

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

REPORT FOR APRIL 1936.

(N.B.-Every section of the Report may be taken out separately).

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References to the I.L.O.

The Excerpts from the proceedings of the Committee of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce during February 1936, publishes a note announcing the items on the agenda of the 20th I.L.Conference.

* * *
The Hindustan Times dated 8-4-36 and Federated India dated 15-4-36 publish a news item to the effect that the non-official Indian delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference will be composed of Rao Sahib R.W.Fulay and Mr. Selvapathy Chetty representing workers and Sir Homi Mehta and Mr. Sodhbans representing employers. It is stated that Sir B.D.Mitra is not likely to lead the Government delegation and that Sir Atul Chatterjee is likely to be nominated for the purpose.

* * *
The Hindustan Times dated 3-4-36 publishes a news item to the effect that Lieutenant Sodhbans of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Lahore, has been nominated adviser to the Indian employers' delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference.

* * *
The Times of India dated 4-4-36, the Indian Labour Journal dated 5-4-36 and the Hindustan Times dated 7-4-36 publish a news item to the effect that Rao Sahib R.W.Fulay, M.L.C., has been nominated Indian workers' delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference.

* * *
The Hindustan Times and the Bombay Chronicle dated 8-4-1936, the National Call dated 9-4-36 and the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 23-4-36 publish a news item to the effect that Mr. Selvapathy Chetty of Madras has been invited by the Government of India to attend the 20th I.L.Conference as an adviser to the Indian workers' delegate to the Conference.

* * *
A communique on the 74th Session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 6-3-1936) is published by "Federated India", Madras, dated 22-4-36.(vide Encl.No.1 to H.4/504/36 dated 30-4-36).

* * *
A communique re. "Labour Conditions in French India: Complaint to the I.L.O" (issued by this Office on 14-4-36), was published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 16-4-1936, the National Call dated 18-4-1936, the Leader dated 19-4-1936, the Times of India dated 20-4-1936, "Commerce and Industry, Delhi,

the Hindu and the Bombay Chronicle dated 21-4-1936, the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 23-4-36, the Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 25-4-36 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 26-4-36 (vide Encl.Nos. 8 to 13 of H.4/470/36 dated 23-4-36 and Nos. 8 to 11 of H.4/504/36 dated 30-4-36).

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-4-1936 reproduces a note from the Press Reports of the I.F.T.U. dealing with the protest entered by the workers' group in the Governing Body at its 74th session, regarding the persecution of certain labour leaders in Austria and Chile.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 8-4-36 reproduces from the weekly Bulletin of the I.F.T.U. a note on the resolution requesting the delegates to the I.L.Conference to support a 6-hour day for miners adopted at a meeting of the Miners' International Federation, held in Holland in January 1936.

* * *

The Times of India dated 2-4-1936 publishes a news item to the effect that the British Government has given negative replies to the I.L.O. questionnaires re. reduction of hours of work to 40-per week in the iron and steel, building and engineering industries.

* * *

The March 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, reproduces the note on the Conference of textile workers in Great Britain to consider the 40-Hour Week, published in "Industrial and Labour Information" dated 17-2-1936)

* * *

The Industrial Bulletin dated 6-4-36 (issued by the Employers' Federation of India) publishes a note summarising the presidential speeches at the last annual meetings of the Employers' Federation of New South Wales and the Victorian Employers Federation, Melbourne. Both speeches contained unsympathetic references to the 40-hour week sponsored by the I.L.O.

* * *

The same issue as above publishes extracts from the report presented at the last annual general meeting of the New Zealand Employers' Federation, dealing, among other subjects, with the attitude of the Federation towards the question of a 40-hour week.

* * *

The April 1936 issue of the Union Herald, Bombay, publishes an editorial article on the Railway Budget for 1936-37. In the course of the article references are made to the dilatory policy adopted by the Government of India in applying the Washington and Geneva Conventions re. hours of work and weekly rest to Indian railways.

* * *

Resolution in Legislative Assembly recommending non-ratification of Draft Conventions re. Hours of Work in Coal Mines and Maintenance of Migrant Workers' Pension Rights: Summary of debates were published by the Hindu, the Hindustan Times, the Statesman and the Times of India of 16-4-1936 and the Leader, the Bombay Chronicle and the National Call of 17-4-1936.

* * *

Attention is directed to the speeches of Mr. P.N.Sapru and Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das in the course of the debate on the resolution on unemployment in the Council of State on 25-3-36 (vide pages 468 and 485-487 of Vol. I No.12 of the Council of State Debates of 1936). Numerous references to the Director's Report to the 19th I.L.Conference and to other publications of the I.L.O. giving information regarding measures taken by various countries to alleviate unemployment were made by the two speakers, who were supplied with notes by this Office.

* * *

A communique re. Blue Report on Holidays with Pay (issued by this Office on 25-4-36) was published by the following: the Hindustan Times dated 26-4-36, the National Call dated 27-4-1936, the Statesman and the Times of India dated 28-4-36 (vide Enc.Nos. 3 to 6 of H.4/504/36 dated 30-4-1936).

* * *

The Times of India dated 28-4-1936 publishes a short note giving statistics of unemployment from figures recently issued by the I.L.O. for the first quarter of 1936.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 19-4-36 publishes a short article under the caption: "Public works and Unemployment". The article was sent to the paper by this Office.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 18-4-1936 publishes a short

editorial note on the above. The note supports the adoption of public works programmes as a measure for the alleviation of unemployment.

* * *

The issues of the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 12, 19 and 26-4-1936 reproduce from the March 1936 issue of the International Labour Review the article: "The Abolition of Unemployment in the U.S.S.R." by Prof. Boris Markus.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 8-4-1936 publishes the usual weekly contribution sent by this Office to the paper. The article deals with juvenile unemployment and refers in some detail to the work of the I.L.O. in this field.

* * *

A communique re. the second International Congress on Social Policy (issued by this Office on 23-3-1936) is published by the Bombay Chronicle dated 1-4-1936 (vide Encl.No.1 of H.4/406/36 dated 9-4-1936).

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 15-4-1936 publishes the usual weekly contribution sent by this Office to the paper. The article deals with the forth-coming 2nd International Congress on Social Policy.

* * *

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 7-4-36 reproduces the item: "The Migration of Workers" included in I.L.O. News Bulletin No.9 (March 1936). (Copies of the Bulletin were forwarded to Indian newspapers and periodicals by this Office).

* * *

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 21-4-1936 reproduces the items: "The I.L.O. and Social Insurance" and "Opium and Labour" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No.9 (March 1936).

* * *

A communique re. the recent regional labour Conference of the American Member States of I.L.O. (issued by this Office on 26-2-1936) is published in the March 1936 issue of "Labour", Calcutta (vide Enc. No.20 of H.4/406/36 dated 9-4-36).

* * *

The March 1936 issue of "Contemporary India", Lahore, publishes a long article under the caption: "The I.L.O. and Social Reconstruction" contributed by the Director of this Office.

* * *

The same issue as above reproduces an article on "Indian Labour Legislation, 1911-1935" contributed by Mr. N.M.Joshi to the Asiatic Review. References are made in the course of the article to the influence of the I.L.O. in hastening the pace of labour legislation in this country.

* * *

The Director of this Office has been delivering a series of broadcast talks on social and economic developments in the post-war world with special reference to the work of the League of Nations and the I.L.O.

* * *

Indian Finance, Calcutta, dated 9-4-1936 publishes the text of a broadcast talk by the Director of this Office on "Recent Tendencies in World Economics". The 'talk' contained several references to the work of the I.L.O.

* * *

"Federated India", Madras, dated 15-4-1936 publishes a review, of the pamphlet: "Labour's New Charter" published by the General Council of the British Trade Union Congress.

* * *

The Planters' Chronicle, Madras, dated 18-4-1936 reproduces the text of the speech of Sir H.P.Mody at the third session of the Employers' Federation of India held at New Delhi on 28 and 29-3-1936. In the course of his speech, Sir Hormusji made unsympathetic references to the rapid output during recent years of Draft Conventions by the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Times of India dated 2-4-1936 publishes an editorial note under the heading: "Employers' Federation" commenting on the presidential address of Sir H.P.Mody at the 3rd annual meeting of the Employers' Federation of India, held at New Delhi recently. Dealing with Sir H.P.Mody's references to the I.L.O., the article says:

"It was time that somebody should speak with emphasis about the International Labour Organisation at Geneva. The trouble with the Organisation is that it does not recognise essential differences in various parts of the world and tries to produce all-embracing schemes which are fatuous in relation to local conditions. A typical example was the adoption of the principle of a forty-hour week for all countries coupled

With the conditions that the standard of living was not to be affected. At the moment this is an economic impossibility and for India it would be, as Sir H.P.Mody says, a criminal folly to adopt it. Why the International Labour Office continues to act as it does may be largely due to the fact that it is staffed by doctrinaires whose knowledge of practical business difficulties is nil."

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The Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during March 1936 publishes the presidential address of Sir Joseph Kay at the annual general meeting of the Association held on 23-3-1936. Stray references to the I.L.O. were made by Sir Joseph in the course of his presidential address.

* * *

A news item from Allahabad to the effect that the I.L.O. is examining the Sapru Committee report on unemployment was published by the Statesman and the Hindustan Times dated 6-4-1936, the Times of India, the Bombay Chronicle and the Leader dated 7-4-1936.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 5-4-1936 publishes the report of a meeting of those interested in the problems of workers and peasants held at Agra during the last week of March 1936. The meeting was addressed by Mr. N.M.Joshi and the Director of this Office; in the course of their speeches several reference were made to the work of the I.L.O.

* * *

The Hindu dated 31-3-1936 publishes an editorial note on the lecture delivered recently by Lord Amulree on "Industrial Arbitration" at the London School of Economics. In the course of the note reference is made to the work of collection of information bearing on industrial laws carried on by the I.L.O.

* * *

The Leader dated 8-4-1936 publishes the reproduction of an article under the caption "Joint Families in Japan" contributed to "New Order" by "A Japanese". In the course of the article reference is made to the improvement in the conditions of labourers in Japan due to the adoption by the country of a number of I.L. Conventions.

* * *

The following statement gives the list of Indian newspapers and periodicals which have published notes from the I.L.O. News Bulletin or commented on them & (The list is compiled only from

newspapers and periodicals received in this Office. In addition to these, copies of the News Bulletin are sent to over 140 addresses):-

1. "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 7-4-1936 reproduces item: "The Migration of Workers" included in I.L.O. News Bulletin No. 9 (March 1936).

2. "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 21-4-1936 reproduces items: "The I.L.O. and Social Insurance" and "Opium and Labour" from I.L.O. News Bulletin No. 9 (March 1936).

* * *

No message having reference to the I.L.O and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents was published in the Indian press during April 1936. †

8

Ratifications.

Draft Convention re. 40-Hour Week:

Council of State Recommends Non-ratification.

Reference was made at page 10 of our March 1936 report to the adoption by the Council of State of a Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention re. 40-Hour Week. For verbatim report of the debate on the question, attention is directed to pages 509 to 517 of the Council of State Debates of 26-3-1936.

Draft Convention re. Reduction of Hours of

Work (Glass Bottle Works): Council of State Recommends
non-ratification.

Reference was made at page 10 of our March 1936 report to the adoption by the Council of State of a Government resolution recommending non-ratification of the Draft Convention re. reduction of hours of work (glass bottle works). For full details regarding the debate, vide pages 517-518 of the Council of State Debates of 26-3-1936.

Draft Convention re. Hours of Work in Coal Mines:

Council of State Recommends Non-ratification.

Mr. A. G. Clow, Secretary, Industries and Labour Department, Government of India, moved a resolution in the Council of State on 15-4-1936 that the Council, having considered the draft Convention limiting the hours of work in coal mines (adopted by

the nineteenth session of the International Labour Conference) recommends to the Governor-General-in-Council that he does not ratify the convention. He pointed out that only a year ago ~~the~~ hours of work in mines were reduced and it was not proper to make any further radical reduction in ~~the~~ hours of work so soon, particularly as conditions in India were quite different.

The House adopted the resolution.

(The Statesman, 16-4-1936). +

Draft Convention re. Maintenance of Migrant Workers'

Pension Rights. +

Mr. A. G. Clow moved in the Council of State on 15-4-1936 a resolution urging non-ratification of the Draft Convention concerning the establishment of an international scheme for the maintenance of rights under invalidity, old-age and widows' and orphans' insurance (adopted by the nineteenth session of the International Labour Conference). He emphasised that in India there was no system of co-ordinating these conventions which were largely designed/ to suit European conditions. India, he said, was separated by thousands of miles from those countries and there was no opportunity of working out mutual schemes of co-ordination.

The resolution was adopted.

(The Statesman, 16-4-1936), +

Draft Conventions re. Reduction of Hours of
Work (Glass Bottle Works) and Hours of Work (Coal Mines)
(Revised): Legislative Assembly Recommends Non-ratification. †

On 21-4-1936, Sir Frank Noyce, Member in Charge of the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India, moved in the Legislative Assembly two resolutions recommending non-ratification of the Draft Conventions concerning the reduction of hours of work in glass-bottle works and limitation of hours of work in coal mines (revised 1935).

The two resolutions were adopted by the House.

(The Statesman, 22-4-1936) -

11

National Labour Legislation.

The Indore Maternity Benefits Act, 1936.

The Indore State Legislative Council, at its meetings held on 6 & 7-4-1936, took up for consideration the Indore Maternity Benefits Bill, 1936, which was introduced in the Council by the State Government.

Main Provisions of the Bill.- The Bill regulates the employment of women in factories some time before and some time after confinement. After this Act comes into operation no employer shall knowingly employ a woman in any factory during the four weeks up to the day of her delivery and the four weeks immediately following that day and no woman shall work during that period. If a woman has been employed in the factory for not less than 11 months, she will be entitled to the payment of maternity benefit at the rate of six annas a day in Indore city, and elsewhere at the rate of her average daily wages for a maximum period of eight weeks. If a woman dies during this period the maternity benefit shall be payable only for the days up to and including the day of her death. When a woman absents herself from work in accordance with the provisions of this Act, it shall not be lawful for her employer to give notice of dismissal during such absence.

Debate in Council.- The Commissioner for Excise and Commerce, who introduced the Bill, made out a strong case for the Bill. Indore, he said, was a centre of textile industry and had made considerable industrial progress during recent years. The number of mills and factories had increased considerably and over 15,000 labourers, including about 2,500 women labourers, were working in these. For these women, he said, maternity legislation was absolutely necessary. Mrs. Kamlabai Kibe, appealed to the mill-owners to accept the resolution, if for no other reasons, on grounds of humanity.

Opposition of Employers.- The representatives of industrial organisations and business men opposed it on grounds of depression and bad days for the textile industry. The opposition was led by

1.2. 12

Seth Bhanwar Lal Sethi who believed that women would be ultimate sufferers if this Bill was passed into law as the millowners would be reluctant to give them jobs. The women ^{would} supplemented their family income and their dismissal would consequently increase their hardship. Sir Hukam Chand, the leading business man of the State and the proprietor of several mills, said that the time was not opportune for the introduction of this Bill. Rai Bahadur Seth Hira Lal also opposed it.

Bill Passed.- The suggestion of Rai Sahib A.P. Bhargava to refer the Bill to a Select Committee and ~~the~~ ^{an} amendment to reduce the period and the rate of benefits were rejected. The Bill, when put to vote, was passed by a very large majority.

(The Statesman, 14-4-1936). †

(Requisition has been made for two copies of the Indore Maternity Benefits Act, 1936 and, when received, a copy will be forwarded to Geneva.)

The Code of Civil Procedure (Third Amendment)

Bill, 1935 (Amendment of Section 60): Select Committee's Report.

At pages 36-39 of our February 1935 report was given the full text of the Code of Civil Procedure (Third Amendment) Bill, 1935 (Amendment of Section 60), which seeks to prohibit the attachment of salaries below Rs. 100 per month. Below are given the more important changes made by the Select Committee of the Legislative Assembly appointed to examine the Bill.

Extent of Salaries Exempt from Attachment.- The majority

of the Committee is of opinion that the extent to which salaries should be exempt from attachment should be reduced from one hundred rupees and half the remainder to sixty rupees and half the remainder.

They are unanimously of opinion that the extent to which salary is exempted from attachment should be the same in all cases whether the salary is that of a member of the classes specified in the proposed clause (i) of the draft Bill, or otherwise; and they are similarly agreed that the existing state of the law under which ~~xi~~ salaries other than those of members of these classes are exempt from attachment until they become due and payable, while the attachable portion of the salary of public officers and servants of a railway company or local authority is not so exempt, should not be disturbed.

Amounts Attached before they are actually Payable.- The provision of law under which the attachable portion of the salary of public officers, and servants of a railway company or of a local authority is liable to be withheld by the disbursing authority and remitted to the Court, that is to say, attached before it is actually payable, is rule 48 of order 21 of the Code of Civil Procedure, read with the implication contained in the existing Explanation to the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 60 of that Code. The proposed clause (h) of the Bill as drafted is defective because, read with the Explanation referred to, it would have the effect of implying that salary, except so far as made exempt by clause (h) might be attached whether before or after it was actually payable. To remedy this defect the Committee has provided that the attachable balance of salary other than salary of public officers, and servants of railway companies or local authorities shall remain unattachable until payable.

Minute of Dissent.- Sir Henry Craik, Sir N.N.Sirkar, Sir Frank Noyce, Mr. K.L.Gauba, Mr. Muhamad Azhar Ali and Mr. Khurshaid Mohamed have appended a minute of dissent disagreeing with the majority view according to which limit of salaries and wages exempted from attachment is reduced from Rs. 100 to ⁶⁰60.

(Summarised from pages 33 to 36 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 28-3-1936.) +

The Code of Civil Procedure (Amendment)

Bill, 1935 (Amendment of Section 51 etc): Select Committee's

Report.

At pages 32-34 of our February 1935⁵ report was given the text of the Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 13-2-35⁵

in order to prohibit arrest and imprisonment of honest debtors of all classes. The Select Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly to examine the Bill has recently submitted its report. Beyond a few verbal changes of a minor nature the Committee has not made any notable modification in the Bill.

(Pages 105 to 108 of Part V of the Gazette of India, dated 28-3-1936). *

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1936.

(L. A. Bill No. 15 of 1936)

References have been made at pages 20 to 21 and 43-44 of our February 1936 report to the Loyabad Colliery disaster which occurred in the Jharia Mining Area on 30-1-1936. As a consequence of this the Government of India introduced on 8-4-1936 a Bill in the Legislative Assembly in order to concert measures of safety in mines. The salient features of the Bill are given below:-

Clause 2 seeks to enlarge the powers at present vested in the Inspector to issue orders applicable to individual mines where danger is apprehended. Any orders made under this section by an Inspector will be subject to appeal to the Chief ~~of~~ Inspector and in all cases the right of appeal to a Committee is provided. The powers are granted temporarily and can be limited to particular areas. It is intended that the whole question of danger from fires in mines should be subjected to expert examination before the period of two years expires.

Clause 3 seeks to enlarge in certain respects the power, vested in the Governor General in Council, to make regulations for safety purposes.

Clause 4 is designed to secure that central rescue stations will be established where they are required.

Clause 5 is designed to enable safety regulations to be made promptly when necessary. Under the present law, not only is previous publication necessary in all cases, but such publication can only be made after the draft has been referred to all

the mining Boards concerned and they have had the opportunity of expressing their views. It is proposed that regulations so made shall be of a temporary character. They will normally be superseded by regulations made in the ordinary way.

The Select Committee appointed by the Legislative Assembly to examine the Bill has submitted its report on 16-4-1936. Only a few minor changes have been made by the Committee. As regards contemplated expert examination of the question of danger from fires in mines, the Committee considers that the terms of reference to the examining body should be somewhat wider, and should certainly include an examination of the methods of storing and using explosives.

In a separate note appended to the report of the Select Committee, Messrs. N.M. Joshi, V.V. Giri and N.C. Ranga suggest that the whole question of safety in mines should be the subject of investigation by the Committee proposed to be appointed. All causes— direct and indirect— of accidents in mines should be thoroughly inquired into, as also all remedies to prevent them. The Committee should also consider the question of the provisions for the proper enforcement of the Act and the Regulations and for ensuring adequacy of inspection. The Committee should include adequate representation of miners.

(Summarised from pages 134 to 140 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 11 & 18-4-1936).

The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 21-4-1936.

(The Hindustan Times, 22-4-1936).

The Act received the assent of the Governor-General on 26-4-36. For text of the Act, vide pages 38-39 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 2-5-1936.

16

The Bombay Shops Bill: Motion for Select
Committee Rejected. +

Reference was made at pages 15-16 of our March 1936 report to the rejection by the Bombay Legislative Council on 23-3-1936 of leave to refer to a Select Committee the Bombay Shops Bill, introduced by Mr. R. R. Bakhale in the Council on 11-9-1934. The debate in the Legislative Council on the motion for referring the Bill to a Select Committee is published at pages 1314 to 1339 and 1357 to 1364 of the Bombay Legislative Council Debates, Vol. XLIV (1936). +

The C.P. Adjustment and Liquidation of Industrial
Workers' Debt Act, 1936 (C.P. Act No. V of 1936). +

Reference was made ^{at pages 24-25 of our January 1935 report} to the C.P. Adjustment and Liquidation of Industrial Workers' Debt Bill, 1935, which was introduced in the C.P. Legislative Council in January 1935. The Bill as passed by the Council ~~and~~ (assent was accorded by the Governor General to the bill on 29-5-1936) is published at pages 440-448 of Part III of the Central Provinces Gazette dated 10-4-1936. +

Amendment ~~of~~ U.P. Factories Rules, 1935:
Hours of Work in Factories for Distillation and
Refining Vegetable Oils. +

Attention is directed to a notification (No. 933/XVIII-219 dated 25-3-1936) of the Industries Department of the United Provinces seeking to amend the U.P. Factories Rules (vide pages 403k to 404 of Part I of the U.P. Gazette dated 28-3-1936). The amendment regulates shifts, hours of work (daily and weekly) and weekly holidays of workers engaged in factories for distillation and refining of ~~xx~~ vegetable oils. +

18

Conditions of Labour.

Maternity Benefit Legislation for Bengal:

Views of Bengal Chamber of Commerce. +

Reference was made at page 8 of the report of this Office for January 1936 to the intention of the Government of Bengal to undertake legislation for making compulsory the grant of maternity benefits to women employed in the perennial factories of the Presidency and to a circular letter sent out in this connection by the Government to the industrial interests concerned. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, after examining the Government's proposal in consultation with the associated jute mill, engineering and tea interests connected with the Chamber, and with the actual recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour in India before them, have replied to the Government of Bengal on ~~10x~~ 19-2-1936 in the following terms:-

Jute and Engineering Industries favour Legislation. -
While suggesting a more general extension of the schemes already in operation in Bombay and the Central Provinces, the Royal Commissioners stated clearly that they considered "Government should have the power to exempt individual firms whose existing schemes are shown to be at least as liberal as those laid down in the Act". All the mills in the membership of the Indian Jute Mills Association already pay maternity benefits to their women workers, and the Jute Mills Association would not, therefore, be opposed to the introduction of the compulsory legislation now proposed. In the Indian engineering industry also, voluntary schemes whereby maternity benefits are provided are already in operation, and the engineering interests agree that the compulsory legislation now proposed might be undertaken. Both the jute mill and the engineering industries stipulate, however, that provision should be made, as recommended by the Royal Commission on Labour, for the exemption of individual firms whose existing schemes are shown to be at least as liberal as those laid down in the Act.

Tea Industry's Views.- This proposed legislation in its application to women employed in perennial factories would not, in the ordinary course, affect the tea industry, as tea factories

3.2.

are, of course, seasonal and would therefore be excluded from the scope of the Act. Under the Factories Act, 1934, however, Government have power to declare tea factories perennial if they work for more than 180 days in the year, and the possibility of the proposed legislation being made applicable to tea factories has engaged the tea industry's particular attention. No objection would be taken by the tea industry to the proposed legislation should Government decide to make it applicable to workers engaged on seasonal processes. In this connection, however, it should be noted that, in the majority of tea gardens, a system for the payment of maternity benefits is already in operation although the details vary on different gardens, and in different districts. The tea industry would prefer not to comment at present on the form the proposed legislation should take, but like the other industries concerned, they presume that an opportunity will be given to them to comment on the Bill when the progress with the proposed legislation has reached that stage.

(Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for January and February 1936). +

Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter Ending 31-12-1935. +

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the 4th quarter of 1935 ending 31-12-1935, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 36 disputes during the period involving 29,300 workers and entailing a loss of 271,767 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bombay, where 12 disputes involving 4,417 workers entailed a loss of 17,377 working days. Next come Bengal and Madras with 6 disputes each involving 10,063 and 3,368 workers and entailing losses of 102,168 and 15,183 working days respectively, Burma with 5 disputes involving 802 workers and entailing a loss of 29,683 working days, the Central Provinces with 3 disputes involving 4,700 workers and entailing a loss of 65,265 working days, the United Provinces with 2 disputes involving

2,523 workers and entailing a loss of 8,606 working days, Assam and Delhi with one dispute each involving 300 and 3,127 workers and entailing losses of 600 and 32,890 working days respectively, while there were no disputes in Bihar and Orissa and the Punjab.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 20 disputes which involved 20,862 workers and entailed a loss of 203,025 working days, and jute mills for 2 disputes involving 4,700 workers and entailing a loss of 59,300 working days. Engineering workshops were responsible for one dispute involving 188 workers and entailing a loss of 376 working days. Other industries were responsible for 13 disputes involving 3,550 workers and entailing a loss of 9,066 working days.

Of the 36 disputes during the quarter under review, 25 were due to wage questions, 3 to personnel and 8 to other causes. In 5 disputes the workers were successful, in 12 partially successful and in 15 unsuccessful. 4 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike statistics for the quarter ending 30-9-1935 are given at page 10 of our December 1935 report). *

Industrial Disputes in British India, 1935. *

According to a communique dated the 14th April 1936, on industrial disputes in British India during 1935, issued by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, the total number of strikes during the year (including 2 strikes

in progress on the 31st December 1934) was 145 and the total number of workers involved was 114,217, as compared with 159 strikes involving 220,808, workers during 1934. The total number of working days lost during the year was 973,457 as compared with 4,775,559 during 1934. The figures of number of workers involved and number of working days lost are the lowest yet recorded during the 15 years for which statistics of industrial disputes have been maintained by the Government of India. The strikes which involved the largest loss of working days were (1) the strike in the Kesoram Cotton Mill, Garden Reach, Calcutta, in which 5,000 workers were involved with a loss of 119,000 working days and (2) the strike in the Ahmedabad textile mills which involved 23,000 workers with a loss of over 93,000 working days. In all, cotton textile mills account for 38.6% of the strikes, 66.3% of the workers involved and 58.7% of the loss of working days. In 93 of the strikes, or 64%, the chief demand related to wages or bonuses. The number of strikes in which the workmen were successful in gaining any concessions was approximately 38.3% of the total number of strikes ended during the year.

During the year under review, there were 56 disputes in the Bombay Presidency involving 47,166 workers and entailing a loss of 242,214 working days. Bengal comes next with 29 disputes involving 25,872 workers and entailing a loss of 273,227 working days; Madras with 20 disputes involving 10,712 workers and entailing a loss of 50,705 working days; Assam with 15 disputes involving 7,201 workers and entailing a loss of 20,206 working days; Burma with 9 disputes involving 2,488 workers and entailing a loss of 120,311 working days, the United Provinces with 6 disputes involving

5,251 working days and entailing a loss of 102,142 working days, the Central Provinces with 5 disputes involving 11,850 workers and entailing a loss of 127,859 working days, the Punjab with 4 disputes involving 550 workers and entailing a loss of 3,903 working days and Delhi with 1 dispute involving 3,127 workers and entailing a loss of 32,890 working days.

Of the 145 disputes during the year, 91 were due to questions of wages, 21 to those of personnel, 10 to those of leave and hours, 2 to those of bonus and 21 to other causes. In 25 cases the workers were successful, in 29 partially successful and in 87 unsuccessful, while 4 disputes were in progress at the close of the year.

Classified according to industries, there were 56 disputes in cotton and woollen industries involving 75,728 workers and entailing a loss of 572,005 working days, 8 in jute mills involving 9,478 workers and entailing a loss of 73,502 working days; 4 in engineering workshops involving 1,272 workers and entailing a loss of 7,848 working days, 1 in railways (including railway workshops) involving 141 workers and entailing a loss of 398 working days. In all other industries together there were 76 disputes involving 27,598 workers and entailing a loss of 319,704 working days.

(The communique on Industrial Disputes in British India during 1934 is reviewed at pages 24-26 of our April 1935 report).

Demand for Reduction of Hours of Work
in Baroda Factories: State Appoints
Committee of Inquiry. +

With regard to the representations made by the labour unions in the State to reduce the weekly hours of work under the State Factory Act, which is to be amended, the Baroda Government have appointed a committee consisting of Dr. J.M.Mehta, Professor of Economics, Baroda College, Mr. Justice S.A.Sudhalkar, Mr. A.B. Pandya, Director of Industries and Labour, and Mr. Rasulkhan Pathan to submit concrete proposals after recording the necessary evidence.

(The Times of India, 14-4-36).*

Creches for Children of Women Workers of Bombay:
Bombay Municipality to take Action.

Mrs. Lilavati Munshi, member, Bombay Municipality, moved a resolution at a meeting of the Municipality held on 24-4-1936, requesting the Medical Relief and Public Health Committee of the Municipality to report on the desirability of starting a municipal creche in each ~~of the~~ ward centre for the care of children of women workers "who have to go out for long hours for employment during the day and cannot therefore take care of their children".

Sir Jehangir Bomon-Behram moved an amendment that the Municipal Commissioner be requested to submit an estimate of costs for starting a creche in every ward. Sir Jehangir said that as the question of starting of ~~xxam~~ creches was an important one concerning

the welfare of women and children, it was necessary to proceed straight-away instead of referring it to a committee for report. It would be sufficient if the Municipal Commissioner submitted an estimate of costs.

Mrs. Munshi accepted the amendment of Sir Jehangir, which was carried as a substantive proposition.

A Creche in each Mill.- Another resolution of Mrs. Munshi regarding children of women workers employed in factories was also carried. The resolution read: "In view of the fact that great hardship is caused in the care and nourishment of children of women workers employed in factories, the Mayor shall be asked to approach Government with a request that they will be pleased to move the Government of India to amend the Indian Factory Act so as to make it obligatory for every employer of women workers to provide a creche in the factory."

(The Times of India, 27-4-1936)+

Industrial Organisation

Employers' Organisations.

9th Annual Meeting of Federation of Indian

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Delhi-1936.

The 9th Annual Session of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry was held at Delhi on 4 and 5-4-1936, under the presidentship of Mr. Padampat Singhanian, President of the Federation. The session was attended by a number of delegates representing the constituent Chambers of the Federation, but no member of the Government was present. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:-

General.- The address referred briefly to the Federation's activities in 1935 and pointed out that the Federation had submitted memoranda to the Government of India on the following important subjects: the financial adjustment between India and Burma; revision of the Insurance Law in India; revision of the Income-tax Law in India; greater association of the Indian commercial community with the working of the Railway Conference; the Indo-Burma Trade Convention; and the formation of electorates for commercial constituencies.

Federal Finance.- Referring to this subject, Mr. Singhanian pleaded for a reduction in expenditure and said: The main sources of revenue to the Federal Government are the customs, income-tax, revenue from salt duty, excise duty, profits from currency and mint and contribution from railways. The expansion of revenue from these sources is doubtful. The main heads of expenditure are the administration charges and the defence expenditure. As there is practically no scope for raising revenue by way of taxation, the only course left open is to reduce the military expenditure to the pre-war level or to secure a contribution from the revenues of the United Kingdom towards meeting the excess of expenditure over that level as all the military maintained in India is not entirely in the interest of India but to safeguard the trade routes of the United Kingdom. Another ~~step~~ step that should be taken is the revision of the scales of remuneration of the Imperial and Provincial services.

Railway Freight Policy.- Speaking on the need for a revision of the freight policy of Indian railways, Mr. Singhanian said: In spite of repeated requests from the Indian commercial community, the Railway Board is following the freight policy which was once dictated in the past by considerations of the import trade of India.

India, with its vast population and long distances, affords a profitable field for the railways to so adjust their freight policy as to stimulate greater internal trade; the rate structure has not taken any notice of the precipitous fall in the prices of primary products which generally compete in the world markets. The exportable commodities of India are labouring under this handicap of transport facilities. The Indian railways should inaugurate a bold policy of freight reform to replenish their earnings by stimulating trade in primary products. The motor transport, of which the railways have made a grievance, constitutes, to my mind, a healthy competition to the railways. If the motor owners as businessmen find it profitable, even after payment of a heavy duty on petrol, licence fees and municipal taxes, to carry goods at a cheaper rate, I fail to understand why the railways, with an elaborate administration, should not find it profitable to offer cheaper freight rates and stimulate greater trade movement.

Economic Condition of the Masses.— Repudiating the suggestion that normal conditions were being restored in India made by the Finance Member on the occasion of the Government of India Budget for 1936-37, Mr. Singhanian said: In all other countries, the prosperity of the Government reflects the prosperity of the country; but in India, it does not reflect an improvement in the economic condition of the masses. The Government of India may congratulate themselves on having more than balanced budget, with a continuance of emergency taxation, but what is the state of things in the Provinces? Except Bombay (without Sind) and Madras, all the Provinces are experiencing deficit budgets. Even the slight improvement that has taken place in the economic condition of the masses is ascribable firstly to the protection given to the three main industries, namely the cotton textile, iron and steel and sugar, which have in their turn stimulated greater employment in the country; and secondly, ~~the~~ to the money that has come into the hands of the people during the last four years as a result of the export of gold on an average of Rs. 600 million a year against India's former purchase of, on an average, Rs. 300 million a year.

Devaluation of Currency.— On this subject Mr. Singhanian said: It is a happy sign that the devaluation of India's currency is no longer considered to be in the entire interest of the industrialists. It is a weapon which is being fully utilised by raw-producing countries in the world for purposes of developing their export trade. India's relations with the United Kingdom to which she is wedded—willingly or unwillingly—preclude the possibility of the Government of India accepting the suggestion of devaluation of the Indian currency, as such a step directly comes in conflict with the interests of the United Kingdom in India's market. I would ask the Government to consider another suggestion so often made by responsible people * representing

the commercial and industrial interests in the country regarding a substantial expansion of currency which would enable Provincial Governments to inaugurate capital expenditure schemes, thereby giving employment not only to the masses, but even solving, to some extent, the question of unemployment of the middle classes in the Provinces.

Protection of Indigenous Industries.— Stressing the need for adequate protection being accorded to indigenous industries, Mr. Singhanian said: It is ridiculous for the Government of India to deny to this country opportunities for her natural expansion of industries which command two great factors, namely, the abundant supply of labour and the enormous home market for consumption and therefore, it is very necessary that the Government of India should forthwith consider the question of revising their present fiscal policy, suitably in the interests of indigenous industries. The Britishers have two sets of standards—one for their own country and the other for countries under their political or economic control—in judging the utility of the policy of protection. The United Kingdom which was following the principles of free trade when it suited her requirements, has thrown those principles overboard beyond salvation, and she is now following a very active policy of protective tariff under the Safeguarding of Industries Act, 1921, whereby a number of items of import are subjected to prohibitive duties ranging from 30 per cent to 50 per cent. To trot out the consumers' interests in India in season and out is to ignore the basic principles of economy.

Reserve Bank.— Urging that the Reserve Bank should pursue a policy of adequately financial indigenous industrial enterprises, Mr. Singhanian said:— Unless the Bank, with the credit of this country at its back, comes forward to supply finance for the industrial development of the country, it may not be possible for the indigenous industries to utilise the dormant financial resources of the country. The reduction of the Bank rate to 3 per cent is a welcome move taken by the Bank towards the creation of cheap money conditions in the market. The present money conditions warrant even a still further reduction in the Bank rate. In spite of money being available at cheap rates, ~~in~~ the indigenous industries did not reap any advantage, because of the policy of conservatism followed by the banks in the investment of funds at their disposal. This attitude of the banks is directly traceable to the policy of laissez faire of the Government of India towards industrialisation of the country.

Rural Credit Facilities. — Another direction in which the working of the Reserve Bank can directly be made to affect the life of the agriculturist is towards creating rural credit for the millions of agriculturists, who are at present under the influence of the sowcars in the mofussil. The attempts of the Provincial Governments in enacting debt relief laws purporting to give relief to agriculturists and landholders are sure to meet

with failure and may also result in destroying the credit which used to be available to agriculturists in the mofussil. The conditions of rural credit demand that there should be legislation on certain well-recognised principles of equity and justice with a proper safeguard against usurious interest and the Reserve Bank of India is expected to advise the Central Government towards enacting legislation on all-India basis which would fully take into consideration the existence of sowcars and money-lenders in the mofussil. Mere legislation to victimise the rural sowcar will not give any relief to the agriculturist. The inauguration of either land mortgage banks or co-operative credit societies and co-operative marketing societies is a direction in which the Provincial Governments should be advised to act ~~towards~~ giving relief to the agriculturist.

(Summarised from copy of the presidential address forwarded to this Office by the Secretary of the Federation).

Resolutions Adopted.- The following are some of the more important of the 21 odd resolutions adopted at the session:-

Ottawa Trade Agreement. - The Federation congratulates the Legislative Assembly on passing a Resolution terminating the Ottawa Agreement against which the Indian commercial community has all along protested.

Export of Gold.- The Federation views with great disappointment Government's apathy to the continuous and heavy export of gold from India and strongly urges upon Government the desirability of taking steps for stopping the outgo thereof and the purchasing of gold by the Reserve Bank on the basis of export parity.

Taxation.- (a) The Federation invites the serious attention of the Government of India to the continued trade depression and to the existing disproportionately high level of taxation which this country is required to bear out of its scanty resources, and earnestly urges upon Government to consider ways and means by which the economic recovery of the country could be achieved and the burden of taxation relieved. The Federation protests against the policy of under-estimating ~~the~~ revenues and of diverting the resultant surpluses to non-recurring items of expenditure.

(b) The Federation further urges upon Government the vital necessity of effecting reductions in expenditure in every direction—Military, Civil administrations, Railways, etc.—and to utilise the savings thus made towards speedy recovery of normal trade and development of nation-building departments of the country.

Trade Barriers within India.- The Federation urges the removal of all barriers to free trade within the country between the different Provinces and States, and emphasises that, in the interests of the trade and industries of India as a whole, as also to minimise illegitimate diversion of trade from British Indian ports to State ports or vice versa, an early settlement with States—maritime or internal—concerning this and other questions is of

vital and essential importance.

Protection to Industries.- (a) The Federation records its considered opinion that an industry otherwise entitled to the grant of protection need not be required to satisfy the condition regarding abundant supplies of indigenous raw materials laid down in para. 97 of the Report of the Indian Fiscal Commission.

(b) The Federation views with great concern the Government of India's decision in rejecting the Tariff Board's recommendations regarding the grant of protection to the glass and woollen industries.

(c) The Federation urges that Government should place, with their recommendations, Reports of the Tariff Board within six months of their submission, before the Legislature.

Railway Finance.- (a) This Federation deplors the financial condition of the Indian Railways, which has been brought about in spite of frequent and grave warnings from the business community urging action in the direction of rigid economy, Indianisation and business-like management. The Federation urges upon Government to institute an enquiry at the hands of the Indian business representatives and financiers to go thoroughly into the financial condition of the Railways and to suggest changes both in policy and in systems of account, in the range of personnel, grouping, systems of rates and classifications, etc.

(b) The Federation is strongly of opinion that the contemplated increase of rates and freights to meet with the immediate situation is more likely to lead to further deterioration in some cases. The Federation feels that until the finances of the Railways are put on a firm basis to the satisfaction of the Legislature, it would be most unwise to install the proposed Statutory Railway Authority which might lead to even more acute mismanagement of India's most valuable assets.

Operations of non-Indian Industrial Concerns.- The Federation desires to ~~impress~~ impress upon the Government the necessity of collection and publication of complete statistics and data in regard to the capital, production, growth and methods of competition of non-Indian industrial enterprises and concerns operating in India to enable the country to comprehend the problems relating to the establishment and growth of non-Indian concerns behind tariff walls.

Treatment of Indians Abroad.- The Federation views with apprehension the lukewarm attitude of the Government of India in regard to anti-Indian laws passed in foreign countries and British Colonies — the most recent cases being those of the Governments of Zanzibar and Iraq. The Federation wishes to point
~~xxxx~~

out the extreme desirability of taking effective steps of protecting and safeguarding Indian nationals and their interests abroad, and in case any such discriminatory laws are passed by a foreign Government, the Government of India should immediately retaliate.

Coal Industry.- In view of the most unsatisfactory position of the coal industry due to (1) burden of numerous local taxes like the road cess, Mines Board, Water Board and Chawkidari taxes, (2) surcharge on railway freight and terminal charges, (3) unhealthy competition on account of imported coal and oil fuel and (4) the recent change in the coal purchase policy of the Government of India for railways, which are more or less responsible for the wasteful methods of mining, with the consequential results of frequent colliery disasters, this Federation strongly urges on the Government of India to impose immediately adequate duty on imported coal and oil fuel, and to appoint a Committee of Enquiry for examining the present position of this important basic industry with a view to suggest remedies for its rehabilitation.

(Summarised from text of resolutions forwarded to this Office by the Secretary of the Federation).

Office-bearers for 1936-37. - The following office-bearers of the Federation for 1936-37 were then elected:-

President - Mr. D.P.Khaitan; Vice-President - the Kumaraja of Chettinad; Members (elected) -Mr. A.D.Shroff, Mr. Manu Subedar, Mr. Kasturbai Lalbai, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. G.D.Birla, Sir P. Thakurdas, Pandit K. Santanam, Mr. Padampat Singhania, Mr. F.M. Chinoy, Mr. Bahanukar, Mr. Walchand Hirachand, and Mr. Chunilal B. Mehta; Members (co-optd) -Mr. N.R. Sarkar, Mr. S.M. Bashir, Mr. B. Das, Rai Bahadur Ram Saran Das, Babu Gurcharan Lal; Treasurers - Mr. A.L.Ojha and Mr. S.C.Law.

(The Hindustan Times 5 & 6-4-1936)

(A review of the annual meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, held in 1935 was given at pages 45-54 of the March 1935 report of this Office). +

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Indian National Committee of the Inter-
national Chamber of Commerce: 7th Annual Meeting, 1936-Delhi.

The 7th Annual Meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce was held at Delhi on 5-4-36, Mr. Padampat Singhanian presiding. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:-

Stabilisation of Currencies.- Referring to the need for stabilisation of currencies, Mr. Singhanian said:

"The year 1935 made no headway, towards finding even a provisional solution for the stabilisation of the currencies. There are, no doubt, certain serious practical difficulties for even a provisional stabilisation, but I feel that in the interests of international trade, it is imperative now that a definite attempt should be made by countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom and France to arrive at a provisional agreement towards stabilisation, as unless the rates of exchange are provisionally stabilised, the price structure on which depends the export trade of every country is bound to vary from time to time. There should be a tacit understanding by which competitive currency depreciation may be made impossible."

Bilateral Trade Agreements.- Dwelling on the evil of restrictions to international trade constituted by bilateral trade agreements, he said: "With bilateral trade agreements coming into prominence, the old era of triangular trade which stimulates recovery is fast disappearing. Bilateral trade agreements are based on concessions between two countries at the cost of ~~the~~ a third one. The economic life of many European countries is therefore running into narrower channels of economic nationalism far away from broad internationalism. Economic nationalism may be a temporary palliative, but it can never be made to pay in the long run."

India's Place in International Trade.- Pleading for India being given her due place in respect of international trade, he said: "India is still a raw material producing country and her life is mainly dependent upon the place which she occupies in the export trade of the world. It will be detrimental to her interests if there are import quotas, trade restrictions and exchange control operating in any of the manufacturing countries. The expectations held by those responsible at the Ottawa Imperial Conference for the creation of a healthy atmosphere in the international trade did not materialise. It would, therefore, be advantageous to India if she possessed sufficient powers of reciprocity and is free to enter into trade agreements with her

foreign customers as that would secure for ~~her~~ greater share in the export trade of the world".

Unfair Domination by Great Britain.- Referring to the growing industrial rival between nations ~~and~~ the unfair subordination of Indian interests to the interests of Great Britain, he said: "Outside India there are very powerful forces at work in industrial countries like the United States of America, the United Kingdom, Japan, Germany, France and Italy. In their struggle for supremacy in the world markets, for economic or political control of countries producing raw materials, and for privileged markets for their industrial products, they are exploring all possible avenues, such as depreciation of their currencies, import quotas, exchange control and numerous other trade arrangements or barter system; all these have resulted in restriction of international trade. The United Kingdom is utilising all her powers to bully India without a thought for improving the purchasing power of the Indian agriculturists for securing a privileged market in the Empire for her manufactures. International commercial bodies should not ignore the existence of certain disabilities under which Indian national interests in commerce and industry are suffering under the present form of Government obtaining in the country."

Plea for Greater Interest in International Problems.- Concluding, he made an appeal to Indian industrial interests to take a greater degree of interest ~~x~~ in international matters and said: "The International Chamber is already a force in international economic and financial matters. India, as one of eight industrial countries of the world, is expected to take more active and intelligent part in the deliberations and activities of this Organisation. Unfortunately we, in India, have to devote much of our energy and time towards securing adequate and just relief from the administrators of this country, which leaves very little enthusiasm in us to give any thought to matters international. It is a handicap under which we have been labouring and may continue to labour for years to come, but we can no longer ignore the forces at work in international matters outside India."

Office Bearers for 1936-37.- The following office-bearers were elected for 1936-37 for the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce: President - Mr. D.P.Khaitan;

Vice-President - Mr. Walchand Hirachand; Members of the Committee: Messrs. Padampat Singhanian, Hosainbhoy Lalljee, Kasturbhai Lalbai and G.D.Birla, Sir P.Thakurdas, Mr. Manubedar, Mr. A.D.Shroff, Lala Shri Ram, Mr. Chuni Lal B. Mehta, Mr. Dahanukar, Mr. Sodhbans and Mr. A.L.Ojah. Mr. Vidyasagar-Pandya was elected as the Treasurer.
(The Hindustan Times, 5-4-1936).

(A summary of the presidential address of Mr. H. A. Lalljee at the 6th Annual Meeting of the Indian National Committee of the International Chamber of Commerce held at Delhi in March 1935 is given at pages 39-41 of the report of this Office for March 1935)- 4

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All India Organisation of Industrial Employers:

3rd Annual General Meeting-Delhi-1936.

The third annual meeting of the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers was held at Delhi on 5-4-1936 under the presidentship of Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai. The following is a brief summary of the presidential address:

Progress of Organisation.- The Organisation represents practically all the national industrial interests in the country. Referring to the progress made by the All India Organisation of Industrial Employers during the three years of its existence, Mr. Lalbhai said: Owing to the policy of the Government of India in introducing labour legislation on the lines of Conventions adopted at the International Labour Conferences at Geneva, it was found necessary to have an Organisation in the country representing national industrial interests to keep a vigilant watch over the proposals coming up for consideration at International Conferences and to safeguard the interests of Indian industries in matters relating to employment of labour in India.

Need for Intensive Industrialisation.- Referring to this aspect, he said: The necessity for a vast country like India with practically all the advantages of a large labour supply and home market and in a number of cases even of an abundant supply of raw materials to adopt a policy of intensive industrialisation, is now a cry taken up from all quarters; but the attention of the Government has to be drawn to the springing up of a number of foreign concerns backed by foreign capital behind the tariff structure of this country.

Competition of non-Indian Industrialists.- Referring to the competition from foreign industries established in India, he said: The question of foreign concerns creating vested interests behind the tariff wall in India was also discussed by the Indian Fiscal Commission and the Government of India too, from time to time, made their position clear by stating in 1922 that no concessions would be given to any firms in regard to industries in India unless such firms have a rupee capital and a proportion of Indian directorate and allow facilities for Indian apprentices to be trained in their workshops. The effect of such a move on the part of foreign industries is already being felt by some of the smaller industries. The Government of India should institute an investigation into the working of these non-national concerns and the extent of competition which they are offering within the country to indigenous manufacturers. The advent of foreign capital is bound to affect the working of the policy of protection. The creation of non-Indian vested interests in India is sure to retard the healthy growth of the political and economic life of the country.

Need for Mineral Survey.- If the attempt at the industrialisation of the country is to be genuine, the Government must undertake an extensive survey of the mineral resources of the country, and the country must know what resources have still remained unexplored. Besides this, the Government should not frustrate their own policy by counteracting the tariff or by resorting to other means which would have the effect of stunting the growth of an industry. Another very unhealthy principle adopted by the Government of India is the levy of excise duty on the production of certain industries, such as sugar, matches and iron and steel which were allowed to develop under the protective tariff.

Glass Industry and Protection.- Referring to the Government of India's decision not to accord protection to the glass industry, he said: The decision on this question has brought forward two issues of importance before the public, firstly, whether the Government were justified in delaying the publication of the report after its submission to them three years back. It is very difficult for an industry first of all to persuade the Government of India to agree to its demand for a reference to the Tariff Board, but once the inquiry is over, the Government should postpone consideration of the Report for such a long time. Another important issue that has come prominently before the public is the Government of India's disagreeing with the conclusions of the Tariff Board about the eligibility of the claims of the glass industry to the grant of protection on the plea that the industry does not fulfil one of the conditions laid down by the Fiscal Commission.

Industrial Research Bureau.- Concluding, the President congratulated the Government of India on their inaugurating the Industrial Research and Intelligence Bureau in order to organise and co-ordinate industrial research activities in the country. The Bureau had already taken in hand research work in soaps and oils and it expected to render technical help to Indian manufacturers in their supplying the requirements of the Indian Store Department.

(The Hindustan Times, 6-4-1936)

All India Organisation of Industrial Employers:
Report of Committee for 1935*

Membership.-

On 14-3-1936 the date on which the Report was submitted, the total number of members on the roll of the Organisation consisted of 10 industrial associations representing different industries
* All India Organisation of Industrial Employers.-Report of the Proceedings of the Committee for the year 1935 -1936.-Kamla Tower, Cawnpore. - pp.10.

and 87 industrial concerns, making a total of 97 members. The ten associations were: (1) The Indian Salt Association, Bombay; (2) The Indian National Steamship Owners' Association, Bombay; (3) The Indian Sugar Mills Association, Calcutta; (4) The Baroda Millowners' Association, Baroda; (5) The Indian Glass Manufacturers' Association, Ogalevadi; (6) The Indian Colliery-Owners' Association, Calcutta; (7) The Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri; (8) The Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta; (9) The Delhi Factory-Owners' Federation, Delhi; and (10) The Ahmedabad Mill-Owners' Association, Ahmedabad. The 87 industrial concerns were distributed among the following industries thus: cotton - 20, jute -4, salt - 3, sugar -13, iron and steel -4, shipping -6, match manufacture -3, constructional engineering -7, cement and potteries - 5, oil extracting -3, drugs and chemicals -3, coal mining -3, glass -6, metal manufacturing -3, milling -2, tea gardens -2, and straw boards -1.

Office-Bearers.- The following constituted the executive of the Organisation during the year: President: Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai; Vice-President: Mr. G.D.Birla; Members of the Committee: Mr. Walchand Hirachand, Bombay, Lala Padampat Singhania, Cawnpore, Mr. I.D.Varshnei, Bahjoi, Mr. Adamjee Hajee Dawood, Calcutta, Raj Ratna Seth Chimanlal Girdharlal, Baroda, Mr. M. Jamal Mahomed Saib, Madras, Lala Shri Ram, Delhi, Mr. A.L.Ojha, Calcutta, Mr. Hooseinbhoy A.Lalljee, M.L.A., Bombay, The Hon'ble Rai Bahadur Lala Ram Saran Das, C.I.E., Lahore, Mr. Jadu Nath Roy, Calcutta, Seth Mathuradas Vissanji, M.L.A., Bombay, and Mr. Nalini Ranjan Sarker, Calcutta. In addition, four members were co-opted to

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the Committee during the year. The Committee held two meetings during the year, one on 31st March, 1935 in Delhi and another on 29th September, 1935, at Ahmedabad.

Relations with I.L.O.- 19th Session of I.L.Conference.- The Committee considered the report submitted by the Indian Employers' Delegate, Mr. Hooseinbhoj A.Lalljee, M.L.A., and his Adviser, Mr. K.Dutt, on the work done at the 19th Session of the International Labour Conference. The Committee recorded their thanks for the work done by the Delegation at the Conference. At the direction of the Committee, a copy of the Report was sent to all Members of the Organisation for their information. The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour were also supplied with a copy of the Report for their information.

20th Session of I.L.Conference.- The Committee agreed to recommend to the Government of India the following personnel for nomination of the Indian Employers' Delegation to the 20th Session of the International Labour Conference:- Delegate: Sir Hormusji M. Mehta, Kt., Bombay; Advisers: (1) Mr. Debes Chandra Ghose, Jalpaiguri, (2) Lt. Sardar P.S.Sodhbans, Lahore.

Maritime Technical Tripartite Conference.- The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour addressed a communication to the Organisation during August, 1935, informing the Committee that a technical tripartite meeting would be convened by the International Labour Office at Geneva on 25th November, 1935, to discuss the questions of:-

- (i) manning in conjunction with the question of hours of work on boardship, and
- (ii) holidays with pay for seamen.

The object of the Conference was to prepare grounds for the International Labour (Maritime) Conference which it was proposed to hold in 1936. The Government of India proposed, having regard to the character of the meeting and the importance of avoiding unnecessary expenditure, to ask the three Indian representatives on the Governing Body to attend the Conference. They enquired of the Committee of the Organisation whether they would approve of the nomination of Mr. D.S.Erulkar, Representative of the Indian Employers on the Governing Body or whether the Organisation would desire to suggest the name of any other gentleman in his place. The Committee of the Organisation addressed a communication to the Government of India on 2nd October, 1935 stating that while they approved of the nomination of Mr. Erulkar to represent Indian shipping interests at the forthcoming Maritime Technical Tripartite meeting, they desired to lodge a protest against the Government of India circumventing the rights of the employers' Organisation to choose its own representative on the plea of want of funds. They further expressed the view that the acceptance of such a procedure on the plea of financial stringency was objectionable in principle as the most suitable persons would not be made available to attend such Conferences and they urged upon the Government of India that the Committee's views should receive very careful and favourable consideration at the hands of Government.

Mr. D.S.Erulkar submitted a confidential report for the information of the Committee on the work done by him at the Tripartite Maritime meeting, but as the report was marked confidential, it was not printed and circulated to the members of the Organisation.

(A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's Minute D.1/384/36 dated 2-4-1936) +

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Workers' Organisations.

Further Retrenchment in Railways:

Meeting between A. I. R. F. and Railway

Board - 8 & 9-4-1936.

Reference was made at page 36 of the report of this Office for March 1936 to the contemplated retrenchment of staff in and Indian railways/to the invitation extended to the A.I.R.Federation by the Railway Board to discuss the subject with it.(The Railway Board, it is understood, proposes to retrench 189 men on the G.I.P. Railway, 30⁰ men on the E.I.Railway and 3,000 men on the N.W.Railway— all of them State-owned railways. Information is not available as to the retrenchments proposed in the various Company-owned railways — The Indian Labour Journal, 12-4-1936). The meeting between the A.I.R.Federation and the Railway Board took place at New Delhi on 8 and 9-4-1936. The deputation from the Federation included, besides Messrs. Jamnadas Mehta, N.M.Joshi, and V.V.Giri, 10 representatives of affiliated unions. Mr. Jamnadas Mehta led the deputation. The following is a brief summary of the proceedings:-

Subject Discussed.- The Chief Commissioner for Railways informed the Federation that the meeting had been arranged to discuss the general principles to be followed in the selection of staff for discharge in connection with future retrenchments and that the Railway Board were of opinion that staff should be selected on the basis of comparative efficiency in preference to the principle of short service, which the Railway Board had agreed to follow in connection with retrenchment in 1932.

Principle of Retrenchment—Short Service or Inefficiency? - The A.I.R.F. submitted a memorandum on the question whether short service or comparative inefficiency should be taken as the principle on which retrenchment is to be effected. The Federation adhered to the view that in case of future retrenchment, if any, the principle of short service should continue to be

followed as was recommended in the Murphy Committee's Report and accepted in a Railway Board Memorandum of 20th July 1932 (para 5).

Railway Board prefers Inefficiency Test.- The Chief Commissioner of Railways stated that it was for the Railway Administrations to decide the number of employees required for the work to be done and certain reductions in the number of staff were inevitable, and added that the Board proposed to adopt the principle of selection on the basis of comparative efficiency as it was felt that, if the principle of a short service continued to be followed for some time more, there would be no staff with certain years of service who may be considered sufficiently qualified for promotion to higher posts, and in certain cases, owing to quick promotions enjoyed by certain staff with comparatively short service, there would be blocks in promotion. The Chief Commissioner added that the Federation had misunderstood the implications of the paragraph referred to.

Inefficiency Test would lead to favouritism. - Mr. Jammadas Mehta reiterated the Federation's objection to the Railway Board's proposal and added that the Federation questioned the right of the Railway Administration to discharge inefficient staff in accordance with the existing rules. He stated that if there were any inefficient men they may be, and were being, dealt with according to service rules. He pointed out that selection of men for block retrenchment on the basis of inefficiency would lead to insecurity of service, favouritism, injustice and discontent amongst the staff.

Joint Committees of Railway Officers and Workers.- The Chief Commissioner of Railways added that to secure the fairest selection it had been suggested that there might be committees consisting of two or three officers, with four assessors elected ~~for efficiency~~ from amongst the men concerned.

Need for Independent President.- Mr. N.M.Joshi made a suggestion that although he considered the present method of selection of staff for discharge by shortest length of service most suitable, if a committee for discharge of staff on comparative efficiency was to be continued, it should have a neutral chairman like an I.C.S. or Labour Officer unconnected with the Railway Administrations, and that his decision should be followed.

A.I.R. Objects to Joint Committees.- The Federation objected to committees including workers as assessors as they would not be free to give their opinion and would be afraid of losing their jobs if they spoke out their mind. But if such committees were ultimately appointed, the Federation insisted that Union representatives should be on the committees and, where there were no unions, the Federation should be allowed to nominate its representatives on such committees. The Federation suggested that they might agree to an independent officer, if he was alone, to deal with the question, but that if the officers of the

Railways were to sit with him on the committee, workers' representatives also should be allowed to sit as submitted before.

The Chief Commissioner of Railways agreed to consider the views put forward.

A.I.R.F. insists on consultation with Unions.- The Federation stated that it was understood that the present procedure of consulting recognised unions in connection with block retrenchment would be continued to be followed, and on the railways where there were no recognised unions the procedure of posting on notice boards notices regarding proposals of retrenchment would be followed.

The Chief Commissioner assured the Federation that the Railway Board had no desire at present to alter that procedure.

Future Reduction of Permanent Staff.- The Chief Commissioner also stated that the Railway Board were of the opinion that a procedure should be adopted for the future under which the permanent cadre of staff on State-managed Railways will be restricted to requirements for normal traffic and that certain personnel will be entertained on a temporary footing to cope with peak periods of traffic.

The Federation stated that this was an entirely new proposal and that they would submit their remarks after consulting their affiliated unions.

Recognition of Unions.- The Federation asked for a more generous policy of recognition of unions which had been registered under the Trade Unions Act, 1926, with particular reference to the franchise under the new constitution. The Chief Commissioner agreed to consider the matter.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 12-4-1936). +

A. I. T. U. C. Session to be held in May

At Bombay: Trade Union Unity and Joint Action with
Indian National Congress.

The 1936 session of the All India Trade Union Congress will be held at Bombay on the 17th and 18th May 1936, under the presidentship of Mrs. Maniben Mulji. The following are excerpts from a communique issued in this connection by the Publicity

Secretary of the A.I.T.U.C.:-

Labour Representation in Indian National Congress.- The A.I.T.U.C. session is meeting at a critical period of our national movement. The struggle carried on under the banner of the Indian National Congress is being given a new direction and efforts are being made to develop it as a real anti-imperialist struggle. With this view in mind a large section of the radical nationalist leaders are thinking of broadening the basis of the Indian National Congress, by inviting the affiliation of working class and peasant organisations to the Congress. By these means a greater contact will be established between the Congress and the toiling masses of the country.

A.I.T.U.C. Congress to Co-operate with Indian National Congress.- The All India Trade Union Congress has already given a lead in the matter and it has expressed its willingness to join the Indian National Congress collectively through affiliation of labour organisations to the Indian National Congress. The T.U.C. Session will undoubtedly pave the way for the attainment of this object. The session, therefore, will be useful in bringing a greater co-operation between the I.N. Congress and Labour.

Pandit Jawaharlal to Co-ordinate A.I.T.U.C. Congress and I.N. Congress Policies.- It is gratifying to note that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru has consented to attend the T.U.C. Session and the presence of Jawaharlal will certainly help to clarify the situation and chalk out a common programme of action for the development of the anti-imperialist struggle. Opposition to the coming constitution is one of the burning issues which is bound to unite the ranks of those who stand for the complete independence of the country. The Trade Union Congress and Indian National Congress must unite on the issue and agitate and work jointly for the rejection of the constitution. If these two powerful organisations meet for such a common programme of action they can really stir the whole country and thus develop the anti-imperialist struggle to a higher pitch. They can also unite for carrying on the economic programme for the masses and wage a struggle for the amelioration of the conditions of the masses. The T.U.C. Session will consider all these questions and will give the desired lead to the country at such a critical period.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 27-4-1936)-

Prospects of Trade Union Unity.- At the forthcoming session of the A.I.T.U.C. Congress further progress will be made with the efforts to restore unity in the Indian trade union movement by effecting an agreement between the A.I.T.U. Congress and the National Trades Union Federation. Discussing the prospects of restoration of trade union unity, the Times of India, Bombay, dated 27-4-36 writes:-

Prospects of Unity.-The All India Trade Union Congress which meets in Bombay in May for a two-day session, will be called upon to take decisions of a far-reaching character which, it is hoped,

will put the Labour movement in this country on the path of orderly progress. This can only be brought about if the moderate group in the movement, represented by the National Trades Union Federation, is able to put through its proposals, some of which aim at knitting together all sections of labour into a compact All-India body with a united front on all questions affecting the interests of Indian labour."

Mr. Giri's Proposals.- "Mr.V.V.Giri, M.L.A., of the Railway-men's Federation, will make a move at the Bombay session for the affiliation of the National Trades Union Federation to the A.I.T.U.C. It is understood that Mr. Giri will also move that the A.I.T.U.C. take no decision on any political issue or any strike, without a three-fourths ~~in~~ majority in favour of such a decision. If these suggestions are accepted, then in future Indian Labour will assume greater responsibility for its actions both in the eyes of the public and Government."

Joint Action with Indian National Congress.- "But the most important thing the May session will have to decide is the amalgamation of the A.I.T.U.C. with the Indian National Congress. Attempts to achieve this in the past have not been successful, principally because the two bodies have very little common ground. Trade Union Congress circles are now making fresh attempts to effect this merger of the A.I.T.U.C. with the Congress, and the presence of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, who has expressed his willingness to attend the session, will, it is hoped, bring about a change in the attitude of Congressmen. The leaders of the Trade Union Congress now demand that Congressmen should allow the workers to participate in the Congress movement and, in return, the Congress should help the workers in their economic struggles."

(The Times of India, 27-4-1936).

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Economic Conditions.

The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1936:

Provisions re. Managing Agents.

Attention is directed to the Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1936 (Legislative Assembly Bill.No.8 of 1936), the text of which, together with the Statement of Objects and Reasons and Notes on Clauses, is published at pages 37 to 99 of Part V of the Gazette of India dated 28-3-1936. The Bill was introduced in the Legislative Assembly on 23-3-1936 by Sir N.N.Sircar, the Law Member.

The Bill aims at a substantial overhauling of the existing law relating to companies - the Indian Companies Act, 1913. Stating the case for revision, the Statement of Objects and Reasons observes:-

Substantial material has accumulated in the form of communications and suggestions from Local Governments, public bodies and individuals, supplemented by publications in the press, indicating unanimity of opinion that the Indian Companies Act requires fairly extensive changes. The opinions received disclose a demand for power to deal with mushroom and fraudulent companies, for changes in the provisions relating to the issue and contents of prospectuses, for increased disclosure to shareholders of the financial position of companies and for increased rights to shareholders in connection with the management of companies, for modification of the present law applicable to managing agents, for changes in the provisions applicable to winding up, for special provisions to govern banking companies and for numerous other improvements.

Provisions re. Managing Agents.- The Bill includes a series of new sections dealing with the managing agents. A brief summary of the more important of these provisions is given below:-

Duration of Appointment -Section 87(a).- The maximum period during which a managing agent can continue to act without re-appointment is 20 years. The termination of the office of managing agent by virtue of this provision shall not take effect until all moneys due from the company to the managing agent are paid by the company to the managing agent.

Conditions of Appointment. -Section 87-B.- A company may remove a managing agent for fraud or breach of trust proved in a competent Court; a transfer of his office by a managing agent shall be void unless approved by an extraordinary resolution of the company; a charge or assignment of his remuneration or any part thereof effected by a managing agent shall be void as against the company; if a company is wound up either by the Court or voluntarily, any contract of management made with a managing agent shall be thereupon determined; the appointment of a managing agent, the removal of a managing agent and any variation of a managing agent's contract of management shall not be valid unless approved by the company by a resolution at a general meeting of the company.

Remuneration of Managing Agents. Section 87-C.- The remuneration of the managing agent shall be a sum based on a fixed percentage of the net annual profits of the company, with provision for a minimum payment in the absence of profits, together with an office allowance to be defined in the agreement of management; and any stipulation for additional remuneration in any form shall not be binding on the company unless sanctioned by the shareholders at the statutory or a general meeting of the company.

'Net profits' means the profits of the company calculated after allowing for all the usual working charges, interests on loans and advances, repairs and outgoings, but without any deduction in respect of income-tax or super-tax, or any other tax or duty on income or revenue or for expenditure on capital account or on account of any sum which may be set aside in each year out of the profits for reserve or depreciation or any other special fund. This section shall not apply to any company carrying on the business of insurance.

Loans to Managing Agents.- Section 87-D. - No company shall make to a managing agent of the company any loan out of moneys borrowed by the company, and no company shall make to a managing agent of a company any loan out of the surplus funds of the company except with the previous approval of three-fourths of the members of the board of directors.

Loans to Companies under same Management.-Section 87-E.- No company shall make any loan to or guarantee any loan made to any company under management by the same managing agent. In the event of any contravention of the provisions of this section, the company making the loan or giving the guarantee and any director or officer of such company knowingly and wilfully in default shall be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 5,000.

Purchase of Shares.- Section 87-F.- A company shall not purchase shares or debentures of any company under management by the same managing agent, unless the purchase has been previously approved by three-fourths of the members of the board of directors of the purchasing company.

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Restriction on Powers of Management.-Section 87-G.- A managing agent shall not exercise in respect of any company under management by the managing agent the power to issue debentures or to invest the surplus funds of the company, and no delegation of any such power by a company to a managing agent shall be valid.

Engagement in Competing Business.-Section 87-H.- A managing agent shall not, whether directly or as managing agent for another person, engage in any business which is of the same nature as or which is of such a nature that it directly competes with the business carried on by a company under the management of such managing agent.

Indian Central Jute Committee:

To Start Work in 1936. +

The Standing Finance Committee of the Central Legislature agreed on 21-4-36 to a proposal of the Government of India for the constitution of an Indian Central Jute Committee. Thus a scheme approved by the Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1927 has been brought near to fruition.

Stating the case for the constitution of an Indian Central Jute Committee, the Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture of which the present Viceroy, the Marquess of Linlithgow, was Chairman, observed:

"For jute to retain its present position it is necessary that every effort should be made to improve quality, outturn and methods of manufacture and to maintain the relative cheapness of jute as compared with other fibres. We consider it most desirable that a jute committee which would watch over the interests of all branches of the trade from the field to the factory should be formed. In view of the fact that the export duty brings in so large a revenue to the Imperial Government, which is therefore very directly interested in the prosperity of the jute industry, we consider that this is a case in which the expenditure on additional research and on the promotion of the interests of the trade generally should be met from central funds."

Functions of the Committee.- The scheme had to be postponed owing to financial stringency, but there is now every hope that the committee will be at work in Calcutta in two months' time. The committee will be under the control of the Government of India and will undertake agricultural, technical and economical research, improvement of crop forecasting and statistics: the production testing and distribution of improved seeds; inquiries relating to banking and transport facilities and the improvement of marketing. It will also advise local Governments on any matters referred to it. The local Governments have accepted the view of the Government of India that there should be equality of representation between growers and manufacturers subject to a reserved power of nomination by the Governor-General in Council.

Personnel of Committee.- The committee will be constituted as follows:- Vice-Chairman of Imperial Council of Agricultural ~~Research~~ Research, Agricultural Adviser of the Council, three persons nominated by the Governor-General in Council, a representative of the Agricultural Department of the Government of Bengal, a similar

a similar representative from Bihar, a representative of the co-operative movement in Bengal nominated by Government of Bengal, two persons elected by the Indian Jute Mills Association, one representative elected by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, one representative of the jute trade nominated by Bihar Government, one representative nominated by the Government of Assam, and eight persons to represent agricultural interests, namely six representatives nominated by the Government of Bengal of whom one should be a representative of landowners and one may be an official, one representative of jute growers nominated by the Government of Assam who may be an official, one representative of jute growers nominated by the Government of Bihar.

Finances.- The committee will be financed initially by grants from central revenues/grants should not exceed Rs. 500,000 in any year and will be made each year only to the extent that they can be profitably spent in the year and will be subject to the financial position of the Government of India at the time.

(The Statesman, 22-4-1936)+

Employment and Unemployment.

Alleviation of Middle-Class Unemployment:

Resolution in Kashmir State Assembly. †

In the 4th Session of the Jammu and Kashmir State Assembly held during March-April 1936, a non-official resolution was passed recommending the appointment of a Commission consisting of official and non-official members to suggest to the House ways and means for mitigating ~~the~~ unemployment ^{among} of educated young men in the State.

(The Statesman, 7-4-1936) †

Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operation in Travancore, 1934 -35. +

Reviewing the administration report on the working of the Co-operative Department of the Travancore State during 1934-35, the Government of Travancore points out that the policy of rectification and consolidation of co-operative societies through better supervision and more efficient control, adopted by the Travancore Co-operative Department was pursued during the year 1934-35. Dormant and inefficient societies were weeded out and permission for registering new societies was granted very sparingly.

Number of Societies.- The total number of societies decreased from 1,781 in 1933-34 to 1,767 in 1934-35. During the year, 16 societies were registered and the number cancelled was 33. Of the total number of 1,767 societies on the rolls, 28 had not started work and of the remaining 1,739 working societies, 1,645 did purely credit work.

Working Capital of Societies.- The working capital of the societies decreased from Rs. 8,974,936 to Rs. 8,765,215. This fall is attributed to the economic depression and its repercussions on the agriculturists, the cancellation of a large number of societies in the year and the comparatively restricted financing of primary societies by the central banks. The average working capital per society was Rs. 5,183. The total share capital of the society also decreased from Rs. 3,618,722 to Rs. 3,543,802, the decrease being Rs. 74,920. The average paid-up share capital per society was Rs. 2,095 and per member Rs. 15, the same as in the previous year. The total receipts and disbursements under deposits were Rs. 3,319,730 as against Rs. 2,588,879 and Rs. 3,098,996 as against Rs. 2,320,247 respectively in the previous year. The Registrar has been asked to see that his instructions to the societies to invest without delay the uninvested portion of their reserve funds in the Central Bank or Taluk Banks are followed by the societies concerned. As a result of the Registrar's circular regarding the calculation of the divisible profits on the basis of revenue items actually collected, the majority of the societies had to show losses. The total loss sustained by the societies amounted to Rs. 358,530 against Rs. 412,278 in the previous year.

Loans.- As in the previous year, there was a decrease both in the number and the amount of loans granted by the Central Bank and the primary societies during the year. This was mainly due to the economic hardship of the ryots. As usual, the loans granted for the discharge of prior debts formed the bulk of the loans; the loans for trade and agricultural purposes ranking second

and third in order respectively.

Overdues.- The aggregate overdues under 'principal' increased from Rs. 3,366,399 to Rs. 3,740,875 giving a percentage of 67.3 against 62.6 in 1933-34 and under 'interest' from Rs. 855,132 to Rs. 1,092,170 giving a percentage of 69.8 as against 62.6 in 1933-34. The increase in the overdues of societies was an unsatisfactory feature of the movement.

(The Hindu, 25-4-1936). +

Protection to Handloom Industry:

No Agreement arrived at Meeting

of M. L. A's +

Reference was made at page 48 of our March 1936 report to a meeting of members of the Legislative Assembly, held on 14-3-1936 at New Delhi, to concert measures to prevent unfair competition between the handloom and the mill industries. No definite conclusions were arrived at at the meeting and it was agreed to ~~have~~ another meeting to continue the discussion. The proposed second meeting was held on 18-4-1936. The relations between the handloom weaving and cotton mill industry on the following five points were discussed: 1. Supplying yarn to handlooms at cost price. 2. Increase in subvention to handloom industry. 3. Allotment of certain kinds of production to handlooms only. 4. Suitable revision of Indo-Japanese Trade Agreement. 5. Additional import duty on cotton cloth with a countervailing duty on Indian mill cloth.

No agreement could be reached on most of the important points and the conversations have been dropped.

(The Hindustan Times, 19-4-1936)+

Education.Extension of Compulsory Education in
Calcutta City: Education Officer's Scheme. ↓

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation has recently been planning to reduce the cost of extension of compulsory primary education and, in this connection, the Educational Officer of the Corporation has chalked out a scheme by which the cost of extension could be considerably reduced. At present the Corporation is spending Rs. 1 million yearly on primary education and, it is estimated, that extension of compulsory primary education to all parts of the City on the present lines would entail an expenditure of an additional Rs. 1 million yearly. The Educational Officer claims that the adoption of his scheme would ensure the realisation of the same objective for an additional yearly expenditure of Rs. 300,000. The following are the main features of the scheme.

Two Shifts of Pupils for Each School. - The scheme is based on experiments by the Educational Officer in 1925-26 in certain selected schools. The main feature of the scheme is the division of pupils in free primary schools into two shifts — one of infants under 7 years of age and the other of children over 7 years of age and the teaching of both shifts by the same staff of teachers. It has been found that nearly half the children of the Corporation Free Primary School are to be found in the infant class. Thus, in a school of 240 pupils, the infant section would have 120 pupils. If the infant section is held for 2½ hours in the morning, the teaching requirements of these small children can be fully met. ~~They remain~~ The released infants can also get the necessary rest in bed, so imperative for children below the age of seven at mid-day at home. The older children can come to school at mid-day after taking their meals, and a little rest. The number of teachers and the accommodation required for 120 children in each shift is obviously half of that required for 240 children.

Teaching of Handicrafts. - On the side of teaching, the most important change inaugurated is with regard to handicrafts. It is recognised that this subject should be part of the general education of every child so that he might, thereby develop certain necessary traits of character, such as seriousness of purpose and habits of sustained work.

Centralised School Workshops.- In imparting efficient instruction in handicrafts, the principal difficulty met with is lack of the money needed for well-equipped workshops in which practical instruction can be given, and, as a result, such instruction was confined to certain model schools. In the Educational Officer's scheme, this difficulty has been got over by making arrangements for the provision of a well-equipped workshops in central localities, which could be used by pupils from different schools. At the rate of half a day's practical instruction per week, these workshops can be made to serve 10 to 12 batches of pupils.

(The Hindustan Times, 8-4-1936) †

(Reports of the above are not published in the Statesman or the Anandabazar Patrika).

Vocational Education in Cochin State:

Proposals of the Director of Education. †

The Director of Public Instruction, Cochin State, has recently submitted to the State Government a scheme for the reorganisation of industrial education in the State. The scheme provides for two types of vocational schools. First, rural schools, where instruction will be imparted in auxiliary cottage occupations, designed for the use of children of the agricultural classes, and, secondly, a limited number of special technical schools, designed for the use of children of the artisan classes. The following is a summary of the main proposals:

Two Social Groups to be catered for.- In the prefatory remarks, the Director of Public Instruction points out that in respect of vocational education, the needs of two distinct social groups, with different occupational aims, have to be catered for. There are those to whom vocational education in cottage industries is the only possible preparation for the future, ~~also~~ ^{and} there are ~~also~~ ^{also} people who have hitherto followed liberal pursuits, but are turned now to industrial education on account of unemployment or, in rare cases, the possession of special aptitudes. They want training of a higher order. A bare living wage will not retain them in

manual occupations. Any scheme of industrial education if it is to be successful has to cater to the wants and ambitions of the two types of pupils referred to.

Vocational Education no Substitute for Primary Education.- One fact emphasised ~~and that~~ is that vocational education is not a substitute for primary education. In fact, to spread technical education and to make it a success, it is necessary to co-ordinate it with the general educational system. The Director of Public Instruction points out that nothing can achieve this end so well as the introduction of manual instruction, drawing, clay-modelling, etc., ~~into the~~ elementary schools according to a carefully graduated curriculum. Practical work at this stage should be resorted to for its educative value, not for its economic value.

Instruction in Auxiliary Occupations to be imparted in all Rural Schools.- The scheme is drawn out on the principle that since cottage industries as auxiliary occupations concern a very large section - in fact the major portion - of the population of the State, which is mainly or solely dependent on agriculture, the first thing to be taken into account is the farmer's boy or girl. Industries which are suitable as auxiliary occupations to farmers have to be taught not in special schools but in all rural schools in which the children of farmers are being educated.

Special Schools.- The scheme also provides for special technical schools. Though their number need not be large, the existing industrial schools in the State, it is pointed out, will not be sufficient. The aim of the existing industrial schools, as also of the new industrial schools, should be to conserve and turn to better account the hereditary talent and skill which one meets in the children who belong to the artisan communities or castes. Special schools cannot undertake mass education and admission will have to be restricted to those who belong to the hereditary craftsman classes and to pupils belonging to other communities who really mean to practice the industry which they seek to learn at school. There is no need and no justification for undertaking the industrial education of all; the Government should undertake at the expense of the tax-payer only what is both beneficial and necessary.

Course of Instruction in Special Industrial Schools.- The course of instruction in these central industrial schools, according to the Director, should include such industries as have an occupational value, such as hand-spinning and handloom weaving, carpentry and cane-work, smithy and metal work and needle work for girls. Considering the early age at which children are directed ~~into~~ industrial education and the comparatively short period devoted to elementary education, the Director strongly recommends the continuance of a part-time liberal education even in these industrial schools as a compulsory measure. It is suggested that

drawing also should be made compulsory as it is almost indispensable for the proper pursuit of the industries mentioned. It is essential, the Director concludes, that the teaching of industries in these central industrial schools should be made thoroughly practical, scientifically accurate and economically sound; and for this, workshop practice should be made an inseparable part of the curriculum. A better type of teachers ~~is~~ is also indispensable.

(The Hindu, 23-4-1936). +

Agriculture.

The Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Act, 1935. †

Reference was made at page 70 of our August 1935 report to the Bengal Relief of Indebtedness Bill, 1935, introduced in the Bengal Legislative Council on 27-8-1935. The Select Committee to which the Bill was referred, changed the title of the Bill to the Bengal Agricultural Debtors' Bill, 1935. The Bill as passed by the Council (assent was accorded by the Governor General to the Bill on 29-3-1936) is published at pages 22-40 of Part III of the Calcutta Gazette dated 9-4-1936. †

The Bombay Debt Conciliation Bill, 1936:

(Bill No. VIII of 1936)

A Bill to make provision for the setting up of debt conciliation boards to relieve agriculturists from indebtedness was introduced in the Bombay Legislative Council on 24-3-1936 by Mr. V.N. Patil.

Main Features.- The basis of the Bill is voluntary settlement. The Board which is to be nominated by Government has no power to give an award. It is charged with the duty of endeavouring to bring about a fair and reasonable agreement between the debtor and his creditors. While it is made incumbent on all creditors to appear and make a true statement of their claims and produce all the documents in support thereof on pain of losing all their rights against the debtor, they are not compelled to agree to composition. There is however an inducement to the acceptance of a fair offer

in that the claims of those that agree have priority of execution except over secured creditors. This provision is also calculated to discourage future borrowings. There are also provisions to discourage intransigence which ^{by these} ~~deprive~~ others who refuse a fair and reasonable offer ^{are deprived} in subsequent civil court proceedings of costs as well as of interest on debts exceeding 6 per cent from the date of the certificate issued by the Board. A summary procedure has been provided for the recovery of amounts under agreement as arrears of land revenue in the event of default by the debtor. Either a qualified debtor or a creditor can apply, but the Board can, for sufficient reasons, dismiss the application. This will enable it to refuse its help to those who are not bona fide agriculturists or whose application for relief is not a genuine one.

(Summarised from pages 80-90 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 6-4-1936).+

The Assam Debt Conciliation Bill, 1936.

The Government of Assam introduced in the Assam Legislative Council on 11-3-1936 a Bill to make provision for the setting up of debt conciliation boards to relieve agriculturists from indebtedness. The Bill is the outcome of a resolution moved in the September session of the Council, 1935, that a Committee should be appointed to enquire into the economic condition of the rai-yats with a view to recommend action for improving it. Government, while opposing the appointment of a roving committee with no very definite object of enquiry, recognised the difficulties of the rai-yats in view of the fact that prices of agricultural produce had fallen while their

debts remained constant, and undertook to consider the possibility of creating Debt Conciliation Boards on the lines adopted by various other provinces.

The present Bill follows closely the enactment passed by the Legislative Council of the Central Provinces in 1933. It is based on the idea that both creditors and debtors are prepared to revise the terms of their agreement in view of the recent fall in prices, which means that a greater value of goods has to be offered to liquidate old debts. The honest debtor gets the advantage of having his debt reduced to a limit, which in the opinion of an impartial Board he will be able to pay, while the reasonable creditor will obtain the assistance of Government in realising his reduced dues.

The Bill differs from the Act recently passed in Bengal in that it gives the Boards no power to enforce a settlement in the absence of an agreement between the parties. Its object is to take advantage of a general willingness to ~~xx~~ compromise which is believed to exist on both sides and to give legal sanction to any settlement which may be arrived at.

(Summarised from pages 239 to 245 of the Assam Gazette dated 1-4-1936). ✦

1st All India Peasants' Conference -Lucknow, 1936:

Economic and Political Demands Formulated. ✦

Reference was made at pages 37-38 of the report of this Office for January 1936 to the decision arrived ~~z~~ at by the leaders of the peasants' movement in India to hold the first All-India Peasants' Conference at Lucknow sometime during 1936. The 1st All India Peasants' Conference was held at Lucknow on 11-4-1936. It was

attended by a large number of kisans (peasants) from all over India and mostly from U.P. and Bihar. Twenty-one fundamental economic and political demands were formulated, embodying the rights of the Indian peasants. Abolition of landlordism, cancellation of debts and revenue arrears and the institution of a graduated land tax are among the economic reforms urged. Below are given the important resolutions adopted by the Conference:-

Objects Defined:- Freedom from Political and Economic Exploitation through Organisation.- The object of the Kisan Movement is to secure complete freedom from economic exploitation and the achievement of full economic and political power for peasants and workers and all other exploited classes.

The main task of the Kisan Movement shall be the organisation of peasants to fight for their immediate political and economic demands in order to prepare them for their emancipation from every form of exploitation.

The Kisan Movement stands for the achievement of ultimate economic and political power for the producing masses through its active participation in the national struggle for winning complete independence.

Landlordism to be Abolished.- Whereas the present system of ownership by landlords, ~~and~~ zamindars (U.P., Orissa, Bengal, Behar, Madras and Assam), taluqdars (U. P. and Gujarat), malguzars (C.P), ishtimardars (Ajmer), khotes (Deccan), janmis (Malabar), inamdars, etc. — involving as it does the vesting of ownership of vast areas of land and of the right of collecting and enjoying enormous rent incomes, in a numerically limited privileged class, is iniquitous, unjust burdensome and oppressive to the peasants, and whereas the Zamindars, rack-rent tenants and neglecting irrigation, all such systems of landlordism shall be abolished, and all the rights over such lands shall be vested in cultivators.

Graduated Land Tax.- Whereas the present system of land revenue and resettlement imposed by Government in ryotwari areas have proved too vexatious and resulted in the progressive pauperization of peasants, such systems of land revenue and resettlements shall be abolished and replaced by a graduated land-tax upon net incomes of Rs. 500 and more.

Agricultural Debts to be wiped off.- Provision of Agricultural Credit.- Whereas peasants have been persecuted and over-burdened by oppressive rural indebtedness and usurious rates of interest, whereas the burden of such debts and interest thereon has been more than redoubled by the fall in prices of agricultural produce and assets, whereas the lands of most of the peasants have either passed or are passing into the hands of absentee landlords, ~~and~~

sowcars and urban classes, peasants shall be completely relieved from all liability to pay old debts or interests thereon; further the State shall immediately put into operation the necessary machinery to provide agricultural credit for the current needs of peasants.

Landless Peasants to be Provided with Lands.- This Conference demands that landless peasants be provided with land to cultivate on the basis of co-operative farming, and, since one-third of the total cultivable land is still unoccupied and vested in Government and landlords, this Conference resolves that all such lands be granted to the landless kisans.

Minimum Economic Demands. - The immediate minimum economic demands of the peasants have been formulated under the following 17 heads by the Conference:-

1. Cancellation of all arrears of rent and revenue.
2. Abolition of all land revenue assessment and rent from uneconomic holdings.
3. Reduction by 50 per cent of rent and revenue, and also of water-rates.
4. Abolition and penalisation of all feudal and customary dues and forced labour, including begar and illegal exactions.
5. Declaration of a 5 years' moratorium for agrarian indebtedness.
6. Holding of an immediate enquiry into the extent of repayment of the principal borrowed, and interest thereon by peasants, and the assessment of the assets and liabilities of the peasants.
7. Freedom from arrest and imprisonment for inability to pay debts, rents and revenue.
8. Immunity from attachment for all minimum holdings, stables, living quarters, household necessaries, dairy and other cattle in execution of civil decrees and revenue and rent demands.
9. Lowering of freights upon transport of agricultural commodities and of third class-railway rates.
10. Abolition of all indirect ~~xx~~ taxes, particularly duties on salt, kerosene, sugar and tobacco.
11. Prohibition of dumping of food products.
12. Stabilisation of prices of agricultural products at the 1929 level by the necessary adjustment of exchange and currency policy.
13. Safeguarding of the Customary rights of peasants and workers to secure forest produce (grazing, timber, fuel); grazing fees should be halved and the regulation of the grazing and distribution of timber in forests should be vested in village panchayats.
14. Administration of all communal lands, howsoever originated, and grazing lands (Go-char) shall be vested in village panchayats.
15. Enactment of a Peasants' Union Act to safeguard fundamental rights by collective action.
16. The assurance of a minimum (living) wage to all agricultural

-cultural

workers and the extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act to all agricultural workers.

17. The redistribution of the burden of taxation, both provincial and central, jointly or variously so as to impose at least 75 per cent of the tax-burden upon the richer classes.

Political Demands.- In addition, the following four political demands have also been formulated:-

1. Adult franchise and functional representation in all legislatures.

2. Repeal of all anti-peasant, anti-labour and anti-national laws, ordinances and regulations in British and Indian India, and the release of all kisan labour and political prisoners whether sentenced or detained without trial.

3. Re-instatement of all peasants deprived of their lands, etc., owing to their participation in the movements for their economic and political freedom and also owing to their failure to pay revenue or rent during this economic depression.

4. Immediate establishment of free and compulsory elementary education for girls and boys, provision of medical and sanitary aid, and the establishing of a national housing policy.

*(The National Call, 13-4-1936
the Bombay Chronicle, 22-4-1938).*

Agricultural Indebtedness:Debt Conciliation

Boards to be set up by Legislation in Mysore

At pages 64-67 of our January 1935 report was given a summary of the recommendation of the Enquiry Committee appointed by the Mysore State to enquire into the question of agricultural indebtedness in the State. One of the recommendations of the Committee referred to the ~~drafting~~ ^{drafting} ~~sketching~~ of a scheme of debt conciliation on a voluntary basis.

Passing orders on the Report of the Committee, the Government of Mysore has expressed their agreement with the Committee that a scheme of debt conciliation might be introduced as an experimental measure in a few selected areas. A permanent Board, for each local area, to deal with all the cases arising there, appeared to the

Government to be necessary. The Board's decision is to be regarded as a decree binding on the debtor and the creditor, if they agreed. Where there were several creditors, the decree would be binding only if the settlement was agreed to by creditors to whom not less than 50 per cent of the secured debts were due. When a settlement was arrived at, the Board would attempt to arrange payment to the creditor of the amounts of their debts as settled through a land mortgage bank or co-operative society and where this was not possible, the amount due would be recovered by the Deputy Commissioner as an arrear of land revenue.

It is understood that the Government of Mysore are planning to introduce a Bill, incorporating the above principles in the next session of the State Representative Assembly.

(The Hindu, 23-4-1936).

General.

The 49th Session of the Indian National Congress,

Lucknow, 1936 -

The 49th session of the Indian National Congress was held at Lucknow from 12 to 14-4-1936 under the presidentship of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. ~~Two~~ important items on the agenda of this year's session were (1) the question of office acceptance under the reformed constitution and (2) the formulation of an economic programme for peasants and workers.

A feature of the Presidential address of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was the attack on the new Constitution Act and on the repressive policy of the Government towards national aspirations. He referred to the "decay" of British rule in India, which he declared was maintained by repression and espionage, and he referred in bitter terms to the "depths of vulgarity our rulers have descended ^{into} in their ardent desire to hold on to what they have got."

Referring to economic problems, he asked the Congress to co^orelate Indian events to world problems and thus keep them in their correct perspective. He said:

"~~In~~ I am convinced that the only key to the solution of the world's problems and of India's problems lies in socialism, and when I use this word I do so not in a vague humanitarian way, but in the scientific, economic sense. Socialism is, however, something even more than an economic doctrine; it is a philosophy of life and as such also it appeals to me. I see no way of ending the poverty, the vast unemployment, the degradation and the subjection of the Indian people except through socialism.

That involves vast and revolutionary changes in our political and social structure, the ending of vested interests in land and industry, as well as the feudal and autocratic Indian States system. That means the ending of private property, except in a restricted sense, and the replacement of the present profit system by a higher ideal of co-operative service. It means ultimately a change in our instincts and habits and desires. In short, it means a new

civilisation radically different from the present capitalist order. Some glimpse we can have of this new civilisation in the territories of the U.S.S.R."

"I should like the Congress^{to} become a socialist organisation and to join hands with the other forces in the world who are working for the new civilisation. But I realise that the majority in the Congress, as it is constituted today, may not be prepared to go thus far."

As regards the Constitution Act, Pandit Nehru said that the Congress attitude towards it will be one of uncompromising hostility. He, however, agreed that the Congress should contest the forthcoming elections to the new provincial legislatures, and that Congress candidates should seek election on the basis of a detailed political and economic programme with a demand for a constituent Assembly in the forefront. But he definitely refused to agree to acceptance of office under the reforms.

Pandit Nehru emphasised the importance of Congress increasing its contacts with the masses and said that this is to be achieved by organising them as producers and then affiliating such organisations to the Congress ^{thus ensuring} ~~or have~~ full co-operation between the two. Such organisations of producers as exist today, such as trade unions and peasant unions, could also be brought within this sphere of mutual co-operation for the good of the masses and for the struggle for national freedom. Thus Congress could have an individual as well as a corporate membership, and retaining its individual character, could influence, and be influenced by, other mass elements.

Referring to the European political situation, Pandit Nehru said that India should not participate in any Imperialist war.

Resolutions.- The following is a summary of the more important

resolutions passed by the Congress:

Government of India Act, 1935.- The Congress passed a comprehensive resolution rejecting the Government of India Act, 1935, as it "in no way represents the will of the nation", emphasising the importance of having a constitution "based on the independence of India as a nation", and demanding the convening of a Constituent Assembly for the purpose of drawing up such a constitution. The resolution approved of Congress candidates contesting the forthcoming elections to provincial legislatures on the basis of a detailed political and economic policy and programme. The Congress Parliamentary Board was abolished and the work done by it was assigned to the Working Committee of the Congress. The resolution postponed the question of acceptance or non-acceptance of office by Congress members who are elected to the Legislatures, for decision to a special session of the All-India Congress Committee.

Indians Abroad.- The Congress reiterated its sympathy for Indian settlers in South Africa, East Africa and Fiji Islands and deplored the continued deterioration in their status and deprivation of personal and property rights in spite of past agreements and declarations of local and British Governments and assured them of its readiness to take such action as may be within its power to ameliorate their condition.

Co-operation between the Congress and the masses.- One of the resolutions expressed the opinion that it is desirable to develop closer association between the masses and the Congress organisation, so that they may take their full share in the shaping of Congress policy and in its activities, and the organisation might become even more responsive to their needs and desires. With a view to this, and further to bring about closer co-operation with other organisations of peasants, workers and others which aim at the freedom of the Indian people and to make the Congress a joint front of all the anti-imperialist elements in the country, the Congress appointed a committee to suggest a revision of the constitution. The Committee is to report to the All India Congress Committee by the end of July, 1936, and its report is to be then circulated to provincial and district committees for opinion. The final recommendations of the All India Congress Committee on this report is to be placed before the next session of the Congress.

The Committee consists of Babu Rajendra Prasad, Messrs. Jai-ramdas Daulatram and Jai Prakash Narain.

The Socialist members of the Congress pressed for an amendment of the Congress Constitution to "provide, inter alia, for direct representation of organisations of peasants and labourers." This amendment was defeated both in the Subjects Committee as well as in the open Session of the Congress.

Agrarian Programme.- Mr. Bhulabhai Desai moved the following resolution, which was adopted:

"This Congress is of opinion that the most important and urgent problem of the country is the appalling poverty, unemployment and indebtedness of the peasantry, fundamentally due to antiquated and repressive land tenure and revenue systems and intensified in recent years by the great slump in prices of agricultural produce. The final solution of this problem inevitably involves the removal of the British imperialistic exploitation, a thorough change of the land tenure and revenue systems and a recognition by the state of its duty to provide work for the rural unemployed masses.

"In view, however, of the fact that agrarian conditions and land tenure and revenue systems differ in the various provinces, it is desirable to consult Provincial Congress Committees, and such peasant organisations, as the Working Committee thinks fit, in the drawing up of a full all-India agrarian programme as well as a programme for each province. This Congress, therefore, calls upon each Provincial Congress Committee to make recommendations in detail to the Working Committee by August 31, 1936, for being considered and placed before the All India Congress Committee, having particular regard to the following matters:-

- (1) Freedom of organisation of agricultural labourers and peasants;
- (2) Safeguarding of the interests of peasants where there are intermediaries between the State and themselves;
- (3) Just and fair relief of agricultural indebtedness, including arrears of rent and revenue;
- (4) Emancipation of the peasants from feudal and semi-feudal levies;
- (5) Substantial reduction in respect of rent and revenue demands;
- (6) A just allotment of the State expenditure for the social, economic and cultural amenities of villages;
- (7) Protection against harassing restrictions on the utilisation of local natural facilities for their domestic and agricultural needs;
- (8) Freedom from oppression and harassment at the hands of government officials and landlords; and
- (9) Fostering industries for relieving rural unemployment."

Congress and Indian States.- One resolution expressed the opinion that the people of States should have the same right of self-determination as those of the rest of India and that the Congress stands for the same political, civil and democratic liberties for every part of India. It was, however, pointed out that the struggle for liberty within the States has, in the very nature of things, to be carried out by the people of the States themselves.

Proportional Representation in A.I.C.C.- One of the official resolutions proposed the deletion of the clause providing for proportional representation by single transferable vote as a method of election to the A.I.C.C. The resolution was opposed by the Socialist members. The Subjects Committee passed the resolution by 37 votes against 32, but in the open session the resolution was defeated by 227 votes against 207.

The New Working Committee.- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President, has chosen the following to constitute the members of the Working Committee: Seth Jamma Lal Bajaj; Acharya Kriplani (General Secretary); Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan; Babu Rajendra Prasad; Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel; Maulana Abul Kalam Azad; Mr. C. Rajagopalachari; Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose; Mr. Phulabhai Desai; Mr. Jairam Das Doulat Ram; Mr. Shankar Rao Deo; Acharya Narendra Deo; Mr. Jai Prakash Narain; Mr. Achyut Patwardhan. Dr. Khan Sahib will act for Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan as long as the latter ~~is~~ is in prison.

A noticeable feature of the session was the great efforts made by the Congress Socialist Party to consolidate its position in the Congress organisation. Though it was not very successful in gaining its points, it made its influence felt at every stage.

(The Hindustan Times of
10 to 17-4-1936).