machines were at work in the Jharia Coalfield, 70 in the Raniganj Coalfield and 3 in the Central Provinces. The decrease in the number of machines in use is accounted for mainly by the large number of machines withdrawn in the Jharia and Raniganj coalfields. The chief reason for the withdrawal of the machines is the low price of coal and the consequent reduction of output. A contributory cause is a decrease in the amount of development of work being done. Coal cutting machines were in use in 39 mines, as against 52 mines in 1932 and the total area undercut was 6,980,646 square feet, as compared with 10,017,873 square feet undercut in the previous year.

Mechanical Ventilators and Safety Lamps.- In 1933, 88 mechanical ventilators were in use, the number being 90 in the previous year. 21,094 safety lamps were in use in 1933 as compared with 23,593 in 1932.

Iron Ore.- The production of iron ore was 653,239 tons, valued at Rs. 1,478,202, as compared with 673,434 tons, valued at Rs. 1,564,504 in 1932.

Manganese Ore.- There was a decrease of more than 39.58 per cent. in the output of manganese ore, the figures of production being 53,240, valued at Rs. 231,432, as compared with 88,119 tons,

valued at Rs. ~~555,347~~ 535,347 in 1932. The average reported value per ton of manganese ore produced fell from Rs. 6.07 in 1932 to Rs. 4.35 in 1933. The corresponding value in 1931 was Rs. 7.36. The position of the manganese industry showed little improvement during the year.

Rock Salt. - The production of rock-salt was 145,838 tons, as compared with 150,286 tons in the previous year. The scheme for placing crushed rock-salt from the Khewra mine in the Punjab on the Bengal market was delayed owing to the unsuitability of the machinery but it is hoped soon to be able to improve the plant.

Accidents.- During the year 1933 at mines regulated by the Indian Mines Act, 1923, there were 142 accidents which is 21 less than in 1932 and 58 less than the average number in the preceding five years. In addition to the fatal accidents there were 655 serious accidents involving injuries to 670 persons, as compared with 600 serious accidents involving injuries to 613 persons in the previous year. No record is maintained of minor accidents. The so-called "serious" accidents reported are those in which an injury has been sustained which involves, or in all probability will involve, the permanent loss of or injury to the sight or hearing or the fracture of any limb or the enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period exceeding twenty days. 153 persons were killed and 702 persons were seriously injured. The latter figure includes 32 persons injured in fatal accidents. The number of persons killed was 47 less than in 1932. 130 persons killed were men and 23 were women. In four cases three lives, and in three cases two lives were lost.



Causes of Accidents. - There was a reduction in the death rate of men employed underground, while the death rate for women employed underground was slightly higher than last year. The death rates for persons employed on the surface and in open workings showed very little change. The causes of the fatal accidents have been classified as follows:-

	No. of fatal accidents.	Percentage of total number of fatal accidents.
Misadventure. ...	100	70.42
Fault of deceased...	12	8.45
Fault of fellow workmen.	6	4.23
Fault of subordinate officials.	13	9.15
Fault of management. ...	7	4.93
Faulty material. ...	4	2.82
	142	100.00

Relative Importance of Causes of Accidents.- The death rate per million tons raised at coal mines was 6.83, while that of the preceding five years was 9.04. The death rate on the basis of output was the lowest since 1905. Deaths occurring in each class of mines were as follows: 124 in coal mines; 3 in mica mines, 4 in silver-lead mines, 10 in tin and worfram mines, 6 in limestone mines, 4 in stone mines, 2 in a copper mine. Six persons lost their lives by explosions or ignitions of firedamp; 40 by falls of roof; 44 by falls of side; 3 in shafts; 10 by explosives; 25 by haulage; 10 by other accidents underground and 15 on the surface. It will be noted that falls of roof and sides were responsible for more than half of the persons killed and that haulage was the next most important cause.

Health and Sanitation.- (a) Asansol.- The Asansol Mines Board of Health held five special and ten ordinary meetings during the year. The general health of the Mining Settlement was satisfactory, the death rate being 18.2 per thousand as compared with 18.31

in 1932. There was a decline in the infant mortality rate from 143.21 per thousand births in 1932 to 136.6 during the year. There was no epidemic of cholera during the year, this being the second year in succession showing absence of any epidemic outbreak. There were, however, 89 isolated cases with 29 deaths as against 184 cases and 65 deaths in the previous year. The number of anti-cholera inoculations performed was 22,493 against 48,862 in 1932. There were 247 attacks of small-pox with 33 deaths, against 254 attacks with 36 deaths in 1932. Isolation and segregation and also quarantine were enforced under the Small-pox Regulations. The Board's staff was supported by the colliery doctors who undertook re-vaccinations among miners and by temporary vaccinators engaged for the purpose. Altogether 132,558 vaccinations were performed during the year as compared with 77,181 during the previous year. About one-third of the total population of the Mining Settlement was protected by this measure.

The maternity and infant welfare scheme was in charge of a Lady Superintendent. There are three welfare centres each in charge of a trained health visitor and three midwives for free maternity service in the coalfield. Health and Baby welfare celebrations were organised in seven different areas by the Asansol Health and Baby Welfare Society in collaboration with the Mines Board of Health. The leprosy department was reorganised with two leprosy officers each in charge of two clinics. Two more clinics were managed by a group of colliery doctors and subsidised by the Board. The anti-leprosy campaign received a stimulus by the constitution of a Leprosy Relief Association consisting of 12 divisional organisations with a central Leprosy Board representing various interests in the coalfield. Health propaganda was in charge of an officer who toured the Mining Settlement throughout the year and delivered lantern lectures in the collieries and villages. The malaria department was reconstituted with one whole time malaria officer. The health of school children was supervised by a school medical officer while the sanitary staff delivered a course of lectures on health subjects in the primary schools.

(b) Jharia.- During the year the Jharia Mines Board of Health held thirteen ordinary, six special meetings and seven joint meetings with the Jharia Water Board. The estimated population of the Settlement was 533,504 persons. The death rate was 13.34 per 1,000 as compared with 15.68 in the previous year. There were 119 cases of suspected cholera and 29 deaths as compared with 130 cases and 33 deaths in the previous year. On the collieries the number of deaths from cholera was 7 as compared with 11 in the previous year. There were 960 cases of suspected small-pox with 79 deaths as compared with 772 cases with 20 deaths in the previous year. Many samples of food were analysed in the Board's laboratory and prosecutions were ordered in all cases of adulteration. There was no improvement in respect of housing during the year; owing to the depressed state of the coal trade very little new construction work was entered upon but the condition of the existing accommodation was maintained. The Board's maternity and child welfare scheme was also maintained up to the usual standard. There was considerable activity in anti-leprosy work throughout the Jharia coalfield.

During the year provincial and district medical officers of health throughout British India were appointed as Inspectors of Mines. These appointments will undoubtedly prove of great assistance to this department in the work of raising the standard of health and sanitation in the various mining districts.

(The Report on the Working of the Indian Mines Act for the year 1934 is reviewed at pages 20-26 of October 1932 Report and for the year 1932 at pages 33-40 of November 1933 Report of this Office).

### Factory Administration in India, 1933\*

Changes in Law.- The Indian Factories Act remained unchanged during the year. The Factories Bill mentioned in the Note for 1932, has since been passed by the Indian ~~Legislature~~ Legislature, as the Factories Act, 1934, and will come into force on the 1st January 1935.

Number of Factories.- The total number of registered factories increased from 9,431 to 9,558. The number actually working including 201 notified under section 2(3)(b) of the Act, was 8,452 of which 3,933 were perennial and 4,519 seasonal. The percentage of the registered factories working during the year was thus 88.4 as against 87.4 per cent in the preceding year. The number of new factories registered was 456 and the number struck off the registers 329, giving a net increase of 127 as compared with 198 in 1932. The increase in the number of factories actually working was 211 and this was distributed over all the major provinces except the Central Provinces and Burma where there were decreases of 8 and 6, respectively. There was a net decrease of 63 in the number of factories on the register in Burma; this was due to a careful scrutiny of the registers, and the deletion of the entries relating to factories which were closed and seemed unlikely to reopen. A notable feature of the year was the decline of Bombay City as the chief centre of the textile industry and the expansion of that industry in Ahmedabad where several new mills were opened. 30 new sugar factories were registered in the United Provinces and 10 in Bihar and Orissa. The total number of sugar factories in all provinces has increased from 166 to 213. In the Punjab 63 new factories were registered including 13 cotton ginning factories, 5 sugar mills, 8 hosiery factories, and 9 foundries established mainly for the manufacture of sugar-cane

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\* Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year ending December 31st, 1933 together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year - Published by order of the Government of India. - ~~Published~~ by the Manager of Publications, Delhi.-1934-Price Re.1-12-0 or 3s. -pp. 34

crushers. Several new rice mills were registered in the Central Provinces and Burma and the printing and book-binding industry showed noticeable progress in Madras and Bombay. On the other hand a number of rice mills and oil mills in Bengal, indigo factories in Bihar and Orissa and saw mills in Burma remained closed during the year.

Classification of Factories.- Out of the 8,452 factories actually working during the year, 343 were owned by Government or Local Funds, 513 were textile factories, 631 engineering concerns, 139 minerals and metal works, 3,322 food, drink and tobacco factories of which, 1,552 were rice mills and 980 tea factories, 438 concerns dealing with chemicals, dyes etc., of which 237 were oil-mills, 385 paper and printing factories, 368 wood, stone and glass factories of which 152<sup>were</sup> saw mills, and 2,172 gins and presses. As in previous years, Bombay Presidency had the largest number of factories - 1,610, followed by Bengal with 1,528, Madras 1,503, Burma with 942, the Central Provinces and Berar with 735, Assam with 649, the Punjab with 576, the United Provinces with 476 and Bihar and Orissa with 289. Industrial activity in other provinces was, as usual, very slow.

Number of Operatives.- There was a further decline of 16,499 in the average daily number of operatives employed during the year, the figures being 1,403,212 for 1933 and 1,419,711 for 1932; but if the 10,767 workers employed in five mills in Bombay which closed down towards the end of the year and failed to submit returns are taken into account, the decrease becomes almost negligible. The most marked decreases were in Bombay (35,010, or 24,243 if the 10,767 workers referred to above are included) and Burma (4,145). Noticeable increases occurred in Madras (4,815), the United Provinces (9,219) and Bihar and Orissa (6,739) due partly to slightly improved trade conditions and partly to the establishment of new factories, principally sugar factories, which gave employment to over 15,000 additional workers. The jute mills in Bengal showed a further drop of 7,597 in the number of persons employed, but this was more than counterbalanced by the increase in the number of operatives in other industries. The number of operatives employed in the cotton textile industry fell from 397,358 to 362,027, the principal decline being in Bombay and the Central Provinces.

Distribution by Provinces. - The distribution of factory workers by provinces was as follows: - Madras - 137,775; Bombay - 354,637 (excluding the approximate number of 10,767 persons employed in 5 mills from which annual returns could not be obtained); Bengal - 455,018; the United Provinces - 112,693; the Punjab - 47,972; Burma - ~~86~~ 86,433; Bihar and Orissa - 72,254; the Central Provinces and Berar - 61,781; Assam - 44,309; North-West Frontier Province - 1,312; Baluchistan - 2,318; Ajmer-Merwara - 13,259; Delhi - 11,726; and Bangalore and Coorg - 1,725.

Distribution of Labour by Industries.- (1) Government and Local Fund Factories - 115,682 (railway workshops, 57,070; Ordnance Factories - 15,886; printing presses - 12,592; engineering (general) 6,974); (2) Textile Factories - 627,761 (cotton spinning, weaving and other cotton factories, 360,424; jute mills, 257,175); (3) Engineering Factories - 115,133 (Railway workshops, 48,782; general engineering, 28,690; ship-building and engineering, 11,768); (4) Minerals and Metals - 44,671 (Iron and steelsmelting and steel rolling mills, 23,726; petroleum refineries, 10,791); (5) Food, Drink and Tobacco - 211,515 (rice mills, 72,953; tea 57,053; sugar, 49,545); (6) Chemicals, Dyes etc. - 45,219, (matches, 13,637; oil-mills 11,824); (7) Paper and Printing -30,962 (printing, book-binding etc, ~~251~~ 23,785; paper mills, 5,944); (8) wood, stone and glass - 35,238 (saw mills, 12,662; bricks and tiles, 8,539; cement, lime and potteries, 5,280; glass, 5,005); (9) Gins and Presses - 160,795 (cotton ginning and baling, 129,233; jute presses, 31,455); (10) Skins and Hydes. - 5,975; (11) Miscellaneous - 10,161 (rope and rope works, 3,752).

(The above figures indicate the distribution of factory population by industries. The figures within brackets indicate the number of workers in some of the important industries under each general heading).

Women and Children in Factories. - There was a further fall in the number of women and children employed. During the year under review, the number of women and children employed were 216,837 and 19,091 respectively as against 225,632 and 21,783 respectively in 1932, there by representing a fall of ~~11~~ 3.9 per cent in the case of women and 12.3 per cent in the case of children.

The percentage of women and children to the total factory population, excluding the operatives in certain mills in Bombay for which figures are not available, was 15.4 and 1.4 respectively as against 15.9 and 1.5 in 1932. In 1929 the number of women employed in factories in Bengal was 77,966, 54,670 being employed in jute mills alone. In 1933, the total figure was 56,935, and the figure for jute mills 37,337. There was a marked decrease in the number of women employed in factories in Bombay. Small increases occurred in Madras (977) and the Punjab (690). No noteworthy variations occurred elsewhere. The number of children employed decreased in all provinces. The gradual disappearance of children from the jute mills in Bengal continues; the number employed in 1933 was only 1,134 against 1,515 in 1932 and 26,474 in 1925.

Hours of Work.- ~~The provincial statistics in respect of hours of work in the various States are not available in detail.~~ The normal weekly hours were generally unchanged. The position is summarised in the table below:- ~~Percentage of factories in which normal weekly hours are:-~~ *Percentage of factories in which normal weekly hours are:-*

			Not above 48.	Between 48 & 54.	Between 54 & 60.
<u>Perennial.</u>					
For men	..	..	35	17	48
For women	..	..	37	18	45
<u>Seasonal.</u>					
For men	..	..	24	8	68
For women	..	..	31	7	62

The percentage of factories which fixed their maximum hours for children at not more than 30 per week were 35 (perennial) and 46 (seasonal); the corresponding figures for the preceding year being 30 and 49 respectively.

Enforcement of Employment Provisions. - The Bengal report observes that both employers and employed have little compunction in disregarding the labour provisions of the Act if it suits their purpose to do so. In the Punjab, bogus registers have been used as a means of evasion, and it is believed that operatives in seasonal factories are consistently overworked. In the Central Provinces also abuses in seasonal factories were revealed by surprise inspection but perennial factories with few exceptions continued to be punctilious in observing the rules regarding hours of employment and holidays.

Wages. - In most provinces the wages of both skilled and unskilled labour are reported to have fallen. In Bombay several strikes in individual mills occurred owing to cuts in wages or rates, and in some cases cuts were effected without giving rise to strikes. The low rates of pay in seasonal industries have been maintained in most areas in the Bombay Presidency although in Sind, where the supply of labour in some centres is stated to be less than the demand, there has been a slight increase, partly owing to the extension of cotton growing areas and partly through the prevalence of malaria. In Bengal a special investigation was made into the rates of wages paid to industrial workers and other workers in the province on the lines of a previous inquiry made in 1927. The resultant statistics have been published in the provincial report on the administration of the Indian Factories Act for 1933. The investigation covered 27 of the principal industries. The Punjab report mentions the growth of the system of employing workers through labour contractors which involves the payment of a certain proportion of the wages earned by the workers, amounting in some instances to as much as 25 per cent, as commission to the contractors. The Local Government have directed the Inspector of Factories to report any extension of this most undesirable system.

Accident Statistics.- The recorded accidents show an increase under all heads, the total being 18,709 as compared to 18,127 in 1932. Fatal accidents increased from 162 to 194, serious accidents from 3,513 to 3,776 and minor accidents from 14,452 to 14,739. The incidence of all accidents per 100,000 operatives has increased from 1,277 in 1932 to 1,333 in the year under report. The Railway workshops have continued to be responsible for a large percentage of the accidents, but this is mainly due to a more organised system of reporting and to the liberal leave terms granted to injured workmen. The development of new industries in Bombay and the sudden expansion in the United Provinces and Bihar and Orissa of sugar factories using heavy machinery and employing untrained labour have added to the number of accidents. The steel industry in Bihar and Orissa maintained the progressive improvement shown each year since 1929, the incidence of accidents being 6.54 per 100 employees as against 6.72 in 1932 and 7.56 in 1931.

Safety work.- Satisfactory progress in safety measures is reported. Several safety committees are working successfully in Bombay especially those in the R.I.M.dockyard, the G.I.P. Railway workshops, the Bombay Electric Supply and Transport repair shops and the New Swadeshi Mill at Ahmedabad. In Ahmedabad more than 20 mills have set up safety committees, and a mill with a particularly strong committee was able to secure a rebate of 25 per cent on its workmen's compensation insurance premium. Safety committees were established in 13 factories in Bihar and Orissa and a notable advance was made in the schemes for the improvement of electrical equipment with a view to the reduction of accidents in the Tatanagar Areas. In Bengal special attention was directed during the year to the dangers connected with hydro-extractors used in laundries and hosiery factories, to the guarding of jute mill machinery, and to the structural soundness of factory buildings.

Housing.- Three more factories in Madras provided housing accommodation for their operatives during the year under report, thus bringing the total number of such factories to 277. In Bombay improvements are reported in the Surat and Nawapur areas in the provision of accommodation for labourers in spinning factories. In Ahmedabad several housing schemes were in progress, and provide examples of much improved accommodation for workers, but hardly touch the fringe of the housing problem in that city. Housing and welfare schemes in Bengal were confined almost entirely to jute mills and a few other well organised concerns, while the majority of factory-owners take no active interest in matters of this kind. Generally, such improvements as have been made in Bengal in connection with housing accommodation during the year have been confined to extensions of or alterations to existing housing, and the provision of bathing or drinking water. There has again been a large increase in the number of quarters provided for workmen in the United Provinces; altogether 1,247 additional quarters were constructed in 22 districts during the year. A large proportion of these

have been built by new sugar concerns. The Cawnpore Improvement Trust built 131 quarters of which 99 have been purchased by a local cotton mill and the Municipal Board for the housing of their employees. The remainder are to be sold to individual workers on a 12 year hire-purchase system, the instalment being Rs.6 per mensem as compared with an ordinary rent of Rs.5 for similar accommodation. In the Punjab and Delhi satisfactory progress is reported. In the Punjab, accommodation for the permanent staff is commonly provided at new factories, and both there and in Delhi the housing at the factory is much ~~xx~~ superior to that obtainable by workers elsewhere. The Central Provinces and Burma reports show that owing to trade depression little progress in the provision of housing was made.

Health of Operatives and Welfare Work.- The health of factory employees in all provinces is reported to have been normal or good throughout the year and there was no dislocation of industry anywhere on account of epidemics. A Sanitary Inspector was appointed in the Western India Match Factory at Tiruvottiyur (Madras) to be in special charge of the anti-malarial campaign. A medical officer has been appointed at a new factory established in Bombay for the manufacture of lead accumulators. Owing to trade depression, welfare work did not show marked progress anywhere, but welfare activities have generally been maintained. The creches (now numbering 104) established in the factories of the Bombay Presidency have been of great benefit and there has been a general rise in standards during the last few years. Health exhibitions were held in several mill compounds which were attended by large numbers of employees and their wives. In Bengal welfare work was generally confined to the improvement or extension of work already in progress - for example, additions were made to some medical and welfare staffs, and facilities for recreation were improved. In the United Provinces the existing welfare work was continued and special mention is made in the report of the activities of the British India Corporation and Messrs. Begg, Sutherland and Company. No new schemes were started in the Punjab or the Central Provinces but existing activities were well maintained. Creches do not appear to be popular with the operatives in the latter province. The Delhi Cloth and General Mills continued to be specially prominent in the matter of welfare work during the year.

Convictions under the Act. - The number of convictions obtained during the year for offences under the Factories Act was 1,325 as against 906 in 1932. Seasonal factories were responsible for 726 convictions and perennial factories for 599. The increase is shared by all provinces except Burma and Bihar and Orissa. The care with which use of the general sections of the Factories Act is made is shown by the high proportion of convictions obtained to prosecutions instituted.

Inspections. - The number of factories inspected during the



year was 7,287, being 86 per cent of the factories actually working. The percentage of perennial and seasonal factories inspected to the total number of such factories was 93 and 80 respectively as against 96 and 87 in the preceding year. No factory remained uninspected in the Central Provinces and in the minor administrations. In Burma and Assam, inspections were not so complete as in other provinces. In Burma the question of increasing the staff engaged in factory inspection is under the consideration of the local Government. The Act was satisfactorily administered throughout the year in all provinces.

(The Administration of the Factory Act in India for the year 1932 is reviewed at pages 16-24 of the December 1933 report of this Office.) +

Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, 1934, Ceylon, Passed. +

It is reported that the Ceylon State Council has passed the third reading of the Workmen's Compensation Ordinance. The Ordinance which is modelled largely on the Indian Act, embodies certain recommendations made by the Whitley Commission. That embraces public servants and private employees on wages not exceeding Rs.300 monthly and includes daily paid workmen in the benefits. Provision for compensation is also made for those employed in training or keeping race-horses which is classed as a "particularly hazardous" occupation.

(The Statesman, 14-12-1934).

(A copy of the Workmen's Compensation Bill, Ceylon, was forwarded to Geneva under our Ref. A.8/859/34 dated 26-4-1934). +

*(A copy of this Bill as finally passed by the State Council, but before proclamation by the Governor, has been forwarded to Geneva on 20.12.34. (A8/2527/34)*

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Mysore, 1933-34.

According to the report of the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation in Mysore State for the year 1933-34, there were in all 2,301 cases of injuries by accident in respect of which a total sum of Rs. 73,911-7-2 was paid as compensation by the employers of labour. As compared with the year 1931-32 there was a rise in the total number of accidents in respect of which compensation was paid by 372, but the total of compensation amount paid fell by Rs. 59,453-8-11. During the year under report, there were in all 59 accidents which proved fatal in respect of which a sum of Rs. 37,898-3-0 was paid as compensation, as against a sum of Rs. 98,131-2-0 paid <sup>in the previous</sup> ~~last~~ year in respect of 83 fatal cases. The number of workmen disabled by accidents was 57 as against 65 in the year 1932-33 and the amount of compensation amounted to Rs. 20,012-10-0 as against Rs. 31,361-13-2 in the year before. The total number of registered factories in the State during the year was 199 and the annual returns under Workmen's Compensation Regulation were received from 188 factories. Most of the factories registered, which failed to furnish the returns, were in the Bangalore District.

(The Hindu, 5-12-1934).

Protection Fund Scheme for Madras Employees: The Madras Employees Protection Bill to be Introduced in the Madras Legislative Council.

It is understood that notice for permission to introduce in the next session of the Madras Legislative Council a bill known as Madras Employees Protection Bill has been given by Mr. C. Basudev, M.L.C. The Bill seeks for provision of a protection fund on the

lines of the provident fund to which the employer is bound to contribute a 12th part of the employee's earnings during the preceding 12 months and to which the employee at his option may contribute an equal amount. No permanent employee can be dismissed without sufficient reason. An employee who has served continuously for three months cannot be treated as temporary. (The Leader, 14-12-34)

The following is the text of ~~the text of~~ the statement of objects and reasons appended to the Bill:

In the absence of a general scheme of old age pensions or of unemployment insurance, it is necessary for the purpose of preventing the misery of workers in factories, shops and offices during their old age or a period of enforced unemployment to institute a compulsory system of Provident Fund to which the Management will be bound to, and the employees, at their option may, subscribe. The workers are almost as a rule unable to save anything out of their low savings against unemployment or old age or to meet occasional or untoward expenses connected with illness, marriages or deaths in their families. In the various Railways and in some factories and offices, a system of Provident Fund is already in vogue and is working well. There is no reason why such a system should not be introduced in the case of every permanent employee in a permanent office or factory. This Bill seeks to make against the dismissal of permanent employees or the dispensing with their services without reasonable or adequate cause or without reasonable notice and against continuance for an unlimited period of employees on a temporary basis liable to be sent out at will without any notice whatever. The measure is thus intended to ameliorate the condition of the employees in certain directions in which their lot calls for urgent betterment.

(The Hindu, 6-12-1934)

✓ Labour Conditions in Bihar and Orissa, 1933-34. +

General. - According to the annual report of the Director of Industries, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1933-34, a comprehensive review of the labour situation in the province cannot be attempted as there is no reliable information relating to labour engaged in rural and unorganised industries. In Bihar proper, the earthquake has effected a substantial improvement in the position of labour at least in regard to the volume of employment. Owing to the extent of the reconstruction work which has to be undertaken, particularly in parts of North Bihar where the damage is extensive, the ordinary day labourer is now assured of reasonably steady employment for some time to come.

Number of Operatives Employed in Mines.- The position, however, in the most important organised industry of the province, viz., mining, continues to be unsatisfactory. The province leads in three important minerals, viz., coal, iron and mica, which are to be found mainly in the Chota Nagpur Division. Owing to the continued depression, there was a further decrease of employment in the coal and iron mines, but there was slight improvement in mica mines as shown in the statement below:-

Nature of mines in Bihar and Orissa.	Number Employed.		
	1931	1932	1933
1	2	3	4
Coal mines	100,302	92,250	86,211
Mica do	12,068	10,056	10,629
Iron do.	4,947	3,625	3,191

Persons Employed in Metallurgical Industry.- Next to mining comes the metallurgical industry of which the largest single establishment in the province is the Tata Iron and Steel Company at Jamshedpur. This firm showed signs of greater activity and employed 20,848 persons in 1933 as against 18,896 in 1932 and 20,176 in 1931. On the other hand, the Tinsplate Company of India, Limited, at Golmuri near Jamshedpur, employed 2,493 persons in 1933 as against 2,928 in 1932. Similarly in the East Indian Railway workshop at Jamalpur, the number employed further fell from 8,878 in 1932 to 7,912. [The sugar industry in Bihar continued to expand under the stimulus of a high protective tariff. Seven sugar factories were seriously damaged in the earthquake but the labour thus thrown out of employment, was quickly absorbed in the reconstruction work which followed.

\*Department of Industries - Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar & Orissa, for the year 1933-34 -Supdt., Govt., Printing, B.& O., Patna. 1934 - Price Re.1/- pp.81.

Wages. - The further fall in the price of coal had an adverse effect on the wages of daily labourers employed in mines. The position in other organised industries also showed no signs of improvement in this respect. In the earthquake-stricken areas of Bihar, there was a tendency for wages to rise owing to the increased demand for labour on reconstruction work, but this was counteracted by the large influx of labour from the Central Provinces, Dumka, Gorakhpur and other places.

General Conditions of Workers.- Except for the outbreak of sporadic cases of cholera, small-pox and influenza, the general health of labour during the year under review was reported to be satisfactory. The prices of food-stuffs and other necessaries of life were generally lower than in the previous year. Owing to depression in the coal trade no improvement was made in the housing conditions of labour in the coalfields. The maternity and child welfare scheme referred to in last year's report, could not also be extended owing to financial stringency. The Tata Iron and Steel Company, Jamshedpur, made extensive improvements in drainage and constructed additional quarters for their employees. The water-supply from Jamshedpur was also extended to some outlying bustees.

Strikes. - With the exception of a short-lived strike lasting only for three days, which occurred at the Bararee Coke Plant of Messrs. Jardine and Company, Dhanbad, the relations between employers and employees were reported to be satisfactory.

Workers' Organisations.- During the year only one trade union known as the Indian Miners' Association, Jharia, was registered under the Indian Trade Unions Act. The total number of registered trade unions in existence on the 31st March, 1934, was five. +

Nine-Hour Day in Indian Textile Mills: An All-India  
Mill Owners' Conference to be Convened  
to Consider Issue. +

It is understood that the Bombay Millowners' Association and the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association are moving to convene, at an early date, a Conference of All India Mills with a view to adopt concerted action regarding the enforcement from January 1<sup>1935</sup> of the new provision of the Factories Act embodying nine-hours<sup>a</sup> day.

It is feared that this provision will increase the ~~market~~ cost of production in mills thus lowering their capacity to meet foreign competition. Many mills propose to work day and night to reduce the cost of production, but on the other hand it is feared that the market will be depressed by over-production as the result of working day and night. It is proposed, therefore, that all mills should stop night work and rigorously carry out the provision of <sup>a</sup>nine-hour<sub>^</sub> day. This will be the main question for consideration at the proposed conference of the mills. †

(The National Call, 10-12-34)

54-Hour Week to be Introduced from 1-1-1935:

Rates for Piece-Work Increased. †

The introduction with effect from January 1, 1935, of the 54-hour week for all <sup>male</sup> operatives, in accordance with the new Indian Factories Act, passed during the last session of the Legislative Assembly, has been notified to workers in the textile mills in Bombay by means of circulars posted at mill gates. At present, mill operatives are required to work for 10 hours on each of the six working days per week. Women operatives will work nine hours a day, but, as has been the custom hitherto, a certain amount of latitude will be shown to them.

In view of the shorter hours of work, the mill owners will

make efforts to maintain rigid discipline among the workers who waste their time in tea ~~shops~~ shops in mill compounds during working hours. Restaurants and stalls will be allowed to be kept open only before and after working hours and during the recess hour. Vendors will, however, be allowed to sell tea to workers at their places of work.

Considering the loss of one-tenth of their daily wages to piece-meal workers (weavers, etc.) because of shorter hours of work, the dear food allowance which has been fixed at 35 per cent with effect from January, will be increased to 40 per cent in their cases.

The Whitley Commission held that the net result of such a move would be to increase the efficiency of workers. But it is ~~xxx~~ stated that the immediate result will be a rise in the cost of production, which will result in a definite loss to the industry and might ultimately mean a general increase in double shift work in order to counterbalance these effects. †

(The Times of India, 17-12-1934, &  
the Statesman, 22-12-1934)

#### Ahmedabad Labour Dispute. †

Reference was made at page 39 of the report of this Office for October 1934 to the Ahmedabad labour dispute regarding the wage-cut proposed by the mill-owners and the decision, consequent on the failure of the arbitrators to come to an agreement, to refer the matter under dispute to an umpire. Mr. S.I. Patkar, a retired

judge of the Bombay High Court, was selected as umpire (Statesman, 5-11-34), but eventually negotiations for the settlement of the dispute through the decision of the umpire were broken off. The Millowners' Association decided on 17-12-1934 to effect a cut of 10 per cent in the wages of time-workers in view of the reduction of hours of work from ten to nine from 1-1-1935. (The Hindu, 18-12-34)

The mill authorities take their stand on what they consider to be an equitable arrangement and declare that it is not really a wage cut but a wage arrangement synchronising with the number of working hours. They draw the Labour Association's attention to the fact that the award of Mr. Gandhi and the late Seth Mangaldas Girdhardas settling certain scales of pay were on a ten-hour day basis. What is contemplated now is to spread the same wage over six nine-hour days instead of over 5½ 10-hour days. The Ahmedabad millowners in support of their decision contend that:-

(1) in 1935 the profits of the mills were much lower than those in 1932 and even lower than the average for the last ten years;

(2) the agents of the mills had to give up about 40 per cent out of their commission in order to set aside some amount against depreciation of machinery and to give dividends to shareholders;

(3) the mills could take only half the amount then legally due towards building and machinery depreciation;

(4) almost all centres in India had reduced wages considerably and the wages in Ahmedabad were much higher than those in any other centre and even higher by 27 per cent than the wages in Bombay as acknowledged by the Labour Union before the board; and

(5) the index of the cost of living of the workers had fallen to the level of 1913, whereas workers' wages were even today more than twice than those in 1912.

But the Ahmedabad Labourer points out that the position of his fellow worker in Bombay is very different. There the mills have agreed to pay all time-workers the same wages for the nine-hour day as they are now paying for the ten-hour day. And in the case of piece-workers, compensation will be given for the reduction of output, which would follow on the introduction of the reduced hours, by an increase in the dear food allowance from 35 to 40 per cent. The Ahmedabad Labour Union, in the course of a letter dated 26-12-1934 addressed to the Millowners' Association, says:

"Members of your association would be contravening the established procedure and existing conventions if they were



to make a reduction of this nature except as a result of an agreement with the Labour Union or by virtue of an arbitration award. Your proposal for a reduction of wages is already under arbitration awaiting final settlement by an umpire. Our own view is that the reduction of hours is brought about by law in recognition of the workers' need to be relieved of the excessive strain of long hours. Workers cannot legitimately be asked to secure relief in this direction at the expense of their food, clothing and other material requirements. If, however, you do not find yourself in agreement with ~~this~~ <sup>and</sup> this view a proper and constitutional course would be to submit the matter to arbitration." (The Times of India, 28-12-1934).

The points at issue have been referred to Mahatma Gandhi who, it appears, has supported the Labour Union's demand for arbitration, <sup>and</sup> incidentally advised ~~ed~~ the Union to prepare for a strike, in case the owners refuse to grant its request. According to the Indian Labour Journal of 6-1-1935, of the 73 mills in Ahmedabad 56 have given effect to the wage-cut in the pay of time-workers, and 5 more are expected to follow suit. +

Industrial Organisation.

Employers' Organisations.

Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of

India, 1934, - Calcutta. +

The 1934 Annual Meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India was held at Calcutta on 17 and 18-12-1934. Delegates of 15 constituent Chambers of Commerce attended the meeting. The Director of this Office was also present by invitation.

The Viceroy, who opened the session, in the course of his speech passed in brief review important developments during 1934 in the commercial, industrial and political spheres. The following are some of the more important points made in the speech:

Referring to the credit of India, the Viceroy pointed out that it stood higher than it had done for twenty years. The main causes were an improvement in the political condition of India and the sound financial policy pursued by the Government of India during the last three or four years. Experience of the last two years should do much to prove that tranquility and obedience to the law of the land were an economic asset of the first magnitude. The Viceroy confidently hoped that a general determination to work the Reforms, which was now in the process of being passed into law in England, would result in the continued revival of trade, with increasing prosperity for the country, which would then be in a better position to stand the financial strain which the introduction of provincial autonomy must impose.

The rise in the price of Indian securities, the Viceroy pointed out was due to ~~the~~ <sup>an</sup> large measure to the low rates prevailing in London, and these were due to the abundance of money seeking ~~at home~~ <sup>investment</sup> in London, partly because of the comparatively small demand for trade accommodation in the world at large and partly because of unsettled political and monetary conditions in so many quarters. That the demands for money for financing international trade are not heavy was not surprising, for, apart from the disturbed political conditions in all parts of the world, restraints are everywhere being placed upon trade in the shape of tariffs, quotas, prohibitions and exchange restrictions, but if the high level of Government loans is in part a reflection of the limited demand for trade loans, it must not be assumed that India is still in the trough of the depression.

Referring to the economic depression, the Viceroy asserted that there was ample evidence to think that India was well on the road to recovery. He said: "It is quite true that recovery is not as rapid as we might wish, but there are definite signs that it is in process. The weekly figures of railway earnings show that railway traffic has been on a considerably higher level during the current year than it was in the corresponding period of last year. The figures of external

trade, both importa and exports, are a distinct improvement on those of last year. The general level of industrial production appears to be higher than it was in 1933 for the nine months up to September 1934. The indigenous production of mill-made cotton piecegoods showed an increase of 156 million ~~yards~~ yards over that of the corresponding period of 1933, and no doubt this increase would have been much greater, but for the strike in Bombay during April and May. Iron and steel manufactures show a very considerable increase, and an improvement is also noticeable in cement, kerosene, petrol and coal. These are encouraging signs, and, when we add to them the fact that in a number of primary commodities there has been a distinct recovery from the disastrously low level of prices to which the cultivator had been subjected, I think it can be said with confidence that India has passed the lowest point of the economic crisis and that some sort of upward movement is in evidence."

The ~~Mr~~ Viceroy then dealt with the trade safeguards provided in the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report, and in justification of them said; "Trade relations are essentially a matter of confidence, trust and good-will. In my reading of the Joint Parliamentary Committee's Report this broad truth is fully appreciated. You wish to know where you stand. So too do your friends in the Indian business community wish to know their own position. You have not claimed and do not desire a privileged position. What you require is freedom to pursue your various enterprises in the normal conditions of commerce and industry without fear that you may be put out of action by restrictions directed against yourselves as a community. The Joint Committee have been concerned to secure that you should suffer under no unfair handicap, and that full play should be given to your ability to contribute to the advancement of this country by your powers of organisation, by your technical equipment and your control of all that modern science can add to our amenities. On the other hand, no obstruction is placed in the way of the development of Indian industry in Indian hands in conditions in which they can have no grievance against you, and you no grievance against them."

Other important matters dealt with by the Viceroy included the Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement, the tea and rubber restriction schemes, developments contemplated in the sphere of civil aviation, the Transport Advisory Council fixed for January 1935, and the steps that Government was taking to improve agricultural and marketing conditions in India.

The following are some of the more important resolutions adopted by the meeting:

Increase in the import duty on foreign coal.- That this Association recommends to the Government of India that an increase in the import duty on foreign coal entering India should be introduced immediately.

Agricultural indebtedness.- In view of the all-India importance of the relations between debtor and creditor, this Association recommends to the Government of India that a Conference of representatives of Provincial Governments should be called forthwith to co-ordinate all

measures, legislative or otherwise, designed by Provincial Governments to effect the relief of the indebtedness of the agricultural population, and that in view of its possible repercussion on commercial interests, representatives of Chambers of Commerce should be associated with the Conference.

Staff of experts in economic matters and commercial treaties.-  
That in the opinion of this Association it is desirable that there should be attached to the Government of India a small permanent staff of experts with practical experience in economic matters to advise Government, and to keep in closer and more continuous touch with commercial bodies than is possible at present, and that, in view of the growing tendency towards the conclusion of commercial treaties between India and other countries, it is desirable that the Department of Commerce should be strengthened in order to provide the nucleus of an Overseas Branch.

(A full list of the resolutions adopted by the meeting is forwarded with our minute D.1/ 31 /35, dated 10-1-1935.)

Workers' Organisations.

9th Half Yearly Meeting of A.I.R.Federation with  
Railway Board - 13 & 14-12-1934:Result of  
Discussions. +

The 9th half-yearly meeting between the Railway Board and the All India Railwaymen's Federation took place on December 13th and 14th, 1934. The deputation from the Federation included, besides Mr. V.V.Giri, General Secretary, the Assistant Secretary of the Federation and 10 representatives ~~mm~~ from unions affiliated to the Federation. Mr. Giri led the deputation.

Action on Grievances already Represented: Sir G. Russell's Statement.— The proceedings opened with a speech by Sir Guthrie Russell, in which he welcomed the delegates and thanked the Federation for having sent in advance their list of subjects and subsequently their memoranda and for having made an attempt to supply more detailed information than on the previous occasions. He next referred to the request of the Federation for a review, at this meeting, of the various representations made by them at the last three half-yearly meetings on certain important subjects such as joint standing machinery, punishment rules and amendments to new leave rules, etc., and said that of the subjects discussed at the 6th and 7th half-yearly meetings, the joint standing machinery, the Statutory Railway Board and amendments to the Trade Disputes Act were engaging the attention of the Government of India, while amendments to the discharge and dismissal rules, pass rules, educational assistance rules, and provident fund and gratuity rules were still under the consideration of the Railway Board. He added that the subjects discussed at the 8th half-yearly meeting would be taken up after the

an amplified report has been printed and that the Board would address the Federation as soon as a decision was arrived at in each case.

Subjects Discussed.- On the first day of the meeting, four subjects were discussed, viz., staff benefit fund rules, wage cuts, compulsory membership of institutes and leave reserves on the E.B. Railway; on the second day three subjects were discussed, viz., revised scales of pay for non-gazetted staff, charging of house rent from low paid staff and hours of employment regulations. The following is a brief summary of the discussions on each subject:-

Staff Benefit Fund Rules.- In connection with the staff benefit fund rules, the Federation suggested that the workers should have a greater voice in the committees of management of staff benefit funds and that members of Unions only should be eligible to be elected to such committees, also that the contribution from railway revenues to staff benefit funds should be at the rate of one rupee per head of the number of the revenue staff on the books of the railway, in addition to the other amounts credited to the fund under the existing rules. The Federation further submitted that for the sake of uniformity company managed railways should be advised to follow the State Railway rules. The Federation also suggested that wider publicity be given in the weekly gazettes of the railway administrations to the activities of the staff benefit fund committees.

Chief Commissioner's Objections.- The Chief Commissioner of Railways pointed out that on the State-managed railways, the committees of managements of the staff benefit fund consisted of a chairman and five members, four of whom are elected by the staff and that the Railway Board could not support the proposition put forward by the Federation. The Chief Commissioner further stated that everybody must be free for election to the staff benefit fund committees, but that where a strong Union existed, its members might get the majority of seats. Regarding the increased contributions from railway revenues to staff benefit funds, the Chief Commissioner regretted that the Federation's suggestions could not be accepted under the existing financial conditions. Regarding uniformity of rules, he stated that under the terms of their arrangements, the company-managed railways had full discretion and powers in such matters, but that he would be prepared to send to company-managed railways, for their consideration, the suggestions made by the All-India Railwaymen's Federation, regarding the general working of the staff benefit funds, as distinct from the details of working. Regarding the suggestion that greater publicity should be given to the discussions in staff benefit fund committees and that the resolutions should be given publicity in the weekly gazettes, the Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that the suggestion was sound and promised to consider it further.

Wage Cuts: No Hope of Immediate Relief.- Regarding the wage cuts, the Federation submitted that wage cuts be restored to staff drawing less than Rs.250 per mensem, in the next budget. The Chief Commissioner of Railways pointed out that the total restoration of the cut would cost about 10 millions of rupees and said that the Railway Board's recommendation to the Government of India must wait until the preparation of the Railway Budget.

Compulsory Membership in E.B.Railway Institutes.- The question of compulsory membership of institutes on the Eastern Bengal Railway was next discussed. The Chief Commissioner of Railways pointed out that the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association, which was a recognised Union, should address the Agent of that Railway. The Federation agreed to do this.

Leave Reserve on E.B.Railway.- The subject of leave reserve on the Eastern Bengal Railway was next taken up. The Chief Commissioner of Railways pointed out, at the outset, that as the matter referred to the Eastern Bengal Railway only, and as the Eastern Bengal Railway Indian Employees' Association was recognised by the Agent, the matter should be referred to the Agent of the Eastern Bengal Railway in the first instance. The Federation agreed to do this.

Plea for Revised Minimum Scales of Pay: Railway Board Demand turned Down.- The first subject discussed on December 14 was the question of revised scales of pay for non-gazetted staff. The Federation submitted that they felt that the revised scales of pay were low and that a minimum standard wage should be fixed for the cheapest part of India, necessary additions being made for the more expensive localities and that there should be a machinery for fixing the minimum wage. The Federation further submitted that their suggestions regarding the joint standing machinery may be applied in this case also.

The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated the Board did not consider that the revised scales of pay were inadequate remuneration for the different categories of staff. The Chief Commissioner added that if the Federation could convince the Railway Board, by facts and figures, that the revised scales of pay were unreasonable in any way or if the cost of living had increased, the Railway Board would be prepared to consider a revision of the scales of pay.

Rent Free Houses for Low Paid Staff.- The matter of charging of house rent to low-paid staff was next discussed. The Federation submitted that all staff, drawing less than Rs.30 per mensem, should, if provided with railway quarters, not be charged any house rent. The Railway Board did not agree to the proposal and the Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that they were not prepared to go beyond the existing rules under which inferior servants, in receipt of less than Rs.30 per mensem, were not charged any house rent, if provided with railway quarters. Workshop staff drawing Rs.30 and less per mensem must continue to pay house rent as hitherto.

Hours of Employment Rules: Plea for Extension to all Railways.-  
The Federation then submitted that the hours of employment regulations should be extended to other railways and that the statutory maximum of 60 hours per week be reduced to 48 hours per week. The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that the first point was under the consideration of the Government of India. As regards the second point, the Railway Board could not consider it at present, as it ~~is~~ involved additional expenditure.

Mr. V.V.Giri thanked the Chief Commissioner and members of the Railway Board for the patient hearing given to the Federation. The meeting then terminated.

(The Hindu, 15-12-1934). +

✓ Trade Union Movement in C.P. and Berar, 1933-34.\* +

Registered Unions.- One new union, viz., the Girni Kamgar Union, Akola, was registered during the year. No union was dissolved during the period. The number of registered unions at the close of the year was 12.

Membership and Funds.- The total membership of all the unions at the beginning and end of the year stood at 7,305 and 8,968 respectively, as compared with 6,788 and 7,305, <sup>respectively,</sup> in the preceding year. No political fund was maintained by any of the registered trade unions. The closing balance of the general fund of all the unions at the end of the year under report was Rs. 1,531-4-10.

\* Annual Report on the working of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926, for the year ending the 31st March 1934. - Nagpur: Government Printing, C.P. 1934. - Price Re.0-5-0. - pp.2+1



Appeals.- No appeals were filed by the unions during the year under report against the decision of the Registrar and hence no order was passed by the Judicial Commissioner in second appeal.

Action on Whitley Report.- The Royal Commission on Labour in India had recommended that Government should take the lead, so far as its own industrial employees were concerned, both in making the recognition of unions easy and in encouraging them to secure registration. In pursuance of this recommendation, the Local Government framed a set of rules for the recognition of associations of its industrial employees in June 1934.

(The annual report on the working of the Trade Unions Act in C.P. and Berar during 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 28-29 of the March 1934 report of this Office).

Meeting of General Council of N.T.U.Federation -

24-12-1934, Bombay. +

A meeting of the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation was held in Bombay on 24-12-1934 with Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, the President of the Federation, in the chair. Fifteen out of 25 members representing seven out of eight trade groups, representing 127,000 members attended. Five new unions with 3,000 membership were affiliated to the Federation.

Mr. Jamnadas Mehta addressing the delegates surveyed the development of the Trade Union movement in this country and the world in general and referred to the set-back it had received due to the advent of Fascism and other factors like the economic depression. Mr. Mehta said it was futile to expect the Government to help the Trade Union movement in India. He referred to the partisan attitude taken by the Government in Labour disputes and

also to the repressive measures, both legislative and administrative, introduced for the drastic suppression of militant Trade Union activity. Mr. Mehta emphasised the need for a perfect organisation of workers on the basis of industry and on the need for the removal of the appalling illiteracy among the workers.

The following is a brief account of the business ~~was~~ transacted by the Council:-

Asiatic Labour Conference and I.L.Conference.- The Council recorded the report of the Indian delegation to the Asiatic Labour Congress held at Colombo in May 1934 and the report of work done by Mr. Jammadas Mehta as Indian workers' delegate at the last International Labour Conference at Geneva. It also approved of Mr. N.M.Joshi's action in suggesting to the International Federation of Trade Unions that Mr. Jammadas Mehta should take his place on the Governing Body of the I.L.O. at its January (1935) meeting so as to enable Mr. Mehta to proceed with the complaint he made against the Government of India with regard to the application of the Geneva Convention on Hours of Work to railwaymen.

Trade Union Unity.- It endorsed the view of the Working Committee that the question of Trade Union Unity was still an open one and authorised the Working Committee to consider any proposals that may be made with a view to bring about unity in the trade union movement and report to the General Council.

Joint Action with Congress Socialists.- It approved of the terms of the agreement entered into informally between some officials of the National Trades Union Federation and All-India Congress Socialist Party regarding the advisability of taking common action on labour matters and decided to commend the agreement to the affiliated unions and provincial committees of the Federation for such action as they deemed fit.

J.P.C. Report Condemned.- The Council then passed a comprehensive resolution on the Joint Parliamentary Committee's report. The resolution considered the proposals made in the Report as far from removing objectionable features contained in the White Paper scheme and containing many more retrograde and reactionary proposals. The Joint Committee Report as a whole, in the opinion of the Council, was conceived in a spirit of distrust of the Indian people. Undemocratic features of the scheme were many and glaring inasmuch as it denies the Indian State subjects the right of representation on the Federal Legislature and had granted unfettered discretion to Indian princes to select their nominees. Another resolution regarding the proposals dealing with labour considered that the representation given to labour was inadequate and fell short even of the representation given to the landed and commercial interests. Having regard to the serious and fundamental defects, some of which had been pointed out in the foregoing paragraphs, the General Council was of the considered opinion that the scheme of the Joint Committee held out no prospect of the Indian masses and working classes ever securing an adequate and

effective voice and control in the legislatures and administration of the country and was, therefore, ~~an~~ unacceptable to them.

Unemployment and Social Insurance.— The Council also passed resolutions (1) urging ~~the~~ unemployment and social insurance legislation, (2) appointing a committee to consider the question of planned economy for India, and (3) deciding to conduct an enquiry into the result of protection granted to different industries of India and its effect on the standard life of workers.

1935 Labour Delegation to I.L.Conference.— The Council concluded its deliberations after ~~appointing~~ <sup>selecting</sup> a labour delegation on behalf of India to the 1935 International Labour Conference at Geneva.

(The Times of India, 27-12-1934 &  
The Leader, 28-12-1934). †

Vin RB

Intellectual Workers.

(N)

Associations of Government Employees:

U. P. Government Frames Rules for Recognition. +

The United Provinces Government has framed rules for the recognition of the associations of Government employees other than the associations to which the special rules for industrial employees apply.

The associations according to these rules must ordinarily consist of a distinct class of Government employees and every Government employee of the same class must be eligible for membership of the Association. Ordinarily the Government will not object to persons, who are not in active service of Government, being office-holders of the association, but Government reserves the right in particular cases of refusing recognition to associations of which all the office-holders are not either in the active service of Government or honourably retired officers, belonging to the same class of Government employees as the association represents.

In the case of employees in the Police and Prison departments, the association shall also consist of such distinct rank or ranks of employees as the Government may prescribe. The Government may accord recognition to particular associations of specified ranks of employees in the Police department of which special ranks of employees in the Excise department are also members and no person who is not in the active service of the Government or an honourably retired officer belonging to the same class of Government employees shall be an office-holder of the association.

Under these rules no representation or deputation will be received by the Government officers, except in connection with a

a matter which raises questions which are of common interest to the class represented by the association. In the case of Police and Prisons Employees' Associations, no representation or deputation will be received on questions of discipline or promotion, affecting individuals. +

(The Hindustan Times, 7-12-1934)

Acceptance of Work by Government Servants when on Leave:

Amendment to Civil Service Rules. +

An amendment to the Civil Service (classification, control and appeal) rules has been notified, which provides that a Government servant on leave may not take any service or accept any employment without obtaining the previous sanction of (a) the Governor-General-in-Council, if proposed service or employment lies elsewhere than in India and (b) the Governor-General-in-Council or any lower authority empowered to appoint him, if the proposed service or employment lies in India.

Provided that the Government servant has been granted permission to take any service or accept any employment under this rule during leave preparatory to retirement, he shall be precluded, save with the specific consent of the Governor-General-in-Council or any lower authority empowered to appoint him, from withdrawing his request for permission to retire and from returning to duty.

This rule does not apply to casual literary work or to service as an examiner of similar employment, nor does it apply to acceptance of foreign service.

(Govt of India Finance Dept Resolution F.7(33)-R.I/34 dt 6.12.34)  
See Calcutta Gazette no 518194 (20.12.34) (The Times of India, 10-12-1934)  
Part I A. p 27 d)

to meet emergencies. The obvious result would be that the money-lender will enter into bogus transactions with them by bolstering up the loan amount by initially adding interest to capital, and by various other subterfuges.

The passing of these Bills will further adversely affect the prices of properties of those benefited by these measures. These properties will have a smaller mortgage value in the money-lending market, as against those properties which belong to classes debarred from the benefits of these measures. If these measures had been made applicable to all debtors, things would have been different.

The problem of rural debt can be only solved by tackling the fundamentals - the causes which contribute to the utter dependence of the rural classes on the money-lender. In the first place, Government should find the requisite courage to make usury a criminal offence. The rate of private interest should be fixed at a maximum limit bearing a definite proportion to the official bank-rate. Land Mortgage Banks and a greater number of co-operative Banks should be opened. Realizations of revenue should be made less penal and more flexible and in certain cases Government should take control of land produce temporarily, enabling the agriculturist in due course to dispose of the produce and make payments.

(The National Call, 11-12-1934) +

Industrial Conditions in Bombay Presidency, 1933-34.\* +

The following information regarding industrial and economic conditions in the Bombay Presidency during 1933-34 is taken from the Annual Report for the period of the Department of Industries, Bombay Presidency.

General.- The commercial and industrial depression mentioned in last year's report continued unabated. At the commencement of the year there were signs of improvement but towards the end of the year conditions became less favourable. Commodity prices continued to rule low, with the result that the purchasing power of the

\* Department of Industries - Bombay Presidency - Annual Report 1933-34 - Published by order of the Government of Bombay - Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1934. - Price Annas 3 or 4d. pp.53

agriculturist which has been very restricted for some time past did not improve to any extent. Added to this, the various local industries suffered greatly from the very severe Japanese competition due to the unprecedented depreciation of the Yen. Very large quantities of extremely cheap Japanese goods of various kinds flooded the market to the detriment of local industries. In the last week of December 1933 the Government of India introduced a Tariff Amendment Bill in the Legislative Assembly to give protection to some twenty industries to enable them to meet Japanese competition. The sugar industry also received a good measure of protection during the year. A new trade agreement was arrived at with Japan restricting Japanese Textile imports into India. It is hoped that these measures of the Government of India will enable the industries concerned to progress satisfactorily during the coming year. Below are given short reviews of the conditions prevailing in the principal industries.

Cotton Textile Industry.- The condition of the industry during the year under review was far from satisfactory. The difficulties experienced by the industry during the previous years continued and the general position worsened. Very severe Japanese competition was largely responsible for this state. Some of the textile mills in the City of Bombay had to close temporarily and some went into liquidation. Annual Reports for 1933 received from 25 cotton mills working in the City and Island of Bombay disclosed the following position:- Eleven mills show a loss of Rs. 2.266 millions. 14 mills show gross profits of Rs. 2.688 millions not allowing for depreciation. Out of this group only nine mills could declare dividends, three of these having to draw their dividend from <sup>equalisation funds</sup> ~~4 Sholepur mills~~ ~~for the year 1933, showing profits of Rs. .838 millions.~~ Dividends were also declared by these mills.

The following statistical tables covering cotton mills in the Bombay Presidency give an idea of the conditions which prevailed during the year.

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Year	Number of mills.	Number of spindles.	No. of looms.	Average No. of hands employed.	Cotton consumed	Paid-up capital
					Cwts.	Rs.
..	218	6,290,233	138,153	250,357	5,470,906	240,166,075
..	220	6,443,519	141,241	256,200	5,984,720	245,820,563
..	220	6,468,794	142,591	252,417	5,690,692	238,318,186
Percentage increase						
Percentage increase as compared to 1932 ..						
		+0.4	+1.04	-1.5	-4.91	...

Production in and Imports of Yarn and Piece-goods into Bombay Presidency.

Year	Yarn (in million pounds)			Piece-goods (in million yards)		
	Presidency production	Imports into the Presidency to production	Percentage of imports	Presidency production into the Presidency to production	Imports into the Presidency to production	Percentage of imports
1932	476	9.9	2.1	1,830	347	18.9
1933	549	12.3	2.2	2,188	389	18.0
1934	559	17.6	3.2	2,266	638	28.2
1935*	286*	8.0**	...	1,157*	344**	..

\* Up to October 1933.                      \*\* Up to January 1934.

Woollen Mills.- The condition of the woollen industry was far from satisfactory during the year under review. The two mills which were working during the previous year continued to work during the year 1933. There was a decrease of about 31 per cent in the quantity of woollen goods produced in these mills and of about 12 per cent in the value of the same, when compared with the figures for the last year. In the year 1932 the woollen mills showed a total production of 1,857,835 lbs., valued at Rs. 3,006,810, whereas in the year 1933 the total production was 1,472,885 lbs. valued at Rs. 2,643,744. Bombay woollen mills supply a very small quantity of the Presidency's requirements. The woollen industry in the Bombay Presidency cannot be said to be in a satisfactory condition.

Hosiery Industry.- There has been no improvement in the generally depressed condition of this industry. Factors such as the general economic depression and acute competition from imported



hosiery have contributed to this. The hosiery knitting factories, as well as the textile mills equipped with knitting machines have suffered by this depression. The local production of knitted goods has also been reduced. During 1931-32 production was approximately 480,000 lbs. In 1932-33 it was 456,000 lbs. The imports of cotton woollen hosiery during 1931-32 were valued at Rs. ~~2.05~~ 2.05 millions. The imports for 1932-33 were valued at Rs. 2.144 millions. The average price ruling during 1932-33 was much lower than in 1931-32. There is a considerable field for the development of this industry as evidenced by figures of hosiery imported into India.

Sugar Industry.- During the year under report, 7 new factories have been erected in the Presidency. The individual capacity of all these factories for crushing canes varies from 150 tons to 400 tons of cane per day. In the year 1932-33 the imports of sugar into Bombay and Karachi were about 200,000 tons valued at about Rs. 20 millions. The corresponding figure for the year under report are 158,000 tons and Rs. ~~16~~ 16 millions respectively. Taking into consideration the above developments, the year under report was the most remarkable in the history of the development of sugar industry in the Presidency.

Match Industry.- During the year under report two match factories were closed down in the Presidency. Out of these, one was closed due to its being burnt down. There are in all now ~~11~~ 11 match factories in the Presidency. The approximate number of persons employed in these factories was 4,700. Imports of matches into Bombay Presidency are negligible and what little imports there are, are fancy matches for advertisement purposes. It is reported that during the year under review match factories did not fare well owing to keen internal competition. The Government of India have recently imposed an excise duty of Rs. 2, Re. 1-8 and Re. ~~1~~ 1/2 per one gross match boxes containing matches above 60, above 40 and below 40 respectively. It is to be seen how this duty on matches is going to affect the match industry.

Other Industries.- The other industries of importance may be catalogued as follows:- gas mantles, chemical industries, paper industry, glass industry, oil mills, vegetable ghee, soap industry, shoe polish, engineering industry, gold thread industry, aluminium industry and cigarette industry. As ~~in~~ in the previous year, most of these industries passed through a difficult time in the year under report.

New Industries.- During the year under review several new

factories were established in the Presidency. A factory for the manufacture of biscuits and another for envelopes were established in Karachi. Similarly, a factory for the manufacture of bicycle tubes and car tyres was also established in the same city. Hosiery factories were established in Sukkur and elsewhere. New factories were also started in Bombay and the Presidency such as electro-plating and electro-galvanizing, manufacture of tricycles, spares for bicycles, Bakelite ~~xxx~~ accessories both electrical and toilet purposes, pressure die castings of non-ferrous metal, vitrified metal sign boards, freezing of marine products, manufacture of dry cells, batteries and accumulators, metal screws, laboratory apparatus, time-pieces and clocks, hollow-ware, pumps, oil engines etc.

New Flotations.— Despite the fact that there was general trade slump during the year under review, many new companies were floated. These were :- 6 Cotton mills with authorised capital of Rs. 4.054 millions, 6 Electrical undertakings with authorised capital of Rs. 1.6 millions, 3 Sugar mills with authorised capital of Rs. 3.0 millions, 3 Tobacco factories with authorised capital of Rs. .850 millions, 4 Works manufacturing chemicals and drugs with authorised capital of Rs. .550 millions, 8 Cinema companies with authorised capital of Rs. 1,600,000, 2 concerns manufacturing motor car spare parts etc. with authorised capital of Rs. 300,000, 1 concern for manufacturing cycles etc. with authorised capital of Rs. 200,000, 1 concern for manufacturing cotton ropes with authorised capital of Rs. 100,000, 1 concern for refining mineral oils with authorised capital of Rs. 1,000,000, 1 concern for manufacturing pottery with authorised capital of Rs. 500,000, 1 paper mill with authorised capital of Rs. 500,000, 2 soap works with authorised capital of

Rs. 200,000, 1 flour mill with authorised capital of Rs. 50,000, 1 oil mill with authorised capital of Rs. 250 millions, 1 concern for the manufacture of accumulators with authorised capital of Rs. 250 millions, 1 concern for the manufacture of Bakelite articles with authorised capital of Rs. 100,000 and 1 concern with the object of development of fisheries with authorised capital of Rs. 25,000, making a total authorised capital of Rs. 15.1 millions.

Liquidations- During the year under review, 10 cotton mills, 2 mining concerns, 2 sugar mills, 2 engineering works, 1 ice and aerated water factory, 1 chemical works, 1 canvas and rubber shoe factory, 1 tobacco factory, 1 cotton ginning and pressing factory, 1 electrical undertaking with total paid up capital of Rs. 21.8 millions went into liquidation.

(The annual report of the Department of Industries, Bombay Presidency, for the year 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 38-40 of the October 1933 report of this Office). †

#### Indian Cotton Mill Industry: Conditions during

Cotton Year ending 31-8-1934. †

Paid up Capital.- According to the annual mill statement for the cotton year ended August 31, 1934, issued by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, the total paid-up capital of the industry as on 31st August 1934, amounted to Rs. 392.2 millions, a drop of Rs. 4.3 millions compared with last year. In Bombay city and island, the total paid-up capital of the completely equipped mills fell by Rs. 6.6 millions to the figure of Rs. 133.1 millions.

Number of Equipped Mills.- The total number of equipped mills in India, according to this year's mill statement, is 352 as against 344 on 31-8-1933. There is a ~~net~~ decrease of 3 mills in Bombay city and island. The number of mills in Ahmedabad remained the same at 82. The number of mills in the Bombay Presidency, exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay city and island, increased from 60 to 62. In Bengal the number of equipped mills is now 22 as against 19 last year. There was no change in the number of mills in the United Provinces, and Central India, but the number of equipped mills in the Madras Presidency increased from 28 to 32.

Mills which stopped working.- Out of the 352 equipped mills in the country, 29 were completely stopped during the whole of the year to which the statement relates. Of these 29 mills, 14 were located in Bombay city and island. Since the statement was prepared, the number of idle mills in Bombay city and island has decreased owing to the reopening under new ownership of some of the mills which were formerly under the agency of Messrs. Currimbhoy Ebrahim and Sons, Ltd.

Spindles and Looms.- The total number of spindles in the equipped mills of the country now stands at 9,613,000, an increase of 41,000 during the year. The total number of looms is 194,988, an increase of 6,000 during the year.

Provincial Figures.- Bombay Presidency.- In Bombay city and island, the number of spindles fell to ~~3.17~~ 3.17 millions from 3.3 millions, and the number of looms from 73,000 to 70,000. In Ahmedabad, the number of spindles increased by 31,000 to 2,010,000 and the number of looms increased from 47,200 to 49,900. In Bombay Presidency, exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay city, the number of spindles and looms increased by 27,000 and 2,800 respectively.

United Provinces.- In the United Provinces, the numbers of spindles and looms were respectively 640,000 and 9,100; the number of spindles is slightly lower and the number of looms is slightly higher than last year's figure.

Madras Presidency.- In the Madras Presidency, there was an increase of 98,000 spindles and a decrease of 250 looms during the year.

Central Provinces.- In the Central Provinces, there was no change in the number of looms, but a very slight increase in the number of spindles.

Central India. - In Central India, the number of spindles increased by 12,000 to 325,000 and the number of looms by 432 to a total of 8,771.

Bengal Presidency.- In Bengal, the number of spindles dropped by 3,600 to a total of 330,000, but the number of looms increased by 1,000 to a total of 7,000.

Cotton Consumption.- The activity of the industry as compared with the previous year is reflected in the figures of cotton consumed. In the year ending August 31, 1934, the industry consumed 1,352,000 candies of cotton as compared with 1,419,000 candies in the previous year.

Fall in Bombay's Consumption.- In Bombay city and island, the drop in consumption was relatively more severe than in other parts of the country, 306,000 candies having been consumed in 1934 as compared with 399,000 candies in 1933 and 460,000 candies in 1932. This fall in cotton consumption by Bombay mills was partly due to the strike and closure of the Currimbhoy group of mills.

Average Number of Spindles working daily.- The average number of spindles working daily during the year was 7,845,000 out of a total of 9,613,000 erected. Last year, the corresponding figures were 8,202,000 working out of a total of 9,572,000 erected. Of the 195,000 looms erected, an average of 159,000 were working daily during the year. This compares with the figure of 162,0

working daily in the previous year. In Bombay city and island, only 2,043,000 spindles and 49,000 looms out of 3,170,000 spindles and 70,000 looms were working regularly. The above-quoted figures of spindle and loom activity do not include night shift working.

Number of Operatives on Day Shift.- The number of operatives employed daily on day shift work was approximately 385,000 as against 400,000 in the previous year. Particulars of the numbers regularly employed on night shift work are not available.

(The Times of India, 20-12-1934)

(The progress of the Indian cotton mill industry during 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 59-62 of our December 1933 report).

Trade of India in 1933-34.\*

General: Review of World Conditions.- The year 1933-34, the report states, was the fifth year of the great world-wide economic depression; and it has left behind it a confused legacy of tentative experiments and new departures. How far these experiments may prove to be beneficial it is yet too early to say. In the political field defection of Japan and Germany from the League of Nations is important; while in the purely economic sphere the world's most comprehensive programme of world co-operation and economic internationalism, which was to have received its formal ratification in London on the occasion of the World Economic Conference, was shelved by the adjournment of this conference in a moribund condition,

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\* Deptt. of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India - Review of the Trade of India in 1933-34 - Published by order of the Governor-General in Council - Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1934.- Price Rs.2-8 or 4s.6d. - pp.xxiv+323

thereby giving a rude setback to world trade. The failure of the World Economic Conference proved a signal for excited action on the part of most of the participating countries so that a further, freer and more extended charter has been given to economic nationalism with all its weapons of restriction - control, prohibition, quotas and tariffs. Of great importance and more dominating influence, has been the great experiment of "socialisation of finance and industry" undertaken in the Recovery Plan of President Roosevelt in the United States of America. The Recovery Plan has, according to the report, in some ways accentuated existing uncertainties and disturbed existing channels and accustomed modes of business. On the whole, therefore, the year under review has been one of swift alternations of hope and disappointment. There are as yet no striking and convincing signs of an early arrival of really prosperous times. But, ~~withal~~, some recovery, however feeble, has at last been made from the oppressive economic conditions of recent years. In countries which have been free from disturbances to their monetary structure prices indeed have ceased to fall, while in the case of a few articles such as tea, tin and rubber equilibrium between demand and supply has for the time being been re-established through measures of international control.

Conditions in India.- The outlook in India has been considerably changed by her recent legislation, which seeks to remedy the exceptional conditions brought about in the past few years by intensive competition from Japan. Of the greatest importance has been the understanding, reached with Japan, regarding the terms of a fresh

commercial treaty. Closely associated with this development were the unofficial negotiations, carried on between a delegation representing the cotton interests of Lancashire and the representatives of the cotton-mill industry in Bombay, for the evolution of a working agreement acceptable to both parties. Indian conditions generally showed some progress towards recovery, though there was no great improvement in the agricultural situation. The only agricultural commodity which showed a considerable price rise was tea and this was due to the "export restriction scheme" introduced during the year. On the whole, therefore, there was little or no improvement in the agricultural position. The cotton mill industry experienced depressed conditions during the first half of the year and a number of mills in Bombay had to close down. The position, however, became distinctly more hopeful as the year advanced and just before the strike in April, 1934, the prospect for the cotton mill industry contained some promise of better times to come. The jute mill industry was slowly reaping the benefits of the restriction of output which it had imposed upon itself, although prices of jute manufactures in some months of the year were definitely disappointing. In the first quarter of 1934 the improvement in the jute industry had so far advanced that it was decided in April 1934 to unseal 2½ per cent of the hessian looms from November 1934. The iron, steel and sugar industries were generally in a healthy condition throughout the year and so also was the tea industry. The coal industry, however, remained in the throes of depression. On the whole Indian industrial conditions in general appeared to be slightly better during the year than had been the case for the past year or two.



Foreign Trade- As far as foreign trade was concerned, India's position improved distinctly during the year under review. The visible balance of trade, even excluding shipments of gold, was greatly in her favour, including the fairly considerable exports of gold, the balance amounted to a large figure, and India's position as regards her foreign payments was thus definitely favourable during the year under review. Financial conditions also showed some specific improvement; the bank rate remained unchanged throughout 1933-34 at the low level of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent. On account of the favourable balance of trade, exchange easily maintained itself above 1s.6d. almost continuously throughout the year. The price of Indian securities also registered considerable improvement during 1933-34. The  $3\frac{1}{2}$  per cent Government paper was on a distinctly higher level in 1933-34 as compared with 1932-33. Prices of non-speculative industrial securities rose during the year and the index number of prices of speculative securities recorded a rise of 34 points in March, 1934 over the figure of the corresponding month of 1933. It would appear that confidence was steadily, though slowly, returning to the stock markets. The general conclusion, therefore, would appear to be that, on the whole, conditions during the year were distinctly better than they had been in 1932-33, except in the case of agriculture where the position remained more or less unchanged.

Industrial Situation.- Although, in general, like its predecessor, the year 1933 was free from industrial disputes of any serious character, it was not altogether immune from minor disturbances of a sporadic nature. On the whole, the number of working people involved and the total loss in working days that occurred were a little larger than in 1932.

Index Number of Prices.- The declining tendency of commodity prices was reversed about the beginning of the year under review and for some months the Calcutta wholesale price index number rose steadily, till at the end of July, the level of September, 1931 was touched. After a slight recession, following on the adjournment of the World Economic Conference, the index number became steady and remained so for the ten subsequent months, subject only to a few fluctuations within narrow limits. Thus, at last, the disastrous decline in commodity prices, which began towards the last quarter of 1929, appeared, at least, to be arrested. Prices are, however, still at a very low level.

Imports and Exports.- The table below gives the values of the imports into, and exports from British India of private merchandise and gold and silver during the three years 1931-32, 1932-33 and 1933-34.

<u>Imports.</u>			
(In millions of rupees)			
	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34
Private merchandise.	1263.7	1325.8	1153.3
Gold and silver	72.2	29.5	19.1
8888 Total Imports.	1335.9	1355.3	1172.4

<u>Exports.</u>			
(In millions of rupees)			
	1931-32	1932-33	1933-34
Private merchandise.	1605.5	1356.3	1497.3
Gold and silver	626.1	677.4	589.5
Total Exports.	2231.6	2033.7	2086.8

Imports.- The total value of the imports of foreign merchandise into British India during 1933-34 amounted to Rs. 1,150 millions and that of exports including re-exports to Rs. 1,500 millions. Compared with the preceding year, there was a decline of Rs. 170 millions or 13 per cent in the case of imports while exports including re-exports recorded an improvement of Rs. 140 millions or 10 per cent. On the import side the demand for foreign textiles weakened. The decrease recorded under this head amounted to one of Rs. 160 millions on a total of Rs. 470 millions recorded in 1932-33. Stated in percentages, this meant a decline of 34 per cent over the figures of 1932-33 and of 12 per cent over those of 1931-32. The decline under the textile group was primarily the result of smaller imports of cotton piece-goods, the total receipt of which only amounted to 796 million yards, valued at Rs. 134.9 millions, as compared with 1,225 million yards valued at Rs. 212.6 millions in 1932-33. The imports of raw cotton also receded from 84,800 tons to 42,900 tons. Under the metals groups there was a decline of Rs. 2.4 millions. Imports of iron and steel indeed rose from 326,000 tons to 329,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 53.0 millions to Rs. 55.3 millions in value, but metals other than iron and steel and manufactures thereof declined from 270,000 tons to 63,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 44.3 millions to

Rs. 39.7 millions in value. Under machinery and millwork there was an advance of Rs. 22.2 millions due chiefly to larger arrivals of sugar machinery. The value of hardware imported contracted from Rs. 29.9 millions to Rs. 28.8 millions. There was an improvement in the imports of motor vehicles from Rs. 24.3 millions to Rs. 31.9 millions, the number of motor cars imported rising from 6,201 to 9,759 and that of omnibuses from 2,676 to 5,496. The value of the imports of rubber manufactures, however, declined from Rs. 19.8 millions to Rs. 18.8 millions. Imports of foreign sugar continued to decline and only amounted to 264,000 tons valued at Rs. 27.1 millions as against 402,000 tons valued at Rs. 42.3 millions in the preceding year.

**Exports.-** On the export side, despatches of raw cotton rose from ~~2,063,000~~ 2,740,000 bales valued at Rs. 200.3 millions to 2,740,000 bales valued at Rs. 270 millions. Cotton manufactures (including twist and yarn) recorded a decline of Rs. 5.6 millions and amounted to Rs. 27.3 millions. Despatches of Indian cotton piecegoods declined further from 66.4 million yards worth Rs. 20.9 millions to 56.5 million yards worth Rs. 16.6 millions. Shipments of twist and yarn, however, advanced slightly in quantity from 15.1 million lbs. to 16.4 million lbs. and in value from Rs. ~~7.9~~ 7.9 millions to Rs. 8.2 millions. The exports of raw and manufactured jute recorded an improvement in value of Rs. 10 millions. Shipments of raw jute ~~increased from 3,158,000 bales valued at Rs. 97.3 millions to 4,190,000 bales valued at Rs. 109.3 millions.~~ Exports of gunny bags contracted from 415 millions (Rs. 111.6 millions) to 402 millions (Rs. 97.2 millions), while those of gunny cloth rose from 1,012 million yards (Rs. 102.4 millions) to 1,053 million yards (Rs. 113.8 millions). Exports of foodgrains declined in quantity from 2,056,000 tons to 1,870,000 tons and in value from Rs. 160.8 millions to Rs. 117.5 millions. Exports of wheat remained practically unchanged at 2,000 tons, while those of rice dropped from 1,887,000 tons to 1,744,000 tons in quantity and from Rs. 144.6 millions to Rs. 105.7 millions in value. Despatches of tea declined from 379 million lbs. to 318 million lbs. in quantity but owing to much higher prices the value rose from Rs. 171.5 millions to Rs. 198.5 millions. Exports of oilseeds amounted to 1,124,000 tons valued at Rs. 136.6 millions which meant an increase of 53 per cent in quantity and of 21 per cent in value in comparison with the figures of the preceding year. Exports of hides and skins recorded a large improvement from 41,800 tons worth Rs. 74.3 millions to 61,400 tons worth Rs. 99.0 millions. Shipments of metals and ores advanced considerably from 695,000 tons valued at 46.8 millions to 976,000 tons valued at Rs. 54.9 millions. Shipments of lac amounted to 731,000 cwts. valued at Rs. 24.6 millions which represented an increase of 75 per cent in quantity and of 98 per cent in value in comparison with the corresponding figures for 1932-33. Despatches of coffee advanced by 13,000 cwts. in quantity but the value dropped by Rs. .8 millions.

Re-Exports.- The total value of re-exports amounted to Rs. 34.2 millions, which represented an improvement of Rs. 2.0 millions as compared with 1932-33 and a decline of Rs. 17.2 millions in comparison with 1930-31.

Balance of Trade.- The balance of trade in merchandise and treasure for the year 1933-34 was in favour of India to the extent of Rs. 920 millions as compared with Rs. 680 millions in 1932-33. The transactions in treasure on private account resulted in a net export of treasure, amounting to Rs. 572.5 millions as against Rs. 650 millions in the preceding year. Net exports of gold amounted to Rs. 570 millions, while silver showed a net import of Rs. .1 millions. Net exports of currency notes amounted to Rs. 1.9 millions.

Gold Exports.- Shipments of gold from India continued on a large scale, although the exports of 1933-34 valued at Rs. 581.5 millions were smaller than those of the preceding year by Rs. 86.9 millions. The price of gold was on a higher level than in the preceding year. The export movement was fairly strong at the beginning of the year, but fell off later, to revive again during the last quarter of the year. The net exports of gold from India during the three years, ending March, 1934, amounted to Rs. 1805.6 millions.

Rupee Sterling Exchange.- Although the year was one of considerable excitement from the standpoint of international finance, yet India was on the whole saved from the consequential uncertainty in exchange, the rupee remaining linked to sterling. The large export shipments of gold, which had continued throughout the year, helped to maintain a firm exchange rate. The average rate for the year was 18<sup>1</sup>/<sub>32</sub>d.

Tariff Changes.- During the year under review, eleven Acts ~~have been~~ <sup>were</sup> passed introducing several changes in the tariff. These are: (1) The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act, 1933, imposed, with effect from the 23rd December, 1933, a duty (including the additional duty and the surcharge) of 3 as.9 p. per imperial gallon on mineral oil, other than kerosene and motor spirit. (2) The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Act, 1934, which was passed on 19th February, 1934, affords assistance, by the imposition, generally, of minimum specific duties under the standard rate, to certain Indian industries which have been subject to menacing competition from foreign countries. (3) The Wheat Import Duty (Extending) Act, 1934, extended the operation of the temporary import duty on wheat and wheat flour up to the 31st March, 1935. (4) The Steel and Wire Industries Protection (Extending) Act, 1934. (5) The Indian Finance Act, 1934, which was passed on the 20th March changed the duty payable on cigarettes to 25 per cent ad valorem and in addition either Rs. 8-2 per 1,000 or Rs. 3-4 per lb. whichever is higher. (6) The Salt Additional Import Duty (Extending) Act, 1934. (7) The Cotton Textile Industry Protection (Second Amendment) Act, 1933. (8) The Cotton Textile Industry Protection (Amendment) Act, 1934. (9) The Indian Tariff (Textile Protection) Amendment Act, 1934, passed on the 26th April, 1934. This Act gave effect to the conclusions of the Tariff Board recommending substantive protection to the cotton textile industry, modified in the light of the denunciation of the Indo-Japanese Trade Convention of 1904 and the subsequent conclusion of a new trade agreement with Japan and of the unofficial agreement between representatives of the Indian and the United Kingdom textile industries. ~~407~~ The Act came into force

on the 1st May, 1934, and the changes made therein shall have effect up to the 31st March, 1939. (10) The Sugar (Excise Duty) Act, 1934. (11) The Matches (Excise Duty) Act, 1934.

(The Trade of India in 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 47-52 of the report of this Office for December 1933). †

Social Conditions.

The Yeravda Reformatory School, Bombay:

Progress during the year 1933- 34.\* +

According to the annual report of the Reformatory School, Yeravda, Bombay, there were at the commencement of the year 224 boys on the rolls of the school. During the year under report, 63 boys were admitted, and 80 boys were discharged (including 1 escaped). Thus, at the end of the year there were 207 boys on the rolls. Of the 80 boys who were discharged during the year, 11 were given instruction in carpentry, 3 in smithy, 7 in book-binding, 21 in tailoring, 17 in agriculture, 15 in gardening and 1 was trained as hospital compounder.

The average number of boys who earned gratuity was 124 and the average earning per boy during the year was Rs.2-13-0. The total amount of gratuity paid to the boys was Rs.348-9-0.

The average daily number of inmates of the school during the year was 215. Out of this number, 2 boys on an average were under observation and the remaining 213 boys were distributed as follows:-

Trade	Average number of boys.
Carpentry	26
Smithy	16
Tailoring	78
Book-binding	18
Agriculture	37
Gardening	36
Hospital compounder	2
Total	213

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\* Annual Report of the Reformatory School, Yeravda for the year ending 31st March 1934. - Bombay: Printed at the Government Central Press 1934 - Price - Anna 1 or 1d. - pp.17



During the year 155 books, files etc. were bound or repaired for Rs. 147-6-0; tailoring work realised Rs. 660-14-0 as against 613-11-3 of the previous year. Other miscellaneous work was executed for Rs. 800-4-9 as against Rs. 737-6-0 of the previous year. The total gross earning thus amounted to Rs. 1,608-8-9. Out of these earnings, Rs. 953-14-0 were spent on raw materials, leaving a balance of Rs. 654-10-9 as charges for labour, or, in other words, profit. Last year's profit was Rs. 534-15-3. The boys were kept employed throughout the year either with outside work or in preparing themselves for examinations in Drawing and for technical examinations held by the Committee of Direction for Technical Education, Bombay. The School farm and the orchard yielded articles worth Rs. 1,502-1-7 as against Rs. 1,258-3-5 of the previous year. Out of this produce vegetables etc. worth Rs. 1,030-10-1 were supplied to the school, while vegetables etc. worth Rs. ~~Rs~~ 471-7-6 were sold to the public.

From the statement showing the after career of the 80 boys discharged from the school during the year, it is seen that, the number of untraceable boys is 8, and that of boys of whom reports have not been received is 53. Of the rest, 10 are employed, 1 is unemployed, 1 placed under police surveillance, 3 are attending schools, 1 is transferred to Bel-air Sanatorium, Panchgani, 1 transferred to Mental Hospital, Yeravda, and 1 is dead.

(The progress of the Yeravda Reformatory School, Bombay, during the year 1932-33 is reviewed at page 59 of the June 1934 report of this Office). +

Public Health.

Health Conditions in Asansol Coal Mines, 1933-34.\* +

The following information regarding health conditions in the Asansol Coal Mines is taken from the Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1933-34. The area of the mining settlement ~~in~~ under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health is 413 square miles and consists of 490 villages, ~~and~~ 135 collieries and 2 municipalities. ~~comprise the Mining Settlement.~~ The population in 1933-34 was 3,94,678 of which 335,201 people were living in municipal areas.

Vital Statistics. - During the year, 11,986 births were registered against 10,383 in the previous year, the birth-rate being 31.3 against 27.13 per 1000 of population. ~~In~~ ~~Male~~ births exceeded female births in the proportion of 108 to 100. 163 still births were recorded during the year as against 119 in the previous year. ~~The increase is due to better registration.~~ 6,989 deaths were registered during the year as against 7,010 in the preceding year, the death-rate being 18.2 against 18.3 per 1000 in 1932. The corrected death-rate on the estimated population was 17.7 in 1933 against 18.00 per 1000 in 1932.

Infant Mortality.- 1,638 infants died before completing their first year of life, giving an infant mortality rate of 136.6 per 1000 births against 138.3 - the average of the last 5 years. ~~The report states that prenatal factors resulting in premature births or debility are responsible for a comparatively high proportion of infant death.~~

Principal Causes of Death.- The principal causes of deaths during the year were (1) fevers including malaria, (2) respiratory diseases and (3) dysentery and diarrhoea. Cholera accounted for 29 deaths giving a death-rate of 0.07 per 1000 in 1933 as against 0.16 in 1932. The year under report marks the lowest cholera-mortality during the decennium. Small-Pox claimed 33 victims during the year against 36 in 1932. The death-rate per 1000 was 0.08 in 1933 against 0.09 in 1932. Respiratory diseases claimed 873 victims yielding a death-rate of 2.27 against 2.19 in the preceding year. The steady decline in the death-rate from pneumonia since the last 5 years is maintained during the year under report. The total number of deaths ~~in~~ dysentery and diarrhoea was 235 with a death-rate of 0.61 in 1933 against 0.72 in 1932. 94 deaths were recorded as due to child-birth, having occurred within 14 days of confinement. The maternal mortality was 7.8 per 1000 children born ~~g~~ against 7.0 in the previous year. +

\* Annual Administration Report of the Asansol Mines Board of Health for the year 1933-34. 1934. - pp.34+xx

The total number of deaths recorded from "Fever" was 3,013 with a death-rate of 7.87 against 7.9 per 1000 in 1932.

Sanitary Conditions.- Owing to absence of sanitary arrangement within the mines, the working places are exposed to constant contamination. This is evident from the fact that the pit water show a high content of faecal bacilli. The percentage of hook-worm infection among miners is also another proof of contamination. Provision of bucket latrines in the galleries, if the miners are prevailed upon to use them while at work, would minimise this risk they are exposed to. The adverse economic condition prevailing in the Coalfield is bound to react on the health of the miner in the near future. Amenities, not enjoyed by the general population, such as medical supervision, free treatment in the colliery dispensary, good water supply and conservancy service, conduce to maintain the standard of health in the mine areas on a higher level compared to what obtains in the rural areas.

Health Propaganda.- Propaganda work which is a necessary adjunct of a Health Department and without which public health cannot proceed along healthy lines has now, in the course of the last 3 years, become a regular and important branch of the activities of the Health Department. It is stated that signs are not wanting to prove that people are reaping the benefit of systematic and continuous propaganda since 1931. The work of the Propaganda Officer consisted mainly in delivering lantern lectures, making house-to-house visits at epidemic periods, supporting leprosy and maternity work by special lectures to local residents and paving the way for the Health Visitors' work in connection with maternity and infant welfare by preliminary persuasion. Lantern lectures on the following subjects were delivered during the year:- Cholera, Small-Pox, Leprosy, Maternity and Infant Welfare, Malaria, Tuberculosis and General sanitation.

School Hygiene.- Medical inspection of school children was carried out by the Board's School Medical Officer, to detect diseases and deformities, intimate the guardians about the defects found out *and* ~~to enlist~~ the co-operation of teachers and guardians with a view to ensure treatment ~~and inspection of school sanitation~~. The School Medical Officer visited 54 out of 212 schools during the year and examined a total of 4,206, of which 3,867 were boys and 339 girls against 3,340 in the preceding year. Altogether 51 Boys' Schools were visited, of which 6 were High English Schools, 7 Middle English Schools, 10 Upper Primary Schools, 19 Lower Primary Schools and 9 Madrasas. In addition, 3 girls' schools including one High School was also visited during the year.

Maternity and Child Welfare.- The nature and scope of welfare work for infants and mothers have been considerably amplified during the last 3 years. In pursuance of the policy of providing maternity and Infant Welfare Centres in selected areas, approved by the Board in 1932, one Centre was opened at Ushagram at the end of that year and two more during the year under report - at Sitarampur and Sitalpur. The Maternity staff has also been reorganised in order to fit in with the scheme. Three trained Health Visitors were provided for in

addition to 3 midwives. The demand for Health Visitors in Bengal is so great that only one was available during the year. One of Board's midwives was sent for training to the Health School in Calcutta and obtained the necessary qualification. The midwives were posted in suitable localities adjoining important groups of collieries viz at Charanpur, Kajora and Ukhara but the work was interrupted owing to sickness, vacancy and study leave. The scope of work in each centre includes ante-natal, natal and post-natal supervision and also a clinic for infants and mothers where provision has been made for a welfare centre.

Finances of the Board. - The total income of the Board excluding opening balance of Rs. 59,580/- amounted to Rs. 118,777/- against Rs. 110,918/- in the preceding year. The total expenditure of the Board amounted to Rs. 105,026/- against Rs. 161,914/- (including an investment of Rs. 59,198/-) in the previous year. The credit balance of the Board at the end of the year under report was Rs. 73,331/- (excluding Rs. 57,750/- invested in Government securities) There was no loan outstanding against the Board and its financial position was satisfactory.

~~(The report on the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 58-60 of the November 1933 report of this Office).~~

Cess was levied during the year under review on mineowners at Re. 1-6-0 per 100 tons on the annual average output of the mine and on royalty-receivers at 15% of the road cess payable as against Re. 1-10-0 and 20% in the preceding year. The cess assessed on mineowners for the year under report amounted to Rs. 88,803/- as compared with Rs. 97,913/- for the previous year. The decrease was due to the appreciable reduction in the rate of cess. The cess assessed on royalty-receivers for the year under review amounted to Rs. 14,074/- as compared with Rs. 19,577/- for the previous year.

(The Report on the Asansol Mines Board of Health for 1932-33 is reviewed at pages 58-60 of the November 1933 report of this Office). +

Co-operation.

✓ Progress of Cooperation in Bihar and Orissa, 1933\*. †

The following information regarding the progress of the co-operative movement in Bihar and Orissa is taken from the Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1933, issued by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the Province.

General Progress. - According to the report, <sup>a</sup>the policy of caution in the matter of registration of new societies continued to be followed. The total number of societies registered during the year was 95 as against 81 in the previous year. Shortage of funds in central banks due to poor recoveries also acted as an indirect check on expansion. By the end of the year under report, the total number of working societies was 8,901 as against 9,054 at the end of the previous year. The stress laid on consolidation and cautious financing during the last few years had the untoward consequence of the starvation of even good societies and honest members. The danger of stagnation has therefore become real and the question whether the rate of advance in new organization cannot now be accelerated has assumed importance.

Provincial Cooperative Bank. - The Provincial Bank worked satisfactorily during the year. Its working capital increased by Rs. 1 million and stood at Rs. 9.2 millions at the end of the year, the increase being mainly due to deposits of all kinds rising steadily throughout the year in spite of reduction in the rates of interest. The total amount of deposits held by the bank was Rs. 7.9 millions as against Rs. 7.038 millions last year, the increase being largely made up of savings deposits which stood at Rs. 1.604 millions as against Rs. 1.091 millions last year. Out of the total deposits held at the end of the year under report, Rs. 6.303 millions were held ~~at the end of the year under report~~ from individuals and Rs. 1.6 millions from co-operative banks and societies, as against Rs. 5.866 and Rs. 1.172 millions respectively last year. The statutory reserve of the Bank rose from Rs. 325,000 to Rs. 345,000, and the reserve contingencies, which is a provision against bad debts, increased by Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 119,000. The total outstandings against banks and societies stood at Rs. 5.8 millions as against Rs. 5.3 millions. ~~Out~~ in the previous year. Out of these, Rs. 5.1 millions were in the form of loans and Rs. ~~Rs. 703,000~~ 703,000 as cash and maximum credits.

\* Report on the Working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar and Orissa for the year 1933 - Supdt., Government Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna. 1934. - Price - Rs.2/8/0 - pp.42-XLi.

The average rate charged on loans to central banks was 6.2 per cent as in the previous year, while the margin between the average borrowing and lending rates rose from Rs. .67 per cent to 1.13 per cent.

Central Banks. - The number of central banks and unions was the same as in the last year, viz. 66. Their paid-up share capital further decreased by Rs. 38,000 and stood at Rs. 2.225 millions. There was, however, an increase in their working capital by Rs. 171,000, the total amount at the end of the year being Rs. 22.704 millions. The paid up share capital and total reserves constituted 9.8 and 7.8 per cent of the working capital as against 10.04 and 7.6 per cent respectively last year. The statutory reserve alone was 4.2 per cent of the working capital. The proportion of owned to borrowed capital remained stationary, viz. 1:4.7. There was an increase by Rs. 66,000 in the total reserves of central banks and unions (including bad debt and other funds) which amounted to Rs. 1.787 millions. The total amount of the statutory reserves of the central banks was, however, stationary and stood at Rs. 972,000 as in the preceding year. Out of this a sum of Rs. 546,000 or 56.1 per cent was separately invested. Five banks held statutory reserves exceeding Rs. 40,000 each, as against 6 last year.

Agricultural Societies. - There was a further fall by 120 in the number of agricultural societies, the total number at the end of the year being 8,479. The total membership of such societies also decreased by 2,994 to 228,238. The working capital decreased from Rs. 22.305 to Rs. 21.2 millions and the reserve fund fell from Rs. 3.541 to Rs. 3.507 millions. The paid-up share capital of the societies amounted to Rs. 1.571 millions at the end of the year as against Rs. 1.605 millions ~~x~~ last year. The percentage of share capital and reserves to working capital works out at 23.8 as against 23.07 last year. The total amount of loans advanced to members during the year under report was Rs. 541,000 as against Rs. 698,000 last year which shows that financing continued on a restricted scale.

Non-Agricultural Societies. - There was a decrease in the number of these societies by 7, the total number at the end of the year being 310. The membership of the societies also decreased by 96 to 28,564. The working capital and the reserve fund, however, increased from Rs. 4.093 millions and Rs. .44 millions to Rs. 4.338 millions and Rs. .45 millions respectively. The total profit earned during the year amounted to Rs. .197 millions as against Rs. .132 millions last year. The principal kinds of non-agricultural societies in the province were, employees' societies, provincial employees' associations, weavers' societies, fishermen's societies, societies for depressed classes, artisans' societies, home industries associations, thrift societies, and a cooperative press.

(The report on the working of Co-operative Societies in Bihar & Orissa for the year 1932 is reviewed at pages 74-76 of the November 1933 report of this Office.) †

Women and Children.

9th All-India Women's Conference - 1934, Karachi. \*

The 9th annual session of the All-India Women's Conference was held at Karachi on 29-12-1934 under the presidentship of Mrs. Rustomji Faridoonji. The Conference adopted resolutions on a wide range of subjects including health and welfare of women and children, legal and political disabilities of women, minimum age for marriage, polygamy, birth-control, co-education, mass education, rural uplift, and improvement of the conditions of working women. The following are some of the more important resolutions relating to labour adopted by the Conference:-

Housing in Mining Areas.- We recommend that the authorities in the mining areas should bring all their houses up to the standard required, in as short a time as possible and they should take into account the necessity for providing for more privacy. We recommend that latrines should be provided for the convenience of workers over the whole of the mining and factory areas and the people be encouraged to use them.

Extension of Hospital Facilities.- We recommend that enough hospitals should be built to provide for the workers of all the mines and that the infant welfare work be extended to bring it within the reach of all women workers.

Need for All-India Maternity Act.- We feel strongly that the time has come for an All-India Maternity Act, and recommend that a bill be introduced as soon as possible. Conditions in the factories and mines make this specially urgent.

Schools for Workers' Children.- We urge that primary schools be established for the education of the children of the miners and factory workers, so that the recently introduced increased minimum age limit for child workers may yield its fullest benefit.

The Outstill System.- We recommend that the Outstill system in Behar be discontinued as it is detrimental to the health and efficiency of the miners.

Employment of Women Underground.- We agree with the recommendations of the investigation committee that it would be a retrograde step to go back to employing women underground and as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour this process of elimination be completed by 1939. We also urge that, simultaneously, the women who are being deprived of work be found other employment on the surface, on the lines suggested in the report of the Committee.

Technical Education.- Whereas prolonged or occasional unemployment is the greatest menace to the well-being of Indian labour we

urge that steps should be taken either through lending a technical bias to all primary education wherever <sup>available</sup> ~~available~~ or by a system of adult education to increase the general efficiency of the labourers so that if loss of employment occurs in one industry, they can be readily absorbed into others.

Imported Labour.- As the system of using imported labour generally causes an uprooting of the labouring population from their traditional ~~xx~~ environment, resulting in moral and physical decadence, we urge that all labour be recruited locally even if obtained at a higher cost. Shifting of entire population and rendering local population unemployed should be avoided for socio-moral reasons however profitable it may be industrially.

Encouragement of Local Products.- We recommend that a detailed study be made of the commodities that workers usually consume and that efforts be made to produce those that are most commonly used, locally and with the help of unemployed ~~or with~~ men, women and children, ~~partly~~ ~~partly~~ in order to ameliorate the condition of the local workers. We also urge that propaganda be made in all industrial areas to enlighten the workers regarding the benefits of buying locally made things.

Minimum Age of Child Workers.- We regret that the Geneva recommendation regarding the minimum age of child labourers has not been acted upon by the Government of India in the new Factories Act, and record that in our opinion no child under 14 years should be employed as a labourer.

Provision of Creches.- As the newly amended Factories Act does not make the provision of creches compulsory for employers of woman labour and as it is now believed by authorities that much of the infant mortality in India is due to the ~~the~~ neglect of children of working mothers, we strongly urge the Government to remove this important defect, so that creches are made compulsory throughout India.

Maximum Loads for Women.- As women are sometimes forced to carry heavy loads which is detrimental to their health, it is desirable that a maximum load should be fixed for them by the Government. We therefore recommend that investigations should be made regarding this maximum weight and legislation enacted accordingly.

(Extracted from a communication sent to this Office by the Secretary, Delhi Provincial Council of Women). +



## EDUCATION

### Progress of Mining Education in India, 1933.

The following information about the progress made in mining education during 1933 is taken from the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for 1933 on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad. - At the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, the number of students on the roll at the commencement of the session 1932-33 was 50, of whom 14 were in the first year, 12 in the second year, 14 in the third year and 10 in the fourth year. At the commencement of the session 1933-34 there were 51 students on the roll. The school granted diplomas and certificates in Geology, Mining, Engineering and Metal Mining. The mine surveying camp was pitched at Godhur colliery during the month of November 1933 and 32 students of the second, third and fourth years and one special student were in attendance. Visits and tours of inspection were paid to the mica mines of Kadamra, the copper and iron mines of Singhbhum and to many local collieries and places of geological interest in the neighbourhood of the School. In addition, the senior geology students were taken to places of geological importance in the Punjab and other places. Four former students obtained the first class coal mines managers' certificate and eleven obtained the second class coal mine managers' certificate at the examinations held by the Board of Examiners in February 1933. The lectures were well attended by mine managers and colliery engineers. Research work into improvements in the methods of manufacture of soft coke was carried out at the School on behalf of the Indian Soft Coke Cess Committee. The total number of students who have successfully completed the courses at the School up to date is as follows: Diploma of Associateship in Mining Engineering.-56; Diploma of Associateship in Geology - 19; Certificates in Coal Mining, Metal Mining or Geology -40; Total = 115. Nearly all passed students are in employment.

Department of Mining, B.H. University.- In the Department of Mining and Metallurgy at the Benares Hindu University, there were 74 students on the roll during the session 1933-34. Of these, 27 were in the first year, 17 in the second year, 6 in the third year mining, 11 in the third year metallurgy, 4 in the fourth (final) year mining, and 9 in the fourth (final) year metallurgy classes. Five students passed the Final examination for the degree of B.Sc. in Mining and 8 in Metallurgy. Up to date the total number of mining graduates is 18. During the year visits were paid to several coal mines in the Jharia, Raniganj, Rewa and the Central Provinces coalfields, copper mines and stone quarries and to iron, steel and copper works, coke works, refractory material works, etc. The geological camp was held in the Fench Valley coalfield of the Central Provinces.

The Mining Education Advisory Board.- The Mining Education Advisory Board continued to control the three year courses of evening instruction for mining students instituted by the Governments of Bengal and Bihar and Orissa. The lecture centres were at Raniganj and Sitarampur in the Raniganj coalfield and at Jharia and Sijua in the Jharia coalfield. During the session 1932-33 and total number of students enrolled was 85 of whom 28 attended the classes of the third stage. Of these students, 21 appeared at the final examination and 16 were successful. Courses of ten lectures were delivered in Hindi to overmen and sirdars at seven centres in the Jharia coalfield. Similar lectures in Bengali were delivered at fifteen centres in the Raniganj coalfield. At the Jharia and Sitarampur lecture halls special demonstrations in gas testing were given by the Mining lecturers. From August to November 1933 special classes in Mine Surveying preparatory for the examination for the mine surveyors' certificate of competency were held in the Jharia coalfield

Evening Mining Classes, Bengal. - The evening mining classes in Bengal were temporarily closed with effect from 1st April 1933. The general vernacular classes in coal mining for sirdars and the vernacular classes in gas testing were, however, retained.

Mining Instruction in C.P. - Mining instruction in the Pench Valley coalfield of the Central Provinces, which, after being given for a few years, ceased in 1928, owing to lack of support by students, was resumed in 1933. A grant was given by the Local Government and a committee of management formed. There was a total enrolment of 28 students and the attendance was gratifying. It is hoped that the classes will continue to be successful.

#### Industrial Education in Bihar & Orissa:

##### Progress during 1933-34\*

The total number of Government and aided institutions offering technical education and industrial training of all kinds in the province during the year was 22 of which 12 were Government institutions and 10 aided institutions. There was no change either in the number of these institutions or in their system of administration and control. The total number of pupils in attendance at the close of the year was 1,866 as against 1,878 in the previous year. The fall was due to the smaller number of admissions in some institutions owing to general depression.

Government Institutions.- Civil Engineering, both for the degree and subordinate standard, is taught in the Bihar College of

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\* Department of Industries. - Annual Report of the Director of Industries, Bihar and Orissa, for the year 1933.34, - Supdt., Govt. Printing, Bihar and Orissa, Patna. -1934- Price Re. 1.

Engineering while in the Orissa School of Engineering the course of teaching is for the subordinate standard only. Industrial Diploma classes are run in all the four Government institutions, viz., the Bihar College of Engineering, the Orissa School of Engineering, the Tirhut Technical Institute and the Ranchi Technical School. In addition, motor engineering is taught in the Bihar College of Engineering and the Ranchi Technical School and leather craft in the Tirhut Technical Institute and the Ranchi Technical School. Handloom weaving in cotton, silk and wool is taught in the Cottage Industries Institute, Gulzarbagh, the Silk Institute, Bhagalpur, and the Wool Institute, Gaya, respectively. Training is also given in Industrial Chemistry by the Chemical Adviser to the Director of Industries at the Science College, Patna. Carpentry, fitting, turning, blacksmithy, painting and moulding are taught at the Dehti Workshop Industrial classes, while weaving, carpentry and blacksmithy are taught at the Government Industrial School, Phulbani. Students are trained for the second class colliery managers' certificate examination at the Evening Mining classes at Jharia and Sijua. A class for training compositors, letter-press printers and book-binders is also run at the Government Printing Press, Gulzarbagh.

The Bihar College of Engineering.- This is the premier technical college of the province. There was no change in the standard and the course of instruction. Owing to continued depression and unemployment amongst passed students there was a further fall from 47 to 31 in the number of applications for admission in the Civil Engineering Degree course in the college. As very few applications were received from persons belonging to the province or domiciled therein, six admissions were made from candidates outside the province. Altogether 21 candidates including two repeaters were admitted, of whom, 18, 18, 37 and 27 respectively appeared for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year respectively of the Civil Engineering Degree Course. ~~Of these, 18, 14, 14 and 31 respectively passed.~~

The Prince of Wales Reception Fund Scholarship could not be awarded during the year as no student passed the degree examination in the first division. The number of applications for admission for Civil Engineering Subordinate Course in the College fell from 71 in the previous year to 50 in the year under review. 24 students including three repeaters were admitted. 40 took the final certificate examination of whom 31 passed. The Industrial Diploma course of the College continued to be popular. Out of 82 applications, only 21 candidates were admitted. 16, 12, 11 and 6 students appeared for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year examinations, respectively, of whom 9, 8, 7 and 5 respectively, passed. The total strength of the College on the 31st March, 1934 was 257 as against 265 in the previous year.

Orissa School of Engineering. - There was no change in the

course of study for the Civil Engineering Subordinate classes. During the year 35 candidates offered themselves for admission of whom 18 were admitted. During the year under review, 15, 19 and 19 respectively passed in the 1st, 2nd and 3rd year respectively of the examinations of the Civil Engineering Subordinate Standard. 18 applicants were admitted in the Industrial Diploma Course. 14, 14, 8 and 8 students appeared at the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year workshop practical examinations respectively and all passed. 14, 11, 4 and 3 students sat for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th year theory examinations respectively, of whom 14, 8, 3 and 3 respectively passed. The total strength of the school on the 31st March 1934, was 115 as against 112 in the previous year.

Ranchi Technical Institute. - During the year under review 53 students were admitted as against 31 in the previous year. Of these, 34 were assigned to the Industrial Diploma class, 8 to the Improvers' class and 11 to the Leather Working class. The total number of students on the roll of the school on the 31st March 1934 was 153 as against 138 in the previous year, while the maximum number of students during the year was 255 as against 209 last year. During the year 46 students completed their training. The receipts on account of private work ~~done~~ done by the school rose from Rs. 3,878 in the previous year to Rs. 4,257.

Tirhut Technical Institute. - 166 applications were received but only 42 could be admitted. The total number of students on the roll on the 31st March 1934, was 87 as against 74 in the previous year. 61 students sat for the various sessional examinations, of whom 60 passed.

Aided Institutions.- The East Indian Railway Technical School at Jamalpur trains apprentices in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering with particular reference to Railways, while an elementary training in mechanical and electrical engineering is given at the Technical Night School at Jamshedpur. Carpentry and iron fitting are taught at the Balasore Technical School. In the remaining aided institutions the subjects taught include knitting, weaving, ~~weaving~~ spinning, toy-making and basketry. Two of these institutions are for girls, viz., the St. Ritas' Knitting School at Bettiah and the Shalter Industrial School at Cuttack.

Grants-in-Aid.- During the year under review, the Department sanctioned recurring grants-in-aid to various technical and industrial institutions amounting to Rs. 38,159. ~~xx xxxxxxxx~~ A sum of Rs. 414 was also given as a non-recurring equipment grant to the Balasore Technical School. The total expenditure incurred on technical and industrial institutions, both Government and aided, was Rs. 511,112 as against Rs. 520,280 in the previous year. +

Proposal to decasualise Dock Labour:

Objections of Karachi Port Trust Board. +

It will be recalled that Government of India had announced their intention to apply the recommendations of the Whitley Commission for the registration of dock labour as an experimental measure to the Karachi port. A representative conference of the Port Trust authorities and organisations of employers and workers concerned with dock labour at Karachi Port was held at the office of the Karachi Port Trust on 10-1-1933 to consider the question of de-casualisation of dock labour. (For an account of the conference see pages 68-69 of the report of this Office for January 1933)

The Karachi Port Trust Board, at a recent meeting, considered this question, and passed a resolution to the effect that it would be very unfair to single out the port of Karachi for this hazardous experiment, which the Karachi Port Trust Board has opposed most strenuously as being entirely detrimental to the financial stability of the port and not in the interests of the labourers employed. In the Port Trust Board's view, by its operation the labourers will become largely unemployed because of the trade disorganisation which will inevitably result. The board, while sympathising with the previous measures passed for the benefit of dock and other labourers, such as the Workmen's Compensation Act, is of the opinion that the registration of dock labour will be a disastrous mistake if applied to Karachi for the following reasons:

Costly and Cumbersome Experiment. - Dock workers are in four categories so that a register will have to be in these categories, thus adding to its inherent cumbersomeness and costliness, the

~~the~~ expense of which will fall on the labourers in the form of registration fees.

Migratory Nature of Dock Labour.- Most of the labourers are not from Karachi but come from outside and are in most cases migratory and the register will have either to be constantly changed or to be made to include a much larger number of men to allow for the absentees; even so riots among the Makrani and other foreign labourers when shut out from work for want of registration certificates are likely possibilities.

Diversion of Trade to Kathiawar.-In the event of a rush of shipping, the port will get a bad name ~~for quick dispatch~~ owing to the shortage of registered labour; moreover the stevedores will in any case lose an hour or more of work of the labour per day while the certificates are being checked up. All this will add to the cost of work in the port and will ultimately lead to the transfer of trade to Kathiawar ports, where such regulations will not be in force.

Wages Satisfactory: No Call for Official Interference.- The wages of dock labourers have risen in the course of the last 15 years by 100 per cent and their hours of work reduced by 22 per cent., where as the wages of other labourers in Karachi have not improved at all in many cases so that there is no call for official interference with the ordinary laws of supply and demand in the case of dock labourers.

Break up of Gang System.-The proposed registration will tend to break up the gang system by which men work together by families, class or villages, and will interfere with the very efficient organisation for work. The board hopes that in view of these very serious objections, Government will not press the matter further.

Strong opposition to the proposal is being manifested by the Stevedores of Karachi.

(The Times of India, 6-12-1934)

Maritime Affairs.

Calcutta Dock-workers' Strike Settled:

Joint Arbitration Committee's Award.

At pages 68 to 69 of the report of this Office for November 1934 reference was made to the dock-workers' strike at Calcutta which started on 26-11-1934. A Joint Arbitration Committee was appointed to settle the strike.

The following terms in the form of an agreement between ship-owners' representatives, stevedores represented by the Master Stevedores' Association, and stevedores' labourers represented by the Calcutta Dockers' Union, have been drawn up by the Joint Arbitration Committee.

A copy of the agreement, which is to come into force on January 9, has been sent to the Government of Bengal.

Time.- Between March 16 and September 15, work to begin at 7 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. with two hours' rest during the day, namely, 7 a.m. to 12 noon, and 2 till 5 p.m.

Between September 16 and March 15 work to begin at 8 a.m. and end at 5 p.m. with one hour's rest during the day, namely, 8 a.m. to 12 noon, and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Night work - 7 p.m. till 4 a.m.

The men will be required to go on board not earlier than a quarter of an hour before the work begins, namely, at 6.45 a.m. and 7.45 a.m. and 6.45 p.m., as the case may be, to open the hatches, etc. Work will not in any event begin before the scheduled time. If work is begun before scheduled time the overtime pay of one hour must be paid.

Composition of Gang.- Each gang is to be composed of 1 Sirdar and 8 men, namely, 1 Sirdar, 1 Mate, 4 Khamalias, and 3 Rolias.

Wages.- Day wages per gang - Rs. 14-4-0; and night wages per gang - Rs. 18-4-0. Rate for half day, Rs. 8 and rate for half night, Rs. 10.

Overtime - Rs. 2-8-0 per gang; that is, 4 annas per person, and the balance to the Sirdar.

Winchmen.- Day wages - Re. 1-4-0, night wages - Re. 1-12-0; overtime - 4 annas per hour. As regards winchmen it has been brought to notice that they are required to pay 4 annas to the Serang or Tindal; they will not henceforth be required to pay this amount. The existing system of providing a relieving Winchman shall be continued.

Gangs per hook.- Whenever the stevedores can possibly do so they will put on two gangs per hook; but when there is insufficient cargo, then it is left to their discretion. In particular, when ships work with long derricks from two lighters at the same time two gangs per hook must be employed.

Penalties.- No gang shall be penalized for insufficient outturn. The Stevedores expect that the gangs will do a reasonable day's work.

Waiting Gangs.- If gangs are booked at the appointed time they will be paid their daily wages. A Stevedore may book a gang within one hour of the starting time. If he does not book the gang within that hour he will pay one hour's Khoraki, that is Rs. 2-8-0. If any work is done and the men are discharged before the half day (that is, before 12 noon) or half night (that is, before 12 midnight) they must be paid half day's or half night's wages, and not part wages. This does not apply to the B.I. Company, where the original agreement of Rs.3 and Rs. 4 is being adhered to.

Work after half-time.- If the men do any work after a half day's or half night's work they will be paid wages for the whole day or whole night, and not, as is alleged, Khoraki for part time work.

Dismissals.- No worker shall be dismissed capriciously and without reason, but the Stevedores shall have absolute control over their labour and may appoint their workers as they wish, or discharge them for sufficient reason.

Salt petty contracts.- It has been brought to notice that Stevedores are giving out sub-contracts in respect of salt ships at low rates to petty contractors. It is alleged that this results in unemployment of several ratings, in gangs being formed of fewer men, in men being dismissed after half day's work, and only a few being left to finish the work at high pressure. The Stevedores are themselves to work the salt ships under their own supervision and will be responsible for the manner in which the work is done and that the system of giving out petty contracts is henceforth abolished.

Gratuities.- It is alleged that some agents of the Stevedores charge 8 annas from each Sirdar per salt gang; and Rs.2 from each Sirdar per Pali, and the Deck foreman charges 2 annas per Sirdar. No such gratuity is to be paid in future, and no one shall be penalised for not paying these gratuities.

Mode of Wage Payments.- The schedule of rates as determined herein will be kept in the office of every Stevedore. The men are to be paid strictly according to schedule. If any worker is not paid according to schedule he will be entitled to complain to the Stevedores either directly or through the Union.

Representations.- The Union will be entitled to represent any cases of hardship, or deviation from the agreement to the individual stevedores, or to the Master Stevedores' Association. Failing a settlement, the Union will be entitled to call upon the Steamer Agents, and the Stevedores, to convene an Arbitration Committee.

Arbitration Committees.- The Arbitration Committee shall be formed of three representatives each of the steamer Agents, the Stevedores and the Union. All matters in dispute are to be submitted to them.

Strikes.- No strike shall take place without proper notice of at least 15 days having been submitted to Government, the Steamship Agents and the Master Stevedores' Association. Before any such notice is issued the Union shall call upon the above bodies to convene an Arbitration Committee, and shall place before such committee all its grievances. The Steamship Agents and the Stevedores declare their willingness to convene and form an Arbitration Committee whenever called upon by the Union to do so.

Recognition of Union.- The Steamship Companies and the Stevedores recognize the Calcutta Dockers' Union as distinguished from the Port and Dock Workers' Union, as a legitimate Trade Union formed in the



interests of the workers. They declare that they will have nothing to do with Unions formed under Communist or subversive influences.

Rates of Wages. - The gangs shall be formed and paid in the following manner:-

	<u>Day</u>	<u>Night</u>
	<u>Rs. A.</u>	<u>Rs. A.</u>
Sirdar	2 12	3 9
1 mate	2 1	2 10
2 Bara Khamalia	1 13 each	2 4 each
2 Chhota Khamalia	1 7 each	1 13 each
2 Rolias	1 0 each	1 6 each
1 Rolia	0 15	1 3
	<u>14 4</u>	<u>18 8</u>

The agreement prescribes certain rates of wages for salt gangs also. The increase in pay per gang of Re.1-12-0 and the overtime pay of Rs.2-8-0 per gang, as well as the hours of work will apply to Salt gangs.

(The Statesman, 7-1-1935).\*

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Migration.

Indians in Kenya: Need for Domicile Certificates. †

It is understood that the Kenya immigration authorities have found it necessary to draw attention to the need for the possession of certificates of domicile and in a letter addressed to the Indian Association, Mombasa, a few weeks ago, the Immigration Officer has asked that as wide publicity as possible be given to the desirability of Indians and others obtaining such certificates before leaving the Colony. The position is that any person who has completed in the aggregate a total period of residence in Kenya of five years may claim domiciliary rights. A person thus domiciled is exempted from the provisions of Section 5(a) of the Immigration Restriction Ordinance and is not compelled to make a deposit with the immigration authorities on arrival or to find security by bond. Experience has shown that in the absence of a document like the certificate of domicile, the Immigration Officer has no option but to demand security and as certificates can always be obtained on payment of a fee and the submission of two photos with proof of five years' residence, i.e., poll tax receipts for this period or a sworn affidavit made before a magistrate, an appeal is made for co-operation with the Immigration Department. It is added that while certificates of domicile are unnecessary for married women they might possibly be of use in the case of widows.

(The Statesman, 10-12-1934) †

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Indians in Western Australia;

A Bill to Remove Franchise Disability. \*

It is reported that at a recent meeting of the local Legislative Assembly in Western Australia a bill has been introduced to remove disability against Indian residents from being registered as electors for the Assembly. As Western Australia is the only state in the Commonwealth in which such disability exists the move for removal is warmly welcomed. At present all the natives of Asia are disqualified. Hereafter Indians will not be so disqualified.

(The National Call, 9-12-1934) \*