

6.	<u>Employment and Unemployment.</u> Unemployment in Karachi City; Municipal Committee's Report.	42-43
7.	<u>Public Health.</u> (a) Leprosy Menace in Jharia Mines Area; Leprosy Survey to be undertaken.	44
	(b) Rural Hygiene Conference of Eastern Countries to be held in Java in 1937; Preparatory Committee's Work in India.	45 - 46
8.	<u>Co-operation.</u> Progress of Co-operation in Hyderabad State, 1934-35.	47 - 48
9.	<u>Women and Children.</u> Children in Bidi Factories in Hyderabad State; Hyderabad Factory Act to apply.	49 - 50
10.	<u>Education.</u> Overhaul of Indian Educational System; Central Government's Plans re. Vocational Training.	51 - 52
11.	<u>Agriculture.</u> (a) Remission of Agricultural Debts; Work of C.P. Debt Conciliation Boards in 1935.	53
	(b) Agricultural Organisation in the Punjab; Punjab Peasants Bureau formed.	54
	(c) Progress of the Peasants Movement; A.I. Kisan Committee Bulletin.	54 - 57
12.	<u>Migration.</u> (a) Indian Immigrant Labour in Ceylon; Government of Ceylon to appoint Commission of Inquiry.	58
	(b) Indian Labour in Ceylon; Overseas Indian Association's Memorandum to Government of India.	58 - 62
	(c) Zanzibar Indians and Clove Legislation; Mr. G.S. Bozman's Mission.	62
13.	<u>General.</u> (a) India's new High Commissioner in London; Sir F.K. Noon succeeds Sir B.N. Mitra.	63.
	(b) Indian National Congress President's advocacy of Socialism; Protest Manifesto of Businessmen.	64-67.

References to the I. L. O.

The Amrita Bazar Patrika dated 11-5-36 publishes a news item mentioning the names of important people who left Bombay on 9-5-36 by S.S.Strathaird for Europe. In the list is included the name of Sir Homi Mehta, Indian employers' delegate to the 20th session of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 18-5-36 publishes a brief news item to the effect that Mr. R.W.Fulay, before leaving Nagpur for Geneva to attend the 20th session of the I.L.Conference, was entertained at dinner on 13-5-36 by the Municipal Employees Association.

* * *

The Times of India dated 18-5-36 publishes the report of an interview given by Mr. Fulay before he left Bombay for Geneva by the "Viceroy of India" on 18-5-36. Mr. Fulay, in the course of the interview, said that at the I.L.Conference he would plead for the removal of the inequalities of Asiatic labour and stress the need for revising obsolete I.L.Conventions. He also stated that Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty and himself will be attending the session of the International Federation of Trade Unions to be held at London in July next.

* * *

The Times of India dated 11-5-36 publishes the report of an interview given by Sir Homi Mehta, Indian employers delegate to the 20th I.L.Conference. Sir H.Mehta dealt briefly with the items on the agenda of the ensuing Conference and pointed out that Indian employers were strongly opposed to any further reduction of hours of work. He also referred to the difficulties in the way of general adoption of a system of holidays with pay in India.

* * *

A message dated 20-5-36 issued by the Associated Press of

India setting forth the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference is published in the Hindustan Times dated 21-5-36, the Statesman dated 21-5-36, the Hindu dated 21-5-36, the Times of India dated 22-5-36, the National Call dated 22-5-36, and the Leader dated 22-5-36.

* * *

The Gazette of India, Part I, dated 23-5-36 publishes at page 602 the Government of India Resolution No. L 1537 dated 20-5-36 announcing the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 20th I.L.Conference.

* * *

The Statesman dated 25-5-36 publishes an Associated Press message to the effect that Mr. S.N.Roy, I.C.S., has proceeded to Geneva as a Government delegate to the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference.

* * *

The Leader dated 21-5-36 publishes a picture of Messrs. Fulay and G.C.Chetty.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 20-5-36 publishes a Reuter's telegram from London to the effect that Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary of State for India, in reply to an interpellation in Parliament regarding India's non-ratification of the I.L.Convention re. hours of work in mines, said that the Indian Legislature, before which the Convention was laid, adopted in 1932 a resolution recommending the examination of the possibility of reduction, as the result of which legislation was passed in 1935 reducing the maximum hours under ground from 12 to 9.

The same message is published in the Statesman of 20-5-36, the Hindustan Times of 20-5-36, the Amrita Bazar Patrika of 20-5-36, the Times of India of 20-5-36, the Hindu of 19-5-36, the Leader of 21-5-36.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 23-5-36 publishes an editorial comment re. India's non-ratification of the I.L. Convention re. hours of work in mines. The note points out that, replying to a question on the subject in the House of Commons, Mr. Butler stated the number of hours had not been reduced below nine and that the authorities in India were "in the best position to judge the time and the pace of the advance in the matter and the readiness of Indian public opinion for it," and asserts that, while India does not want any dictation from Britain in this or any other matter, Indian public opinion is strongly for a further reduction of hours in factories and mines. The note closes thus: "The need for the reduction is greater in ^a tropical country like India than in the temperate regions of Europe, particularly in mining work. But the Indian legislature is not representative enough and the Government dominate it instead of being responsible to it."

* * *

The Hindustan Times dated 23-5-36 also publishes an editorial note having an incidental reference to India's non-ratification of the mining hours Convention.

* * *

A communique issued by this Office on 5-5-36 on the proceedings of the 75th session of the Governing Body is published in the following: The National Call dated 8-5-36, the Times of India dated 9-5-36, the Leader dated 9-5-36, Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 12-5-36, the Railway Herald, Karachi, dated 14-5-36.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 9-5-36 publishes an editorial note commenting on the decision of the Governing Body to set up a permanent Agricultural Committee. The note urges that the Committee should undertake at an early date an inquiry into the extent of

agricultural unemployment in India and that the preliminary work connected with it should be started immediately.

* * *

A press statement dated 15-5-36 regarding the date, items on the agenda etc., of the forthcoming special maritime session of the I.L.Conference is published in the following: the Hindustan Times dated 16-5-36, the Hindu dated 16-5-36, the Statesman dated 17-5-36, the National Call dated 18-5-36 and the Times of India dated 18-5-36. A summary of the same press statement is published in the Leader dated 18-5-36.

* * *

A communique issued by this Office on 12-5-36 on the I.L.O. Blue Report on reduction of hours in public works is published in the following: The Hindustan Times dated 13-5-36, the Times of India dated 16-5-36, the Leader dated 17-5-36, Commerce and Industry, Delhi dated 19-5-36.

* * *

Az communique issued by the Office on 19-5-36 on the I.L.O. Grey-Blue Report on reduction of hours of work in the textile industry is published in the following: The Hindustan Times dated 20-5-36, the National Call dated 21-5-36, the Statesman dated 21-5-36, Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 26-5-36 and the ~~xxx~~ Indian Labour Journal dated 31-5-36.

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 20-5-36 publishes the usual weekly article contributed by this Office to the paper. The article deals with the need for introducing social insurance system for Indian workers.

* * *

The Hindu dated 12-5-36 publishes an account of the developments in connection with the French India Labourers' Conference

scheduled to open at Pondicherry on 10-5-36. Messrs. V.V.Giri and A.Guruswamy, who were billed to speak at the Conference were, on arrival at Pondicherry, served with orders prohibiting them from addressing labour meetings in French territory and requiring them to quit French territory within two hours. The Conference was summoned with a view to ventilate labour grievances on the subject of non-application in French India of I.L.Conventions ratified by France. The account also includes a press statement on the incident issued by Messrs. Giri and Guruswamy;(The Hindu cutting was forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute F.5/586/36 dated 21-5-36. All Indian papers have given publicity to the incident).

* * *

The Bombay Chronicle dated 18-5-36 publishes an editorial note on the 40-hour week. It regrets the opposition of Great Britain, India and Japan to the proposal, points out that in the United States of America and Italy the 40-hour week has been introduced without any dire consequences, and hopes that at the 20th I.L.Conference many more countries will favour the proposed reduction.

* * *

The Leader of 22-5-36 reproduces this editorial note of the Bombay Chronicle.

* * *

The Indian Labour Journal dated 3-5-36 publishes an article under the caption: "Economic Features of the Post-War World" contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the article incidental references are made to the work of the I.L.O.

* * * *dated 10 and 17-5-36*

The ~~same~~ issue of the Indian Labour Journal publishes the ~~in~~ following: (1) A communiqué issued by this Office on 25-4-36 on holidays with pay; (2) a communiqué issued by this Office on 5-5-36 on the 75th session of the Governing Body; (3) a communique

issued by this Office on 12-5-36 on the Blue Report on reduction of hours of work in public works; and (4) an article by the Director of this Office on the Prague Conference on Social Policy.

* * *

The April 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, publishes the following: (1) a short account of the proceedings of the 74th session of the Governing Body; (2) an article entitled: "Welfare Schemes in Japanese Factories and Mines" reproduced from the March 1936 issue of International Labour Review, and (3) the notes on the following subjects from Industrial and Labour Information of various dates:

- (a) Industrial Earnings in Germany.
- (b) Labour Legislation in Iran.
- (c) Great Britain and Minimum Age in Agriculture.
- (d) Wages and Hours in the United States.
- (e) The Forty-hour Week in Hungary.
- (f) Shop hours in Italy.
- (g) Compulsory Trade Union Contributions in Bulgaria.
- (h) Regulation of Industry in Bulgaria.

* * *

The Hindu dated 23-5-36 and the Leader dated 25-5-36 publish a Reuter's message dated 23-5-36 from Geneva to the effect that Italy will be attending the forthcoming 20th Session of the I.L.Conference.

* * *

An article by Mr. N.M.Joshi under the caption "Labour Legislation in India" is published in the Hindustan Times dated 10-5-36, the Bombay Chronicle dated 27-5-36, and the Indian Labour Journal dated 31-5-36. In the course of the article several references are made to the I.L.O. and the influence that it has exerted on accelerating the pace of Indian labour legislation.

* * *

The following messages having reference to the I.L.O. and emanating from Reuter or other European news agencies and press correspondents were published in the Indian Press during May 1936:

1. A Reuter's message dated 18-5-36 from London to the effect that Mr. Butler, Under-Secretary of State for India, in reply to an interpellation in Parliament regarding India's non-ratification of the I.L. Convention re. hours of work in mines, said that the Indian Legislature, before which the Convention was laid, adopted in 1932 a resolution recommending the examination of the possibility of reduction, as the result of which legislation was passed in 1935 reducing the maximum hours under ground from 12 to 9.

2. A Reuter's message dated 23-5-36 from Geneva to the effect that Italy will be participating in the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference.

* * *

National Labour Legislation.

The Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sections 29 and 31A of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923), as amended by the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1936 (XI of 1936), the Governor General in Council has made certain temporary regulations, having satisfied himself that for the prevention of the apprehended danger or the speedy remedy of conditions likely to cause danger it is necessary in making these regulations to dispense with the delay that would result from their previous publication and reference to Mining Boards. The regulations are called "The Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936. They lay down conditions for the proper ventilation of coal mines and make it incumbent on the managers of a coal mine to keep at the office of the mine a plan showing the system of ventilation, and the positions of ambulance stations and telephones underground. They also lay down conditions for lighting of mines underground and for extraction of coal, certain spots, as river beds, etc, being marked off as prohibited areas for extraction of coal. The Regulations are not to come into force till 1st July 1936. The full text of the Regulations is published at pages 598-601 of Part I of the Gazette of India, dated 23-5-1936.

(Notification No.M.955 of the Department of
Industries and Labour published in the
Gazette of India, Part I -pages 598-601)
(Date 23-5-36)

Conditions of Labour.

9

Hours of Work in the Jute Industry:Liberty to Work 54-hour Week. +

Reference has been made at pages 44 to 45 of the monthly report of this Office for July 1935 to working agreements in 1934 regarding hours of work in jute mills belonging to the Indian Jute Mills Association. Considerable changes have been recently introduced in the working hours of mills belonging to the Association.

Liberty to Work 54-hour Week.- From 1st October 1935 to the 10th November 1935, the Association Mills worked 40 hours per week, with $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent of the total looms closed down. From November 11, 1935, to February 16, 1936, the mills worked 40 hours per week, with only 5 per cent of the looms under seal. Between February 17, 1936 and April 1, 1936, the entire complement of looms was put into operation. The position as from April 1, is that the Association Mills have agreed not to work more than 54 hours a week single shift. Individual mills are, therefore, at liberty to work such number of hours not in excess of 54 ~~x~~ a week on single shift as they desire. As from April 6, mills in the Bird group have worked 45 hours a week. Other groups have adopted similar changes. It is understood that the average working hours of mills within the Jute Mills Association is at present 46.28 a week and this is, of course, liable to be ~~of~~ increased, as the situation demands, up to a maximum of 54 hours a week. As from the beginning of this financial year, the position is, therefore, this: no looms are under seal; each Association mill is at liberty to work up to 54 hours a week on single shift; the average working hours of

Association Mills are 46.28 a week; as for 'outside mills', they work much longer hours.

Economic Situation.- In these circumstances, production is sure to out-run consumption. The values of manufactured goods have already generally fallen to a level which leaves but very little margin of profit. The worsening of the situation can be alleviated if any one of two contingencies occur in the near future, that is to say, an enormous increase in the demand for jute manufactures or an arrangement between all mills in India for mutual protection and equality of working hours.

(Indian Finance, 16-5-1936). +

Working of Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in
Bombay Presidency during 1935. +

According to the Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, in the Bombay Presidency for the year ending 31st December 1935, submitted by the Officiating Commissioner of Labour, Bombay, to the Government of Bombay, no application for the appointment of a Board of Conciliation or a Court of Inquiry under section 5 of the Act was received during the year. In the report for 1934 reference was made to an appeal which the local government had preferred to the High Court against the order of the Chief Presidency Magistrate acquitting eight labour leaders of the Bombay textile strike of April to June 1934, who had been prosecuted under sections 16 and 17 of the Act. The appeal was heard by the Honourable the Chief Justice and Mr. Justice N.J. Badia, who held that the decision of the Chief Presidency Magistrate was right and dismissed the appeal.

(Extracted from copy of the Annual Report on the Working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the year ending 31st December 1935 forwarded to this Office by the Officiating Commissioner of Labour, Bombay),.

(Annual Report on the working of the Trade Disputes Act, 1929, for the year ending 31st December 1934, is reviewed at pages 22-24 of May 1935 report of this Office). +

Increased Pension ^{Rates} for Menial Staff:
Government of India's Decision.

In 1935, Mr. N.M.Joshi had moved a resolution in the Legislative Assembly, urging that increased rates of pension should be sanctioned for the menial staff employed by the Government of India in its various departments. According to the present rules, such menial employees receive in the majority of cases only a maximum pension of Rs. 4/- per month even in cases of retirement after serving for the full period of pensionable service; in certain areas, however, the maximum pension is Rs. 6/- per month. These rates are too low compared with the rates of pension sanctioned for clerical employees. During the Assembly ~~and~~ discussions on Mr. Joshi's resolution, Sir James Grigg, the Finance Member, had made a statement to the effect that the matter would be receiving the sympathetic attention of the Government.

It is now understood that the Government of India have passed orders on the question of increased pensions for menial employees. Under the new decision which will have effect from April 1 1936, the maximum rate of pension has been increased to Rs. 8/- for rates of pay of Rs. 16 and above and for full period pensionable service. The Posts and Telegraphs Department, which maintains the bulk of menial employees, expects to meet the increased liability without their budgetary equilibrium being seriously upset. Besides, since for the first few years the number of pensioned employees would not be considerable, no department of Government would be faced with heavy Bills in this respect.

(The Hindustan Times, 21-5-1936). +

Factory Administration in Hyderabad State-1933-34*

Number of Factories.- During the year under report the number of factories on the register increased from 419 to 446. The net increment is the result of 34 factories being added and 7 factories being removed from it. Of the 34 factories added to the register during the year, 23 were newly erected and the remaining 11 had already existed but were registered as factories during the year.

Perennial and Seasonal Factories.- Of the 446 factories on the register 327 factories worked during the year and the others remained closed. Of the factories that worked 35 were perennial factories and 292 seasonal. 235 seasonal and 6 perennial factories were connected with the cotton industry.

Distribution of Factories.- The majority of the 449 factories are connected with the ginning industry, there being 151 ginning factories, 72 ginning and pressing factories. The other principal groups are: rice mills - 21, decorticating factories - 10, spinning and weaving - 6 and match - 2.

Number of Operatives.- The average daily number of operatives in all the industries, as estimated on the basis of the number of employees in the factories from which annual returns were received, was 26,296. Of the 26,296 employees, 8505 were employed in spinning and weaving mills, 5,914 in ginning and pressing factories and 2,907 in ginning factories.

Sex and Age Distribution.- Of the 26,296 persons employed, 16,202 were males, 9,583 females and 711 children. No case of employment of women during nights was detected, and the practise can now be said to have entirely stopped. 297 children were employed in the Spinning and Weaving Mills and 414 children in other industries, mostly in match factories, as compared with 328 children in the Spinning and Weaving Mills and 424 children in other industries during the previous year. 579 children were examined and granted certificates by the Certifying Surgeons as against 503 in the previous year. The practise of employing adults in place of children still continues and the total number of children working in factories is decreasing gradually.

Inspections.- Of the 327 factories that worked during the year, 268 were inspected, of which 215 were inspected once, 44 twice and 9 thrice.

Sanitary Conditions.- The general standard of sanitation in the factories showed gradual, though slow, improvement during the year, and the factory owners exhibited greater readiness to comply with the suggestions of the Inspecting authorities in the matter.

* Report on the Administration of Factories and Boilers Inspection Department of H.B.N. the Nizam's Government for the year 1343 Fasli (6th October 1933 to 5th October 1934) (with the Government Review thereon)-Hyderabad-Deccan.- Printed at the Govt. Central Press.1935.

Health.- The health of the employees in factories remained generally satisfactory throughout the year. In the newly established factories, the requirements of sanitation are more carefully attended to. Strict enforcement of restrictions on working hours, has led to marked improvement in the health of the employees particularly of those who work in ginning, rice and similar factories, where they have to work necessarily under unhealthy conditions, because of considerable dust in these places.

Wages and Strikes.- The scale of wages remained unchanged. No strikes were reported.

Accidents.- There were 11 serious and 49 minor accidents, and most of the minor accidents occurred in the 6 Spinning and Weaving Mills and the Shahabad Cement factory, and were with a few exceptions, due to negligence on the part of the persons injured. Several fatal and serious accidents occurred in unregistered factories, and in almost all cases the accidents were due entirely to absence of adequate protection of machinery. If correct and complete information were available, the fatal and serious accidents in the unregistered factories would number more than in the registered factories. Although it is provided that the Inspectors may inspect unregistered factories and issue instructions to protect machinery, really effective attempts in this direction cannot at present be made, because of inadequacy of the inspecting staff.

Workmen's Compensation Act.- The Workmen's Compensation Act is still under the consideration of the Government. At present, beyond advising the factory owners to pay adequate compensation in all deserving cases of accidents, there are no other means of making them realise their responsibilities in the matter. Some of the factory owners are, however, fully alive to these responsibilities, and pay adequate compensation of their own accord. +

Act

Working of the workmen's Compensation in India, 1934* †

Review of Administration in the Provinces. - The total number of compensation cases included in Statement I (relating to factories, mines, railways, docks, and tramways) appended to the report increased from 14,559 in 1933 to 16,890 in 1934. Of the 16,890 cases, 16,868 cases occurred among adults and 22 occurred among minors. The number of cases resulting in death was 598, in permanent disablement 1287, and in temporary disablement 15,005. The total compensation paid increased from Rs. 813,949 in 1933 to Rs. 868,847 in 1934. Compensation paid in cases of death amounted to Rs. 371,762, in cases of permanent disablement to Rs. 294,151, and in cases of temporary disablement to Rs. 202,954. The average sum paid during 1934 per case fell from Rs. 55 to Rs. 51.4.

Increases both in the number of cases reported and the amount of compensation paid, were registered by Ajmer-Merwara, Bihar and Orissa, Burma, Madras and the N.W.F.P. There was a fall in the number of cases reported in Assam and the United Provinces, but the amount of compensation paid increased. While there were increases in the number of cases reported in Bengal, Bombay, the Central Provinces, Delhi and the Punjab, there were decreases in the amount of compensation paid in these provinces. The compensation paid in respect of accidents on railways rose from Rs. 273,202 to Rs. 284,900.

Ex-gratia payments. - In Bombay, ex-gratia payments to the extent of Rs. 2,000 were made by the employers in five cases in

* Workmen's Compensation Statistics for the year 1934 together with a note on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. - Published by order of the Government of India - Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi. - Price Annas 6 or 8d. - pp.5

in which the claims had been dismissed by the Commissioners. A case is also reported of a factory owner in that province who made an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 800 in respect of an accident involving the death of two workers. The work had been entrusted to a petty contractor from whom nothing could be recovered. The Railway authorities generally pay more than the compensation due under the Act for short periods of temporary disablement, the payment in certain cases being full pay for the period of disablement.

Passivity of Trade Unions.- The report notes that, as in previous years, Trade Unions did little to assist their members to obtain compensation. In Bengal, the Press Employees' Association, the Port Trust Employees' Association, the Seamen's Association, and the Workers' Claim Bureau, which was formed towards the end of the year, took an active interest in the settlement of claims. In the City of Bombay, the ~~General~~ Workmen's Claim Bureau and the Bombay Claims Agency handled the majority of cases on behalf of workmen. The Burma Labour Association continued to assist workmen during the year. The Calcutta Claims Bureau acting on behalf of insured employees, continued to render valuable assistance in the settlement of claims. In Burma, although only ten per cent of employers were insured against claims under the Act, their establishments included 31 per cent of the workmen. It is reported from Bengal that claims are often tenable against small manufacturing firms which are unable to pay the compensation required within the statutory period. In such cases, compromise is often the only way in which the employee can obtain any payment.

Applications filed before Commissioners.- The statistics of

proceedings before the Commissioners show an increase over those of the previous year. The number of applications under section 10 of the Act was 581 as compared with 509 in 1933 and 596 in 1932. The number of distribution cases filed under section 8 of the Act was 613 as against 454 in 1933 and 514 in 1932. The percentage of contested cases to the total number of cases disposed of was 21.05 as compared with 25.2 in 1933 and 23.9 in 1932. 1,159 agreements were presented during the year. Of the total number for disposal, 1098 were registered during the year without modification, 7 were registered after modification, 32 were not registered on account of inadequacy, or for other reasons, and 98 were pending at the close of the year.

Appeals before High Courts.- Sixteen appeals were filed during the year in the High Courts, two references made in Burma under section 27 of the Act were disposed of during the year.

Occupational Diseases.- Five cases due to lead poisoning were reported during the year; one in Bombay, two in Bengal and two in Burma. One of the two Bengal cases was pending at the end of the year. The Bombay claim was rejected. In the remaining cases compensation was paid.

Legislative Changes.- The Workmen's Compensation (Amendment) Act, 1933, came into force on the 1st January 1934. The important amendments, however, such as those relating to increased scales of compensation, the reduction in the waiting period and the inclusion within the scope of the Act of many more classes of workmen, etc., took effect only from the 1st July 1934. There are indications that the amendments which enable the Commissioner to take the

initiative to a limited extent in fatal accidents are proving useful in securing compensation for dependents in such cases. Another effect of the amendments appears to be an increase in the proportion of petty claims, since the increase in the scales of compensation has made it more worth while to pursue such claims; but it seems probable that a substantial number of such cases do not come to light. The coal industry and small industries have been most affected by the increased scales of compensation, on account of the level of wages in these industries.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in India during 1935 is reviewed at pages 43-45 of the report of this Office for February 1935). +

Workmen's Compensation Act: Proposed Extension of
Benefits to Persons Employed in handling
heavy goods: Views of Bengal Chamber
of Commerce. +

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce has recently been addressed by the Government of Bengal with reference to a proposal put forward by the Central Government, at the instance of the Government of Bombay, involving the extension of the benefits of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, to persons employed in the handling of heavy goods. The fact that such occupations are hazardous is generally recognised, but as the Government of India point out the difficulty is to draft an addition to Schedule II

of the Act which will give a substantial direct benefit and will not at the same time bring within the scope of the Act persons whose employment is entirely unorganised.

Government of India's Views.- On this point the Government of India observes:-

"These difficulties are inherent in the present structure of Schedule II to the Act, the form of which was dictated by administrative considerations and until it is possible to extend the benefits of the Act to persons whose employment is entirely unorganised there can be no complete remedy. The Government of India, who agree with the Government of Bombay that the inclusion of persons employed in the handling of heavy goods is desirable, are inclined to the view that the most effective addition would be one which is exceedingly wide as to persons, but is restricted under the proviso to section 2(3) to the gravest injuries, e.g. those resulting in death. With an addition of this kind the numerical criterion would disappear and in practice claims would be likely to arise only where goods were handled in large quantities, i.e., in occupations that were more or less organised."

Bengal Chamber's Views. - The Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce considered the matter in consultation with the Indian Jute Mills Association, the Hydraulic Press Association and the Workmen's Compensation Standing Committee of the Calcutta Accident Insurance Association. In replying to the Government of Bengal they have communicated the Chamber's approval of the proposal to extend the benefits of the Act to persons employed in the handling of heavy goods, but they have expressed the opinion that the right to compensation should not be limited to injuries resulting in death. Such a restriction would inflict hardship on workmen who had the misfortune to be permanently disabled, and the Government of Bengal have accordingly been informed that, in the opinion of the Chamber, it would be only equitable to extend the right to compensation to include all cases in which serious permanent disablement is sustained, that is to say disablement involving 50% or greater loss of earning capacity. The insurance interests consulted by the Chamber consider that no insuperable administrative difficulties are likely to arise from such an extension of the benefits of the Act. (Extracted from Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for March 1936). †

Industrial Organisation.Workers' Organisations.15th Annual Session of A.I.T.U. Congress-17 & 18-5-36-Bombay: Restoration of Unity in Trade Union Ranks. +

The 15th annual session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Bombay on 17th and 18th May 1936, Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara presiding in the absence, owing to imprisonment, of Mr. Ruikar, the President-elect. The session was attended by a large number of delegates from constituent trade unions. A number of leaders of the Indian National Congress, including Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and the Congress Socialist Party were also present at the session.

Both Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara, president of the session, and Mr. S.P. Jhabvala, chairman of the reception committee, in the course of their addresses, laid a stress on the necessity for immediate unity in labour ranks and for forming an anti-Imperialist front of all elements in the country fighting for independence. They urged closer contact between the trade unionists and the Indian National Congress and welcomed Pandit Jawaharlal's efforts in this direction. While Mr. Jhabvala wanted the leaders of the National Trade Union Federation to give up their present attitude and to unite, Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara was prepared to accept Mr. Giri's compromise proposal for merging the two wings of the Labour Party for a year, but urged Mr. Giri and his friends not to insist on a three-fourths majority as regards decisions on political questions, and suggested a two-third majority instead. Both maintained that unity must be achieved, as that alone would enable them to fight the forces working against them.

The following are relevant extracts from the speech of Mr. Jhabvala:-

The Capitalist Offensive.- "I would like to indicate in brief the problems that are facing us. On the one hand, we are faced with an inhuman offensive against the standard of living of the working-class. From the imperialist railway losses to the nationalist textile owners there is only one cry - reduce the working-class wage to the lowest standard possible. And then there is that big and specious word "rationalisation" which simply means unemployment for thousands and intensification of work for those on the job. This situation imposes heavy tasks upon the Trade Unions."

General Strike - the only effective weapon.- "The Trade Unions have so far failed in their role as the organs of the class struggle of the Indian working-class. ~~They~~ They have failed to adapt themselves to the new situation and to tackle as a question of practice, the nation-wide organisation of the General Strike as the one weapon of effective action against the capitalist offensive!"

Need for United Front.- "At a time when only united centralised leadership of the Trade Union Movement can beat off the offensive of the capitalists, the leaders of the National Federation of Trade Unions continue to divide the ranks of the workers, in spite of repeated offers for a united working-class movement. What do these people fear? The A.I.T.U.C. is prepared to meet them in every way if they agree to two conditions: (1) Acceptance of class-struggle; (2) Internal Trade Union democracy. But it is just these two conditions that they seem to fear."

Affiliation to Indian National Congress.- "The A.I.T.U. Congress also must shed off its old skin and start on a new path. The immediate problem is how best to forge a powerful united-front against Imperialism. This can only be done by co-operation with other organisations - ~~ex~~ especially mass-organisations. Politically, the biggest mass organisation in the country is the Indian National Congress. We have a two-fold task to perform. We have to maintain our class-identity and class out-look without which we will not be able to fulfil our role as the leader of the struggle and secondly we have to become an integral part of the Indian National Congress machine. This two-fold task can only be achieved by the method of collective affiliation, i.e., by affiliating our trade unions or class organisations to the Indian National Congress. The method of collective affiliation will lessen the danger of losing our class-identity and merging ourselves ideologically with other sections. It will enable us to shape the policy of the Indian National Congress ^{and} to influence it from time to time without fear of losing our identity. On the other hand, if we were to advise the workers to join the Indian National Congress, individually, this will lead to nothing but disaster."

Rejection of Reformed Constitution.- "We cannot but look upon with grave concern the recent resolution of the Lucknow Congress

on ^{the} ~~issue~~ ^{issue} of constitution. The National Congress decided to postpone this issue and thereby it left the door open for an acceptance of the Constitution. If ~~the~~ reactionary leadership today succeeds in pinning the National Congress to an acceptance of the Constitution, it will be ~~the~~ most serious political disaster for the country at large. The T.U.C., if it has to fulfil its role as a national organ of ~~the~~ class-struggle, must fight for a new type of state - a state which will embody the democracy of the millions. The only formula that can be a concrete one today is that of a democratic state with no standing army, no police, no bureaucracy; but a people's militia, elected officials, judges, etc."

Presidential Address.- Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara, in her presidential address, reviewed the world situation from the labour point of view, referred to the inroads on democratic principles made by the forces of capitalism under the auspices of dictatorial forms of government like Facism and Nazism, and directed attentions to the gains secured by socialists in France and Spain. Discussing the political situation in India, she insisted on rejection of the Reforms, which she described the "new Charter of Slavery", and urged that the Trade Union Congress should join forces with the Indian National Congress in the fight for Swaraj. Pleading for unity in labour ranks, she recommended acceptance of Mr. Giri's proposals in this behalf. The following are extracts from the presidential address:-

Exploitation of workers by capitalists.- During the last few years, especially since the onset of the world economic crisis, the condition of the masses has become progressively worse and worse. The effects of the crisis on India, which is predominantly an agricultural country, have been more disastrous in their sweep, duration and intensity. And consequently the attempts of the capitalist class in India to prop up its tottering structure by attacks on the living conditions of workers and peasants have been ruthless. Workers in each trade - and industry had to face these attacks taking the shape of wagecuts, retrenchments, rationalisation,

speeding up, etc. These attacks have not ceased. Every day we hear of fresh wage-cuts, fresh retrenchments, ^{and} newer and more scientific methods of intensifying the exploitation of the working masses.

Dictatorship replaces Democracy.- Driven to the last ditch by the world economic crisis, the capitalists all over the world are throwing off the democratic mask which they had worn all these years. Democratic forms are therefore being replaced by autocratic^s authoritarian forms of government.

Progress of Fascism.- Fascism has been enthroned in a number of European countries. And even in seemingly democratic countries like England, America and France, Fascist tendencies are growing to an alarming extent. In fascist countries no body's life or liberty is safe. Working class organisations are destroyed. No independent political activity or even thought is tolerated. Fascism started with alluring promises of economic recovery, of better living conditions for workers, peasants and the middle classes, of suppression of the tyranny of high finance, of return of good old days of progress and prosperity. The history of Italy during the last 15 years and of Germany since the enthronement of Hitler have conclusively proved the lying and demagogic nature of those promises.

Need for United Labour Front.- Dissensions in the working class movement have in every country facilitated the growth of fascism. In Germany it was the treachery of the Social Democratic Party and the ultra-left sectarian line of the Communist Party that contributed to the victory of Hitler. It is pleasant to know that the lessons of the German disaster have not been lost on the world working class movement. There is a greater disposition amongst the Social Democrats to work hand in hand with the Communists. And the Communists, ~~have~~ since July 1934, and especially after the 7th world Congress held in Moscow last August, have entirely changed their line, have rectified their ultra-left errors and have reverted to the Leninist tactics of the united front. The practical application of this was seen in France in February 1935 when all the anti-fascist elements combined together and with a supreme effort pushed back the black tide of the Fascist forces in France. We find more magnificent effects of the same in the results of the last French elections, in the victory of the left forces and in the possible formation of a left-wing people's united anti-fascist government. We have good news also from Spain. The united forces of the socialists, communists, anarchists, syndicalists and the radicals in Spain have defeated the parties of the Right ~~has~~ and have instituted a left-radical government under Signor Azana. They have won back the gains of the 1931 revolution.

India not to participate in Imperialist Wars.- Dealing with the threat of war, an inevitable concomitant of the capitalist system, she said: The war danger is not merely an academic issue. It is a live issue and a vital question for the millions of workers and peasants and peasants of India. We are not against war in principle. We would support and actively participate in a just war

for the defence of national independence. But not a man not a farthing for the next imperialist war, must be our slogan.

Rejection of the New Constitution.- Referring to the Indian political situation, she said: The reactionary character of the New Reforms has become manifest. The Constitution can be rejected only by mass action. It cannot be rejected by creating constitutional deadlocks and much less by accepting ministerial offices. A united front of all elements in the country opposed to the New Constitution must be immediately built up. Such a united front can be built up only on the basis of the rejection of the New Constitution.

No Boycott of Legislatures.- Rejection of reforms does not mean boycott of legislatures. Boycott of councils and elections was futile Gandhian tactics which has been now rejected by the Indian National Congress. Parliamentary and electoral activities are helpful when coupled with extra parliamentary activities for broadcasting national aspirations. Under the New Reforms some provisions are made for the election of labour representatives to the various legislative bodies.. Apart from the fact that the representation granted is extremely meagre, even the few seats that are granted can hardly be captured by the genuine and militant representatives of the working class.

Appeal to Join Forces with National Congress.- Urging that the All India Trade Union Congress should join forces with the Indian National Congress, she said that the latter body is the only political organisation in the country which possesses an all India and broad mass basis. The All India Trade Union Congress, the central organisation of the working class movement in the country, must establish relations of close co-operation with the National Congress. We shall evolve the best forms and methods of establishing those relations and call upon the National Congress to make appropriate changes in its programme and structure - in the programme with the object of linking up the national struggle for independence with the daily struggles of the masses and in the structure for allowing us to participate in the Congress through our class organisations. In this struggle we can certainly count upon the support and sympathy of the Congress Socialist Party and other radical elements in the Congress and also upon the weighty support of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.

Trade Union Unity.- Dealing with the important question of trade union unity, she said: It is regrettable that we cannot have immediate structural unity. As the next best thing therefore I suggest that the Trade Union Congress should accept Mr. Giri's proposals. The acceptance of Mr. Giri's proposal imposes a number of restrictions on our activities, the most important being the provision that no political decisions can be taken without a three-fourth's majority. This will reduce the central organisation to a position of political inaction. And political inaction is the last thing to be desired especially in the coming years of fiercer and more decisive conflicts with the capitalists and the

Government, Efforts must therefore be made for the relaxation of the rigour of this condition by providing for a 2/3rds. as against 3/4ths. majority. Provision will also have to be made to impose the same condition on the Federation leaving the constituent unions of both the groups freedom of political propoganda and action.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's appeal for united action with

Congress.- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the President. of the Indian National Congress and an ex-President of the A.I.T.Union Congress, who was present by special invitation then addressed the session on the need for the A.I.T.Union Congress and the National Congress presenting a united front in the struggle for political freedom. The following are the main points made out in the speech:

Co-operation between I.N.C. and A.I.T.U.C..- Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said that he had come to the Trade Union Congress session as President of the Indian National Congress to convey the sympathy and greetings of the Congress to the workers. The biggest and the largest organisation in the country today was the Indian National Congress. Hitherto ~~the~~ working class organisation had not taken their due share in the fight for political freedom which the Congress had been carrying ~~out~~. That was deplorable. The Congress was fighting the battle of the workers. Hence, the workers should make it a point to join the Congress and strengthen its hands. There was difference between the two organisations. One contained purely working class people, while the other consisted of all kinds of people. ~~Even workers should~~ The Indian National Congress and the T.U.C. could not become one, but contacts could be established between the two organisations. During the last 6 or 7 years the speaker had been working with a view to bring both the organisations closer.

Revolutionary and Evolutionary Methods.- Referring to the differences inside the trade union movement, he said there were two ways of running the trade union movement. One was the revolutionary way, the way which was advocated by one section of the T.U.C. which wanted politics also to be included in its work; while the other way was to run it on purely economic lines without having to do anything with politics. Now then, it was for the workers themselves to think about the two ways, and after being convinced of the way that they wished to follow, ~~they~~ should ask their leaders to ~~do so~~ follow that way.

Class War Unavoidable.- Referring to the question of the class struggle, he said that many do not like to have class war in the country. They unfortunately said so as a result of blindness. Class war was there already. It was going on at present, and there was no use shutting eyes to the realities, ~~and criticising.~~

Vested interests in the country, through their influence of money, were fighting hard to maintain their present position. The present structure of society was such that a few lived through exploiting the rest. Vested interests talked of love and mutual understanding, but why should they resent workers protesting against exploitation?

United Action Urged. - In the meetings of workers, a lot was said against the National Congress. It was possible that many of those things that were said were true. But no purpose would be served by abusing each other. It was essential that the strength of the Congress should be increased. Mutual abuse would take one neither here nor there. The goal aimed at could be reached earlier if there was mutual co-operation and constant contact.

Resolutions Adopted. - The following is a summary of the more important resolutions adopted at the session.

1. Reforms Condemned: Demand for Constituent Assembly. - The first resolution strongly condemned the Government of India Act, declared the determination of the working classes to adopt an attitude of irreconcilable hostility to the new Act, demanded a Constituent Assembly, and emphatically declared against office acceptance.

2. Support to Civil Liberties Union. - The second resolution condemned the suppression of civil liberties and accorded support to the Indian National Congress in its move to form a Civil Liberties Union.

3. Repression Condemned. - The third resolution condemned continued repression.

4. Release of Labour Leaders. - The fourth demanded immediate release of Messrs. Subash Chandra Bose, Ruikar, M Nimbker, M.N.Roy, Mukundalal Sircar and other labour leaders and detenus.

5. Greetings to Peasantry. - The fifth sent greetings to the peasantry.

6. Imperialist Wars condemned. - The 6th resolution condemned imperialist wars and called on the working classes to join hands with the Indian National Congress in conducting anti-war propaganda.

7. Greetings to Abyssinia. - The next resolution sent greetings to the people of Abyssinia.

8. Relations with Indian National Congress. - The 8th resolution defined the relations of the working classes and the Trade Union Congress with the Indian National Congress. It emphatically declared that the working classes must actively participate and play their due role in the national movement and establish relations

and close co-operation with the Indian National Congress, with the object of broadening and deepening the national struggle for Independence. Such co-operation was possible only if the Indian National Congress supported the working classes in their immediate economic and political demands and made suitable provision for participation of the workers in Congress through their class organisations. It urged the affiliated Unions to develop common action with local Congress organisations in order to (1) reject the new constitution, (2) oppose Imperialist wars, (3) defend civil liberties and (4) safeguard and advance working-class interests.

9. Thanks to Congress Socialist Party.- The ninth resolution welcomed the formation and rapid growth of the Congress Socialist Party and thanked the Party and Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru on the work done at Lucknow.

10. Trade Union Representation in National Congress.- The tenth resolution demanded collective representation of Labour on the Indian National Congress through Labour Unions.

11. Railwaymen's Grievances.- The eleventh resolution protested against the offensive adopted by the railway administration against workers and threatened an all-India Railway strike.

12. Joint Electoral Campaign with National Congress.- The twelfth resolution expressed the willingness of the Trade Union Congress to carry on an electoral campaign with the National Congress, provided the latter agreed to certain demands of the working classes, such as setting up labour candidates in predominantly labour areas and to other labour and economic demands.

13. Trade Union Unity.- The thirteenth resolution expressed the All-India Trade Union Congress' preparedness to accommodate in a spirit of conciliation the demands of the National Trade Union Federation on all such issues as would not hamper the growth and struggle of the working classes, and accepted Mr. Giri's compromise proposal for a merger as a basis of unity, subject to the following provision, namely that the constitution of the National Trade Union Federation be accepted with such modification as may be necessary by the Executive Committee of the Trade Union Congress later on, provided that where it would not be possible to take any decisions on a political issue or strike for want of a three-fourths majority, the Trade Union Congress would be free to act according to its bare majority opinions in case the Federation insists on taking independent action in connection with such political questions or strike.

(For details of Mr. Giri's proposal vide pages 26-27 of the report of this Office for January 1936).

Office-bearers for 1936-37.- The following office-bearers have been elected for 1936-37:

President - Mr. Shivnath Banerjee of Calcutta. Vice-presidents -

Messrs. R. B. Khedekar, R.S. Ruiker, Narayandas Bechar and
Rajaram Shastri. General Secretary - Mrs. Mulji Maniben Kara.
Treasurer - Mr. V. B. Karnik.

Mr. R. B. Khedekar will ~~xx~~ act as President instead of Mr.
Shivnath Banerjee, who is on bail.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 18-5-36,
The Indian Labour Journal, 24-5-36,
and the Hindu, 19-5-36)

Congress- Labour Co-operation: Labour
Committee formed by Working Committee of
Congress.

The Working Committee of the Indian National Congress which
concluded its session at Wardha, Central Provinces, has appointed a
Labour Committee whose duty it will be to keep in touch with the
labour movement and endeavour to develop co-operation with it and
advise the Working Committee on labour matters generally. The mem-
bers of the Labour Committee are: Messrs. Jairamdas Daulatram,
Shankarlal Banker, M.R.Masani, V.V.Giri and J.B.Kripalani.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 3-5-36).

French India Workers' Conference at Pondicherry

banned: Messrs. Giri and Guruswami externed. +

The workers of French India convened a conference to be held on 10-5-36 at Pondicherry to give expression to their grievances, and to appeal to the French Government to apply the Labour Codes of France ^{to French India} and to support the complaint lodged by ^{the} M. and S.M. Railway Employees Union of Madras to the I. L. O. against France. The Conference was to be presided over by Mr. V. V. Giri, M.L.A., and addressed by Mr. S. Guruswami, Assistant Secretary of the All India Railwaymen's Federation.

On 21st February 1936, M. Picquenard, on behalf of the French Government, in reference to a representation that ratified International Labour Conventions had not been implemented in French India, though local conditions, which were not materially different from the adjacent British Indian area, did not preclude such enforcement, gave an assurance to the International Labour Office that the question was being closely and sympathetically examined. The French Indian workers, being denied the benefit of vitally important labour protection measures regulating the right of trade union combination, working hours, weekly rest, accident compensation, etc., were aggrieved, and the Conference was convened to voice the protest against the continuance of such an unsatisfactory state of affairs.

On the arrival of Messrs. Giri and Guruswami at Pondicherry on 10-5-1936, the French authorities served them with an order to quit French territory immediately and prohibiting them from addressing public meetings in French territory. Messrs. Giri and Guruswami accordingly had to leave Pondicherry. The following are

relevant extracts from a communique on the incident issued by Mr. Giri from Madras on 14-5-1936:-

"We were surprised at the action taken, especially when capitalists were allowed the right of combination through their Chamber of Commerce and the fullest latitude was given them in inflicting adverse service conditions on workers. We have submitted a strong protest to the Governor of French India, calling upon him to give reasons in fairness for the action taken and have proposed to pursue the matter by making representations to the French Government, ^{the} French Confederation Du Travail, ^{the} International Transport Workers' Federation and ^{the} International Federation of Trade Unions, Paris, to elicit information as to whether the Minister of Colonies condones the action of the local authorities in Pondicherry and to secure that French Indian workers are not denied freedom of speech and of association and the benefit of ratified International Labour Conventions".

The Conference which was to have been held at Pondicherry was also banned by the French authorities. The French workers thereupon held the Conference on the same day at Perambai, a small town in adjacent British territory, at which the following resolutions were adopted:-

1. This conference condemns the action of the French Governor ~~for~~ banning this conference from being held in French territory even after due permission was obtained in advance.
2. This Conference strongly protests against the attitude of the French Governor in issuing a quit order on Messrs. V.V.Giri, M.L.A. and S. Guruswami, who were to preside over and address the conference respectively.
3. This Conference appeals to the French Minister of Colonies to apply the French Labour Codes in French India as well.
4. This Conference supports the complaint lodged by the M. and S.M.Railway Employees Union of Madras ^{with} to the I.L.O. against France for not applying ^{to} French India the conventions ratified by France, and appeals to the I.L.O. to pursue their efforts in the matter.

(The Hindu, 12-5-1936 and
The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 18-5-36).+

Economic Conditions.

Government of India's Loan of Rs. 120 Millions:

Heavily Over-subscribed in spite of low

interest rate. +

On 26-5-36 the Government of India successfully floated a new loan of Rs. 120 millions bearing $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent interest, issued at Rs. 100 per cent, and redeemable at par not earlier than 1948 and not later than 1952. Though the loan was for Rs. 120 millions only, it attracted within five minutes of opening of subscriptions Rs. 300 millions, allotments being not more than 40 per cent, instead of the 50 and 60 per cent anticipated by the market. The manner in which the new loan was snapped up and heavily over-subscribed, furnishes proof of the extreme cheapness of money in the big money centres at the present time. The result must be particularly satisfying to the Government of India; never before in British Indian financial history has a loan been raised at such a low rate interest and closed within such a short time.

(The Statesman, 27-5-1936) +

Indian Cement Merger:

Combine with Rs.80 million Capital Projected. +

The leading Indian cement companies, numbering about 10, are at present engaged in sending circular letters to their shareholders giving details of a merger scheme which they have discussed in consultation with experts for more than a year.

Associated Cement Companies to start work from 1st July 1936.-

Its initiation and progress was largely due to the late Mr. F.E. Dinshaw of Bombay. The scheme is expected further to consolidate the position of the Indian cement industry, but the negotiations took a long time owing to the difficulty of valuing the properties of various companies by experts and acceptance of these valuations by the respective companies. It is understood, however, that an agreement has now been reached and the valuations accepted by the various directorates and, according to present plans, a merger company known as the Associated Cement Companies will start trading operations as from 1st July 1936.

Scheme to be subjected to Shareholders.- The new company will be floated with a share capital of Rs. 80 millions. Meetings of shareholders of various concerns will be convened in June 1936 to obtain approval of the new scheme and it is expected that it will be welcomed by them. As soon as the new company comes into existence, the factories of concerns intending to join it will become the property of the merger. The process of amalgamation involves the voluntary liquidation of the concerns joining the merger sooner or later, though some of them may continue as holding companies for a time. The directorate of the merger has not yet been finally

selected but it is stated that it will fairly represent the different interests, and will number about 20.

The names of the companies which are reported to have indicated their willingness to join the merger, subject to the approval of the shareholders are:- Fundi Portland Cement, C.P.Cement Co., Shahabad Cement Co., K Okha Cement Co., Patni Cement and Industrial Co., Punjab Portland Cement, Coimbatore Cement Co., United Cement Company of India, Gwalior Cement Co., and Indian Cement Co.

(The Statesman, 9-5-1936) +

India's Dwindling Coal Resources: Government of
India to appoint Committee of Inquiry. +

The Government of India, it is understood, is proposing to set up a committee of officials, representatives of the industry and experts, to examine Indian mining methods. The committee will also examine the problem of India's dwindling resources in coal, which may be exhausted within a generation or less. One of the chief causes of wastage of the country's resources is the frequent fires occurring in Indian mines.

The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1936, designed to ensure greater safety in mines and which received the assent of the Governor General on 26-4-36 (vide pages 14 & 15 of the report of this Office for April 1936) will be brought into operation from the third week of May 1936.

(The Statesman, 14-5-1936).

The Hindu of 14-5-1936 in an editorial note welcomes the proposal. It says:

Vital Connection between Iron and Coal Industries.- It has been stated that while the iron ore available in India is "the best in the world" the coal available to produce pig-iron and steel out of it is "the poorest in the world". India contains iron ore sufficient to sustain for no less than 300 years an iron industry of the magnitude which Great Britain at present owns, but her supply of coal is limited. The coal resources have been estimated at 54 billion tons, but out of this only 15 per cent of ~~xx~~ really first class coking coal could, it would appear, be produced. If the Indian iron industry is to be long-lived, then, the coal resources of the country should be conserved.

"Bord and Pillar" System.- Two causes militate against the conservation of coal. In the first place, the methods of mining employed in Indian collieries seem antiquated. The "bord and pillar" system is commonly used. Under this system, a good portion of the coal is left standing in pillars which are sometimes 100 ft. square. Owing partly to the weight these pillars have to support and partly to their nature, they constitute a source of danger to the miners as they may fall and the roof come down on them. Further, this process results in the waste of nearly a third of the coal available. It also contributes to fire in the mines and consequent destruction of coal and also of neighbouring property.

Wasteful methods of leasing by Owners.- There are other contributories to waste than the methods of mining. The system of ownership and mining rights in coal also leads to waste. The landlord is paid an initial sum (called salami) by the lessee, who ~~xxx~~ gets the mining rights from him, ~~xx~~ plus a royalty on the coal mined. Under this system, "the areas let off for working by the landlords have not been so arranged as to conduce to the economical working of the estate as a whole, but rather with the object of receiving as much as possible by way of salami". In other words, under this system, the interests of the nation have been found to conflict with the interests for the time being of the owner. It is the duty of the State to see that so valuable a commodity as coal is not wasted and that in national interests it is conserved for the benefit of the nation's industries.

(The Hindu, 14-5-1936) +

Jute Restriction Scheme: More Effective
Measures than Propaganda Needed.

At pages 9-10 of this report (Section - Conditions of Labour) a brief account is given of the present arrangements with regard to hours of work in force generally in Indian jute mills. Indian Finance, Calcutta, dated 23-5-1936 in an editorial article under the caption: "Is Jute Restriction a Success?" reviews the working of the restriction scheme and makes out that not much success has attended the efforts of the Government of Bengal to restrict production. The article sums up the position thus:-

" The present position is this. The Government have been conducting restriction propaganda for two years. We have now experience of one year's crop as affected by the restriction propaganda. We are also in a position to attempt a rough and ready gauging of the crop in the second year of restriction. The conclusions that are revealed on an analysis of the relevant figures are not reassuring. In the first year of restricted crop, the actual production would turn out to be 1.5 millions in excess of the figure aimed at by the Government. The reduction in relation to the previous year's crop was 3 million bales according to Government intentions. Actually, the shrinkage in crop was only 1.5 million. Even of such reduction, the Department of Agriculture has admitted that it was partly due to the unfavourable climatic conditions at the sowing time, especially in North Bengal. As for the prospective crop in 1936-37 season, the aim of the Government is the same as last year, namely, 6 millions of bales; but present sowings indicate a crop in the vicinity of 10 million bales. In spite of propaganda for restriction, the agriculturists will be producing fully 4 million more than the figure suggested by the authorities. In the face of these facts, it seems certain that restriction propaganda, as such, has not been productive of any effect worth mention. On the other hand, the perusal of jute statistics for the past seasons will show that, even without any help in the form of organised propaganda by Government officials, cultivators have in a way regulated their output, influenced mainly by the prices realised for the crop of the previous year. For example, the total imports for 1931-32 season reached a figure of only 6.5 million bales against 11.2 millions in the previous year as the price of jute in 1930-31 was low.

A careful appreciation of the facts stated above will show that the Central Jute Committee will have to consider the question in right earnest; and they will have to devise or suggest some more effective measures than more organised propaganda if the cultivators are to be enabled to realise, and continue realising, a favourable price for their production."

(Indian Finance, 23-5-1936)†

Central Jute Committee Established:Functions and Personnel.

In paragraph 65 of their report, the Royal Commission on Agriculture recommended the formation on the lines of the Indian Central Cotton Committee of a Central Jute Committee which would watch over the interests of all branches of the trade from the field to the factory. This recommendation was accepted by the Government of India in principle but the question of giving effect to it had to be postponed mainly on account of financial stringency. The position has now improved and after consultation with the Governments of Bengal, Bihar and Assam, it has been decided to set up a Central Jute Committee under the control of the Government of India.

Functions of Committee.- The functions of the Committee will be to undertake agricultural, technological and economic research, the improvement of crop forecasting and statistics, the production testing and distribution of improved seed, enquiries and recommendations relating to banking and transport facilities and transport routes and the improvement of marketing in the interests of the jute industry in India. The Committee will also be required to advise the Local Governments concerned on any points which may be referred to it provided that the subject matter of the reference falls within the prescribed functions of the Committee.

Composition of Committee.- Regarding the composition of the Committee, it is desirable that there should be equality of representation between growers and manufacturers subject to a reserve power of nomination by the Governor-General-in-Council so as to permit of appointments to the Committee to meet the requirements that may vary from time to time. The Committee will accordingly be constituted as follows:-

The Vice-Chairman of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research, ex-Officio President of the Committee; The Agricultural Expert to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research; Three persons nominated by the Governor-General-in-Council (Central Government); A representative of the Agricultural Department of the Government of Bengal nominated by that Government; A representative of the ~~the~~ Agricultural Department of Bihar nominated by that Government; A representative of the Co-operative movement in Bengal nominated by the Government of Bengal; Eight persons representing trade interests, viz., 2 members, elected by the Indian Jute Mills' Association, 1 member elected by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, 1 member elected by the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce 1 member elected by the Indian Chamber of Commerce, 1 member elected by the Muslim Chamber of Commerce, 1 representative of the Jute Trade nominated by the Government of Bihar, 1 representative nominated by the Government of Assam; Eight persons representing agricultural interests, viz., 6 representatives nominated by the Government of Bengal of whom one would be a representative of the landowners and one may be an official, 1 representative of jute growers nominated by the Government of Assam, who may be an official, 1 representative of jute growers to be nominated by the Government of Bihar.

The duration of the appointment of members of the Council other than those members who are appointed by reason of the office ~~of~~ ^{or} appointment they hold will be three years.

The Financial Arrangements.- The Secretary of the Committee who will not be a member of it will be appointed by the Governor-General-in Council. The Government of India have decided to finance the Committee for the time being by grants from central revenue. The grants, which will not exceed Rs. 500,000 in any year, will be made each year only to the extent that they can profitably be spent in the year and will naturally depend upon the financial position of the Government of India at the time. The position will however be reviewed after five years, or earlier, if necessary. In 1936-37 a grant of Rs. 250,000 has been sanctioned for the Committee. The programme of work of the Committee will be subject to the approval of the Governor-General-in-Council and the Committee will be required to submit its budget annually ~~for~~ to him for sanction.

The Government of India have decided that the Committee should be registered as a Society under the Registration of Societies Act XXI of

1860 with headquarters at Calcutta in order to comply with the requirements of that Act. A meeting of those who will constitute the Committee will be convened as soon as possible after preliminary arrangements have been made to consider the terms of the Memorandum of Association and the Rules and Regulations which have to be filed with the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

("Commerce and Industry", 2-6-1936.)

Increased Indian Tea Exports;

More Labour Employed by Industry in 1934-35. +

The Statesman dated 25-5-36 gives the following information regarding economic and labour conditions in the Indian tea industry from the publication: Indian Tea Statistics, 1934:

Increased Exports.- The total exports by sea of Indian tea during 1934-35, according to Indian Tea Statistics 1934, show an increase by 7 million lb. or 2 per cent as compared with 1933-34, the figures being 325,070,000 lb. and 318,291,000 lb., respectively. Similarly, there was an increase in exports by land, i.e., 22,117,000 lb. in 1934-35 as against 14,441,000 lb. in the previous year.

Imports into India.-The total imports in 1934-35 of foreign tea in India were 3,075,000 lb. or 1,641,000 lb. less than those in 1933-34. The quantity re-exported as foreign tea was 11,400 lb. Foreign tea mainly came from China (1,440,000 lb.) and Ceylon (312,000 lb.) and from other countries (1,123,000 lb.).

Fall in Prices.- The average price per lb. realised at public auctions during the year under review was 8 as.9 p. for tea sold with export rights, and 5 as. 2 p. for tea sold for internal consumption, as compared with 9 as. 7 p. and 4 as. 7 p., respectively, in the preceding year. The decrease in the price of tea sold with exports rights was mainly due to the poor off-take by consuming markets and consequent accumulation of stocks in London.

Increased Labour Force.- The total number of persons employed in the industry in 1934 was returned at 905,555, of which 847,858 were permanently employed and ~~57,697~~ 57,697 temporarily employed. Compared with the figures of the previous year, there was an

increase of 39,995 in permanent employees and 1,057 in temporary hands.

Increased Acreage.- The total area under tea in 1934 was 820,700 acres, as compared with 818,100 acres in the preceding year. Seventy-six per cent of the total area under tea in India lies in Assam, and in the two contiguous districts - Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri of Northern Bengal. The elevated region over the Malabar Coast in Southern India, including Travancore and Cochin States and the British districts of Malabar, Nilgiris and Coimbatore, contain 19 per cent of the total. The total number of plantations as reported was 5,132 in 1934 as against 4,974 in the preceding year.

(The Statesman, 25-5-1936) +

All India Village Industries Association:

Report of Work in 1935. +

At pages 30-32 of the monthly report of this Office for November 1934 reference was made to the starting of the All India Village Industries Association by Mahatma Gandhi and an indication was given of the aims and objects of the Association. The following facts regarding the work of the Association during 1935 is taken from a summary of the report of the Association for 1935 published in the Bombay Chronicle dated 12-5-36.

Minimum Wage Fixed on basis of 8-hour day. - The report points out that the All India Village Industries Association aims at giving every worker employed under its auspices a minimum wage calculated on the basis of eight hours efficient work, sufficient at least for his maintenance in accordance with a scientifically prescribed scale of minimum food requirements. It was therefore laid down as a duty on all connected with the Association to see that the workmen engaged in the industries promoted by them actually received remuneration never less than the scale prescribed, always bearing in mind that as and when circumstances permit there should be a progressive rise in the scale so as to reach a standard enabling a worker's family to be properly maintained out of the earnings of its working members.

Scope of Work.- The Association began its work concentrating attention on the following pressing needs of Indian villages:

Sanitation and Hygiene.- In this connection work was carried on in the way of introducing latrines, scavenging, preparing manure from human excreta, sweeping and repairing roads, building drains and filling up cesspools, cleaning wells and tanks, providing

1.2.
drinking water and the economic disposal of carcasses.

Diet.- Information on the nutritive values of various foods was called from experts and broadcasted. Experiments were carried on by the Central Office at headquarters. Such experiments related to the ways of preparing and cooking foods, the potentialities of various food articles already in use, introducing new articles into the diet, and generally improving the diet of the villagers within the means available to them.

Industries.- Incidental to the programme under the second head, were industries connected with food, such as pounding of rice, grinding of wheat, pressing of oil, preparation of 'gur' (jaggery) etc., to which attention was first directed. Following this, encouragement has been given and improvements made in the case of other dying and dead industries.

Method of Work: (a) Propaganda.- Several meetings were held and lectures delivered by those connected with the Association on its programme and the ideas underlying it. Leaflets have been published; charts and posters were made, ~~xx~~ especially, in regard to sanitation and hygiene and diet and exhibited at the time of fairs and conferences. Magic lantern slides and lectures were arranged. Exhibitions of village industries were organised in various parts of the country, especially in connection with the celebration of the Congress Jubilee.

(b) Research.- Inquiries into the condition of village industries have been undertaken in many places, especially in parts of Gujerat and C.P., where intense survey of village industries has been done and reports are being published. It is hoped that these inquiries and surveys will help workers to tackle the problem of village reconstruction more effectively during the coming years.

(c) Marketing.- To enable the villagers to sell their wares at the best prices, the Board has been anxious to formulate a workable marketing scheme. For this purpose a sub-committee was formed to try out in some village or group of villages any scheme they may put forward.

Cadre of Trained Workers.- To enable continuity and steadiness in work, the Board felt the need for a permanent cadre of paid workers in villages. Under this scheme, six workers have been employed. It has not been possible to report ~~xx~~ on the working of this scheme as it has been in operation only for a few months. Arrangements are being made to provide training for village workers. A school has been started in Naganvadi for the purpose and one is being organised in the Punjab.

Finances.- The total income of the Association for 1935 amounted to Rs. 47,950-2-3¹/₂ and the expenditure came to Rs. 8,795-8-10, leaving a balance of Rs. 39,154-9-5.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 12-5-1936). +

Employment and Unemployment.

Unemployment in Karachi City: Municipal Corporation Committee's Report. +

The Municipal Corporation of Karachi City, Sind, appointed in 1935 a committee of three members with Kazi Khuda Baksh, the Mayor, as Chairman to inquire into unemployment conditions in the city and to report on steps that can be taken in the direction of providing facilities for training in useful and practical occupations, in order to relieve the increasing distress due to unemployment. The following are the principal findings in the report which the Committee has recently submitted:-

Extent and Causes of Unemployment.- Regarding the extent of unemployment in the city, the report states that although no statistics are available indicating the exact extent of unemployment in the city, there is no doubt that unemployment prevails in an acute form among the educated middle class and the lower middle class, and that the city shares in the general economic depression prevalent all over the country and the consequent unemployment and distress. The committee is of the opinion that the principal factors responsible for the present acute unemployment are the faulty system of education, which is more or less of a purely literary character, the decay of old industries and the slow emergence of new ones, the general prevalent depression and the fall in prices of agricultural products.

Industrialisation and Vocational Education.- The committee strongly feels that, in spite of the depression, industrialisation would give greater opportunities to the youth of the city and open out to them new channels of employment. They feel that arrangements should be made to divert boys who are not suited for higher education to receive commercial and industrial training. The system of secondary and higher education in the country requires revision and new orientation. The committee cites the facilities existing in the West to equip boys for some practical avocation in life.

Trade Schools and Technical Training.- The Committee, while pointing out that the co-operation of Government and other public bodies such as the Port Trust and the railway are necessary for the work of relieving unemployment, recommends that a trade school should be opened for teaching two or three suitable trades, which should meet with everyday requirements of both the rich and the poor and involve a modest capital outlay of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 5000.

The Committee suggests that a beginning should be made ~~by~~ by giving training in cloth dyeing and printing; leather work; confectionery and bakery; block making and printing and typography. As the institution progresses other trades could be added such as tailoring, fine lace work, dress making, mechanics apprentice course, and automobile apprentice course. Later on, as funds permit, the Corporation should establish a technical school in conjunction with the municipal workshop, a complete scheme for which is already with them.

Apprentice System in Factories.- Another recommendation of the Committee is to have a properly constituted board set up which should invite applications from boys desirous of getting commercial and industrial training and arrange for their admission to such training in local workshops, factories and mills. It should be laid down that every mill, workshop or factory in the city should admit a certain number of apprentices in proportion to their skilled labour and pay such apprentices during the course of their training. The apprentices should also have facilities afforded to them to receive training in the theory of their work.

(The Times of India, 6-5-1936) †

Public Health.

Leprosy Menace in Jharia Mines Area:

Leprosy Survey to be undertaken. +

~~With a view~~ To combat the grave leprosy menace in the Jharia Mines Board area, a meeting was held in the first week of May in the Office of the Jharia Mines Board of Health under the chairmanship of Mr. N. Bakshi, I.C.S., the additional Deputy Commissioner of Dhanbad. Dr. L. Sen, Chief Sanitary Officer of Asansol Mines Board of Health, and Mr. A.D. Miller, Secretary ~~for of~~ Indian Mission to Lepers of Purulia, attended by special invitation.

Sample Leprosy Survey.- The most important question discussed at the meeting was the nature and the scope of the leprosy survey to be carried out in this area. The correspondence with the authorities of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association (Indian Council) in this connection was put on the table, and it was resolved that the services of Dr. Santra, the propaganda officer of the B.E.L.R.A., should be utilised for this purpose. The question whether the survey should cover the whole of the mining settlement or only a part thereof, was also gone into, and it was decided that for the present, owing to financial stringency, only a sample survey should be carried out at Jharia, Dhanbad, ^{and} Patrasgarh. The Chief Sanitary Officer, Asansol, kindly promised to depute a trained health visitor, while Mr. Miller also promised to depute another. A suitable number of young men of ^{the} right type will be appointed, on probation, for training in leprosy work during survey.

Hospital for Lepers.- The question of establishing a hospital for lepers was considered and the proposed site at Tetulmari belonging to the Jharia Mines Board of Health was approved.

2.

It was decided to have 12 beds, ten for males and two for females. It was also decided to have a fully equipped outdoor clinic attached to the indoor hospital.

Travelling Clinic.- The question of reorganisation of the outdoor clinic was gone into with a view to ascertain whether those patients who cannot come to the hospital be served through a travelling clinic or whether they should be brought to the outdoor section of the hospital in a lorry and taken back to their homes. It was resolved that a travelling clinic attached to the hospital be arranged for serving those patients, particularly women and children, who owing to long distance and other socio-economic reasons may not attend the existing clinic. It ~~was~~ also decided to appoint ^{an} ~~most~~ efficient and experienced medical officer and other staff for treatment ~~of~~ lepers.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 11-5-36). +

Rural Hygiene Conference of Eastern Countries
to be held in Java in 1937: Preparatory
Committee's Work in India. +

In 1932 the Indian delegation to the League Assembly, supported by the Chinese delegation, proposed that the Health Organisation of the League of Nations should convene in the East a conference on rural hygiene. The conference, it is stated, will be held in July, 1937, at Java.

Meanwhile, a Preparatory Committee has already started work

in this connection in India. The members of the Committee are Mr. A. B. Hayes, former Colonial Secretary of the Straits Settlements (President), Prof. C. D. de Langon, former Dean of the Medical Faculty in Batavia, and Dr. E.J.Pampana, member of the health section of the League of Nations. It is the duty of the committee to study the importance of the various problems connected with rural hygiene, especially in eastern countries. Subjects like nutrition, agriculture, education, co-operative movement and rural reconstruction come within its scope.

The committee arrived in India on April 9, 1936, and has visited several provinces including the Bombay Presidency, Delhi, the Punjab and the United Provinces. The Commission will sail for Burma and proceed thence to Siam, Malaya, Dutch East Indies, French Indo-China, Philippine Islands, Ceylon and then return to India.

(The Times of India, Bombay, 6-5-36)+

Co-operation.

Progress of Co-operation in Hyderabad State, 1934-35.

Set-back in Rural Areas.- The Hyderabad Government's review on the report for 1934-35 of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, ^{of R. State} ^{notes} says that the continued economic depression ~~of~~ the last six years, due to low commodity prices, has further demoralised the movement in rural parts. In addition, ~~to this,~~ excessive rainfall affected the cotton and ground-nut crops and the wet crops of some of the districts.

Satisfactory Progress of Urban Societies.- The urban movement, on the other hand, is making rapid strides steadily and satisfactorily, chiefly due to the fact that it is being conducted by the educated classes. The owned capital and reserves of all societies remained steady, which is satisfactory. The Dominion Bank has been affected by the prevailing conditions in as much as it could recover only Rs. 606,371 as against Rs. 1,621,470 last year. However, its total reserve shows an increase of nearly Rs. 100,000 amounting to Rs. 577,268 against Rs. 470,844 last year. It is also satisfactory to note that over-dues of interest have been fully provided for and that the Bank has managed to strengthen its financial position by enhancing the owned capital.

Four New Central Banks.- Four new central banks were registered during the year, making a total of ~~38~~ 39 against 35 last year. It is satisfactory to note that the central banks continued to pursue the policy of conserving ~~the~~ almost all the resources and profit to meet the contingent loss on account of bad and doubtful debts. The collections amounted to Rs. 547,818 towards principal and

48

Rs. 404,327 towards interest, against Rs. 393,963 principal and Rs. 703,821 interest last year. The present economic depression has greatly affected some of the central banks. The Government have, therefore, appointed a committee of official and non-official members to look into the question and suggest ways and means of improving the financial condition of the banks.

Non-Agricultural Societies.— The number of non-agricultural societies increased from 365 to 400 during the year. The owned capital continued to show progress in shares and reserve fund; it amounted to Rs. 2,169,585 as against Rs. 1,948,098 last year.

Agricultural Sale Societies.— It is satisfactory to note that the agricultural sale societies which made a beginning at Jalna, Raichur, Yadgir, Gulbarga and Sailu during the year with the closest co-operation of the Agricultural Department have been of value to the peasant class, and Government hope that they will continue to make progress. In addition to the cotton sale society at Kopbal, two more cotton sale societies have been started during the year and ~~it is satisfactory to note that~~ they are working satisfactorily.

(The Times of India, 5-5-1936) +

Women and Children.

Children in Bidi Factories in Hyderabad State:

Hyderabad Factory Act to Apply. †

The Government of Hyderabad State has decided, in exercise of the powers conferred by Clause (b) of sub-section 3 of Section 2 of the Hyderabad Factories Act, 1357 Fasli (1928), to class as a "factory" any bidi (country cigarette) manufacturing factory in which not less than 20 persons are simultaneously employed on any one day in the year. A notification issued in April 1936 by the Information Bureau of the State gives the following reasons for this decision:

1. On enquiry by the Factory Department it has been ascertained that the employment of child labour in bidi factories is very general, the proportion of child labour being in some cases as high as one third of the total strength of labour. In these factories, children of tender ages, form a considerable portion of the labour employed. These children are made to work along with adults such long periods as ten to eleven hours a day. Pledging of child labour by parents is prevalent to a considerable extent.

2. Sanitary conditions in the majority of these factories are very unsatisfactory. Employees, who include also a number of very young children, have often to work in crowded ill-ventilated rooms in a suffocating atmosphere of tobacco fumes.

3. Protection of child labour is one of the main objects of enforcing Factory legislation, and abuses relating to employment of children in "Bidi" factories are of a serious character.

(Extracted from a copy of the Notification issued in April 1936 by the Information Bureau, Hyderabad State. A copy of the Notification was forwarded to this Office). †

The Hyderabad Factories Act of 1928 contains the following provisions with regard to the employment of children:

Section 27. - Employment of Children.- With respect to the employment of children in factories the following provisions shall apply:

(a) no child shall be employed in any factory unless he is in possession of a certificate granted under section 7 or section 8 showing that he is not less than 12 years of age and is fit for employment in a factory and while at work carries either the certificate itself or a token giving reference to such certificate;

(b) no child shall be employed in any factory before half-past five o'clock in the morning or after seven o'clock in the evening;

(c) no child shall be employed in any factory for more than six hours in any one day.

(The Hyderabad Factories Act, 1927 (1928), is included as Hyderabad 1 in the legislative Series, 1928).

2.

111

Education.

Overhaul of Educational System:

Central Government's Plans re. Vocational Training. +

The Government of India is planning to reorganise secondary education throughout the country in order to remove the defects arising from the too theoretical and academic courses of studies now in vogue and impart vocational bias to this stage of education. In this connection the Central Government has recently (May 1936) addressed a circular letter to the various local Governments drawing attention to the resolutions on the question passed by the Central Advisory Board of Education, the suggestions made in the Sapru Report on Unemployment and the resolutions of the Inter-University Conference. The provincial authorities, who are in charge of education, are asked to give serious consideration to the various propositions evolved by the educational and administrative experts.

(Leader, 15-5-1936)

Industrial Representation on Central Advisory Board of Education.- In addition to its plans for reorganising secondary education, the Government of India is also contemplating to increase the scope of activities of the recently set up Central Advisory Board of Education. The Board, it is understood is to be strengthened by the addition of representatives of industry. One of these is likely to be Lala Shri Ram of Delhi and another the nominee of the European Chambers of Commerce whose opinion is being sought. Presumably with the same object in view, it is proposed to invite two British experts on vocational training to assist the Board with recommendations on this development of the educational system so that when boys have completed their high

school course they may be offered a greatly improved variety of approaches to useful careers.

Changes in Law Course.- Another scheme that is engaging the attention of the Government of India relates to the changes and re-organisation of LAW education in India. This has been considered necessary in view of the growing number of law graduates who are not able to absorb themselves in the legal profession.

(The Statesman, 6-5-1936). +

53

Agriculture.

Remission of Agricultural Debts:

Work of C.P. Debt Conciliation Boards in 1935. †

In recent years, debt conciliation legislation has been passed in several Indian Provinces with a view to accord some measure of relief to the agricultural debtors, and a number of Debt Conciliation Boards have been set up to effect settlements between creditors and debtors. The report issued by the Government of the Central Provinces on the working during 1935 of the ten Debt Conciliation Boards in C.P. and Berar furnishes an indication of the successful manner of the functioning of such Boards. The salient points of the report are given below:

42 per cent of Debts Remitted.- The Boards dealt with debts amounting to Rs. 6.737 million effecting a remission of Rs. 2.818 millions, or 42 per cent of the claims on an average. In Berar, where debts are generally secured, the percentage of remission was not so high as in the Central Provinces. In 497 cases involving claims of Rs. 630,000, certificates were issued declaring that the creditors had unreasonably refused fair settlement.

Difficulties re. Conciliation of Secured Debts.- The conciliation of secured debts, states the report, continued to present difficulties, although all the Boards, particularly those in Berar, did succeed in settling a considerable volume of such debts. This was made possible partly by the informal practice of transferring to some creditors part of the property of debtors whose liabilities were disproportionately heavy.

Demand for More Boards.- The demand for more Boards continues, and the great rush of applications is unmistakable evidence that these boards have met a genuine want and brought appreciable relief to agriculturists.

(The Statesman, 1-5-1936). †

Agricultural Organisation in the Punjab:

Punjab Peasants Bureau Formed. +

To coordinate the activities of peasant groups in the Punjab, a new organisation, the Punjab Peasants Bureau, has been recently formed in the Punjab, with head quarters at Lahore, by prominent socialist workers in the province. The Bureau will collect information relating to the peasant movement in the province and try to publish the same in booklets. It will also publish from time to time bulletins about activities of peasants in the province so that public attention may be focussed on them and a favourable public opinion may be created for the proper and legitimate demands of the peasantry. The headquarters of the Bureau is located at Bradlaugh Hall, Lahore. As a preliminary step a circular letter is being issued to all the peasant workers of the Province, to whatever party they may belong, requesting them to supply information about various ^{aspects} especially of the peasant movement, past and present.

(The National Call, 28-5-1936). +

Progress of the Peasants Movement:

All India Kisan Committee Bulletin. +

The following information about the progress of the Peasants movement in various parts of India is taken from a bulletin issued in the third week of May by the All India Kisan (Peasants) Committee:

Co-operation with A.I.T.U.C.- The All-India Trade Union

Congress held in Bombay on May 17th and 18th took a great ^{forward} step ~~in~~ towards

cementing the solidarity of the city workers with the village peasants in their common struggle against British imperialism and capitalists and landlords. The All India Kisan Committee, which presenting its greetings to the A.I.T.U.C., emphasised the urgent necessity of forging a fighting alliance of the peasants and workers to face the hardening partnership of foreign imperialism with the Indian capitalist classes. The Trade Union Congress, on its part, extended its greetings to the peasants of India, welcomed the establishment of Kisans organisations, and offered them "full comradely assistance in their struggle for land and bread."

Functional Representation of Peasants in Indian National

Congress.- In the course of a reply to a letter addressed by Mr. Jairamdas Daulatram on behalf of the Mass Contact Committee appointed by the Lucknow Congress, Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.L.A., expressed himself in favour of establishing as ^{strong a} ~~great~~ contact or alliance as possible between the Congress and the organisations of workers and peasants. It however would do no good to either side to effect complete fusion between them. While the Congress was striving to achieve national independence, the peasants' organisations had to stand up for the class interests of the peasants and workers, while co-operating with the Congress for the attainment of national ideals. Prof. N.G.Ranga then submitted his detailed proposals for giving functional representation to Kisans in the National Congress.

Developments in the Punjab: Debt Relief Committees.- Spurred

on by the growing burden of debt, the Punjab Peasants have been rapidly organising themselves in Karja (Debt Relief) Committees to

secure necessary legislation on the subject and to agitate for their economic and political emancipation. Hundreds of these Karja Committees have been formed in many districts during the last few months. As many as 120 such committees have been started in Jullunder District. A Karja conference is to be held at Saktar during the next month and vigorous propaganda is being carried on in the adjoining villages of Jullunder and Hoshiarpur Districts to ensure the success of the conference.

In a letter addressed to other political bodies, the Punjab Congress Socialist Party has pressed for the inclusion of the following peasants' demands, in the coming election manifesto:-

(1) Assessment of land revenue on the income-tax basis; (2) abolition of agricultural debts of every nature and opposition to attachment of peasant lands and property in ^{lieu} view of debts. The Punjab Congress Socialist Party has also organised a special peasants' Bureau and appointed Comrade Ujagar Singh as Secretary (Bradugh Hall, Lahore).

Developments in Maharashtra.- The Peasants Enquiry Committee appointed by the Maharashtra Provincial Congress Committee presented its report on 22-5-36. After analysing the deep-rooted causes of the deteriorating conditions of the peasants, including ~~the factors like~~ catastrophic fall in prices, old methods of farming, reduced fertility of the soil, heavy burden of land revenue, etc., the authors of the report have submitted the following main recommendations: (1) no assessment on uneconomic holdings giving a net income of less than Rs. 250; (2) graduated assessment on holdings yielding higher incomes; (3) reduction in rent, proportionate to

the fall in prices; (80% of land in the provinces have already passed into the hands of 29% of land-holders); (4) appointment of a committee to scale down all debts in view of the fall in prices; and (5) complete moratorium till the peasant is in a position to pay the reduced debts.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 31-5-36) +

Migration.Indian Immigrant Labour in Ceylon: Government
of Ceylon to appoint Commission of Inquiry. +

In answer to a question in the Ceylon State Council put on 16th May 1936 by Mr. Goonesinghe, a Ceylon labour leader, Sir Graeme Tyrrel, the Chief Secretary, said that the Government of Ceylon was shortly going to appoint a Committee to inquire into the question of Indian labour immigration into Ceylon. This decision is made in response to a resolution adopted some time back by the State Council urging restriction of Indian immigrant labour. The Chief Secretary pointed out that, because of the reduction in employment on estates owing to the rubber and tea restriction schemes, the number of Indian labourers repatriated to India was exceptionally heavy in 1935.

(The Times of India, 18-5-36) +

Indian Labour in Ceylon: Overseas Indian Association's
Memorandum to Government of India. +

In view of the ~~much~~ outcry raised in Ceylon against the continued immigration of Indian labour into Ceylon and the plans of the Government of Ceylon to appoint a Committee of Inquiry to go into the question and report on the action to be taken, the Overseas Indian Association, Royapettah, Madras, has recently submitted a memorandum to the Government of India, surveying the general position of Indian labour in Ceylon, making out a case for continued emigration to Ceylon, and directing attention to some of the more pressing grievances of Indian labour requiring

remedial action on the part of the Government of India. The main points raised in the memorandum are given below:

Indian Labour indispensable for Ceylon.- However much the Ceylonese may attempt to control and restrict immigration into Ceylon from India, it cannot be denied that the Indian labourer has come to stay in that Island. The impossibility of getting local labour, and, even when it becomes available, its unsuitability for estate work and the fact that the Indian worker ^{is more efficient} are undeniable. Free immigration of Indians has ~~throughout~~ become essential for the economic life of the Island.

Statistics of Indian labour in Ceylon.-At present ^{there are} more than 800,000 Indians in the Island, of whom nearly 700,000 are Indian labourers and their dependants. During 1934, 159,398 Indians migrated to Ceylon of whom 140,607 were labourers mostly from Trichinopoly, Salem and Tanjore, while emigrants from Ceylon totalled only 54,790. The phenomenal rise in immigration in 1934 as compared with the previous years, except perhaps 1927, is due to a rise in the price of tea and rubber, ~~though temporary~~. The demand for recruitment was so great that the labour requirements of estates was raised from a flat rate of $1\frac{1}{8}$ labourers per acre to $1\frac{1}{4}$ labourers per acre. Ceylon would require at least 50,000 emigrants in a year to replace those returning to India and ~~the~~ ^{its} labour requirements are likely to increase when the prosperity of the ~~xx~~ tea and rubber industries is fairly established and the acreage of plantations increases. To this extent at least, immigration will have to be encouraged.

Government of India's duty to ensure better labour conditions. The problem is not only one of safeguarding the interests of the nationals of India who may in future years migrate to Ceylon, but also the interests of those who have already settled there. As long as Ceylon needs Indian Labour, - and without it she cannot get on in spite of the protestations of the Ceylonese - and immigration is permitted under the Indian Immigration Act, the Government of India will be perfectly justified in insisting on better conditions of labour. The memorandum ~~then~~ directs attention to the grievances of Indian labour in respect of methods of recruitment, minimum wages, lack of inspection of estates, enforced separation of workers from their families, chronic indebtedness, housing conditions and education of children.

Recruitment ~~xx~~ by Kanganies.- In spite of the Indian Immigration Act, and the Rules framed thereunder, the system of recruitment by kanganies is still occasioning a number of abuses and is unsatisfactory.

Minimum Wages.- The Minimum Wage Ordinance lays down a clear obligation on the part of the employer to give eight hours' work in the day and six days' work in the week and also guarantees the employee a minimum wage.

The Controller of Labour and the Agent to the Government of India should carry on investigations into the cost of living and examine how far the wages at a particular time are above or below the cost of living. From ~~the~~ reports published, it is seen that the adverse condition of the tea and rubber industries necessitated reduction even in the minimum wage; and if the wage is to be dependant on this factor as well, it is a misnomer to call it a minimum wage.

Provision for Sickness, Old-Age, Unemployment etc.- The minimum wage rates do not provide for sickness, old-age and other unforeseen expenses. To that extent the minimum wage rates do not meet the absolute needs of the labourers. This point needs examination as labourers who are incapacitated either by old age or sickness are left unprovided for. The Government of India must urge that the wages should be increased by at least 10 per cent and this increase should be set apart as insurance for unemployment, sickness or old age till such time as unemployment relief, old age pension and sickness insurance will be accepted as legitimate charges on the estates.

Inspection of Estates.- In view of the number of Ordinances affecting labour, including the recent Workmen's Compensation Ordinance, the need for inspection of all the estates at least once a year should be recognised to ensure that the laws are being strictly observed. At present, the only way of approaching the Agent for redress of grievance, is by means of petitions. The number of petitions in 1933 and 1934 were 2,468 and 1,473 respectively. It is impossible for the Agent to investigate all these cases, and therefore, it is suggested that an Inspectorate should be created at the rate of at least one Inspector for 200 estates, so that either the Agent or the Inspector can at least pay one visit to every estate during the year. Periodical inspections will prevent the abuses existing in connection with payment of minimum wages, harrassment of labourers by kanganies and estate staff, etc.

Separation from Families.- Though the planting community seems to be fully aware that the separation of families is contrary to public policy, the practice seems to be still going on in some estates and often when a husband is discharged the wife is detained on the pretext she is unwilling to accompany the husband. The Government of Ceylon have not moved in the matter and enacted a provision such as that which exists in the Labour Code of Malaya by which separation of families or any attempt to separate them is made an offence. The Government of India will be perfectly justified in demanding immediate enactment of such a law.

Financial Help to Labourers to Prosecute Labour Cases.- The Agent to the Government of India does not generally undertake prosecutions of cases on behalf of labourers or give financial assistance ^{The memorandum demands that at least} in cases where the offences are against Labour Ordinances and the Controller of Labour for some reason fails to take the action warranted by the gravity of the offence or even when action is taken the result is unsatisfactory, the Agent should

6.4.
61
be free to render assistance.

Indebtedness to be Combated through Co-operative Societies.-
~~The~~ Indian labour in Ceylon is always in a state of chronic indebtedness. The basis on which Minimum Wage is fixed, which does not enable the labourer to save anything to meet his other wants, therefore requires further examination. Thrift and Better-living Societies should be organised in each estate. In every estate there should be a co-operative credit society. The Government of Ceylon should realise their moral obligation to provide the necessary staff for organising and supervising the working of these Societies. Besides Credit Societies, organisation of Co-operative Stores for labourers, one in each estate or one for two or three estates as the case may be, will prove a great boon. The Government of India should put pressure on the Government of Ceylon to undertake this work seriously.

Right to Repatriation. - The memorandum demands that though the rules regarding repatriation are being interpreted liberally, it is necessary to lay down statutorily that every immigrant unwilling to stay in the Island for any reason, should be repatriated.

Housing Problems.- Every estate should be compelled by law to provide adequate housing accommodation of an approved design. Ordinance No.27 of 1921 empowers the Principal Medical Officer to make rules with the approval of the Government, for the location of cooly lines, plans for their construction, etc. for provision of sanitary conveniences such as latrines, drainage and water-supply. It is not known how far this Ordinance is being enforced. This, with the Housing Ordinance will help a great deal to better the lot of the labourer. The Government of Ceylon should by rule or Ordinance insist on the estates fulfilling the minimum requirements suggested by the Director of Medical and Sanitary Services.

Health and Medical Wants.- The Government of India should call for a report every year from the Government of Ceylon whether deaths due to preventable diseases cannot be checked by taking suitable measures and how far such measures have been effective. The enactment of a Maternity Benefit Act and provision for infant care are reforms long overdue. If Ordinance No. 9 of 1912, dealing with Medical wants is not sufficient to enforce provision of adequate medical and sanitary facilities, the Government of Ceylon should not hesitate to promulgate another Medical Wants Ordinance making it obligatory on the estates to provide necessary medical wants.

Needs of Children: Education, hours of work, etc.- Out of 1,474 estates, only 587 estates maintain schools for the children of the labourers. A large number of children of school-going age are not receiving the benefits of education. Every estate should be required to maintain one or more schools and parents should be induced to send their children to the same. A free mid-day meal

may prove attractive. As children above 10 years of age can be employed in the estates, automatically the school-leaving age becomes ten. It should be raised to twelve by prohibiting the employment of children earlier. It is also necessary to consider if children between 12 and 16 years should be required to work for eight hours and whether it is not necessary to provide further educational facilities for them till the age of 16 years. At any rate, a reduction in the hours of work in their case is called for.

Government Deputation for Ceylon.- Finally, the memorandum demands that the deputation which the Government of India intends to send to Malaya to study labour conditions there, should be instructed to visit Ceylon also for a similar purpose. In support of this request, the memorandum points out that the questions of emigration to Ceylon and Malaya stand on the same footing and are governed by the same set of rules framed under the Indian Immigration Act.

(The Hindu, 5-5-1936) †

Zanzibar Indians and Clove Legislation:

Mr. G.S. Bozman's Mission.

The Government of India has deputed Mr. G.S. Bozman, I.C.S. to proceed to Zanzibar as an "observer" on behalf of the Government of India and to help the Indian community there in connection with the Binder inquiry into the working of the clove legislation.

The Binder inquiry is not expected to exceed three weeks, and Mr. Bozman will be returning to India immediately after the conclusion of the inquiry. Mr. Bozman will help the Zanzibar Indian Association, which is the only recognised body that has been speaking in the name of the Indian community ^{in Zanzibar,} to watch the results of the working of the clove legislation.

While proceeding to Zanzibar and also on his return journey, Mr. Bozman will probably meet Mr. Pandya and other representatives of the Indian community in Kenya and have discussions with them before returning to India, sometime in July 1936.

(The Times of India, Bombay,
27-5-1936). †

GENERAL

India's New High Commissioner in London.:Sir Firoze Khan Noon Succeeds Sir B.N.Mitra. +

A Government of India press communiqué dated 8-5-1936 announces that Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Minister, Punjab Government, has been appointed the High Commissioner for India in the United Kingdom, in succession to Sir Bhupendra Nath Mitra, when the latter vacates office.

Malik Sir Firoz Khan Noon was educated at the Aitchison Chiefs College, Lahore, and at Wadham College, Oxford, and was called to the bar from the Inner Temple, London. He practised at the Bar for nine years, when he was appointed, Minister, Punjab Government, in January, 1927, an office which he has continuously held up till now. He was the youngest Minister appointed in India, and has been elected member of the Punjab Legislative Council, from 1920 onwards. Sir Firoz Khan Noon is the first non-official from public life to be appointed High Commissioner for India, and is the first Muslim to be appointed to this office.

(The Hindustan Times, 9-5-1936) +

Congress President's Advocacy of Socialism:

Protest Manifesto issued by Businessmen. †

The advocacy of a socialistic form of Government for India by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, President of the Indian National Congress, in his presidential address at the Lucknow session of the Indian National Congress in April 1936 had created apprehensions in the minds of a certain section of Indian businessmen, and these apprehensions were given expression to some time after the Congress session in a statement issued by Mr. A.D.Shroff, Vice-President of the Indian Merchants Chamber, Bombay.

On 15-5-1936, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru gave an important interview to the press in Bombay, in the course of which he explained his views regarding socialism. The interview began with a reference to Mr. A.D.Shroff's criticisms of his presidential address at the Lucknow Session of the Congress. The following is a brief account of the interview:-

Giving his views on expropriation, Pandit Nehru said that people with property were practising exploitation, If this system meant the exploitation of one individual by another then it should be changed lock, stock and barrel. If a man of private property did not want to exploit another man, he would have no complaint against such a person. The zamindari and capitalist systems were bound to collapse. ~~As to when,~~ that would happen, was a question of time. Regarding expropriation of private property, he said that there could be a mutual agreement between a Socialist State and the Capitalists and landed classes. They could be compensated to some extent, though not in full. But there might be upheavals which could not be checked by human power and the present social order was tending in that direction. Everything would have to be re-arranged all over again, when the new order came into being. Socialism was the embodiment of complete democracy and in a Socialist State no one would have any grievance against another.

Asked about the difference between Communism and Socialism, he said that so far as the final objective was concerned, there was not much difference between Socialism and Communism. In

Communism, each person would take what he needed, while in Socialism one would get according to what he did. He did not agree that Socialism would result in inertia and laziness, because the masses were assured of security. He quoted the example of Soviet Russia. The object of Socialism and Communism was to ~~bring~~ bring about a change in human habits, instincts, desires and urges. The whole atmosphere should be changed in this direction.

To a question regarding the Socialist programme in the country, he said that he wanted to win over the Congress and the country to the Socialist programme. But he had no desire to do anything by way of forcing the issue. It would create many difficulties in the way of the Congress working as a joint front. But the economic problem in India could not be solved, he thought, by any other way than by Socialism. The greatest problem in India was the land problem. But no problem could be solved unless the country had political power. In the fight for political power, he wanted the co-operation of all elements in the country that wanted political power for India. All the anti-imperialist forces should co-operate, though they might be opposed to his views on Socialism. There was nothing behind the scenes on this question and that was why he openly gave expression to his views in his presidential address at Lucknow. Except for his speech, there was not the faintest suspicion of Socialism in any of the Congress resolutions at Lucknow.

On the political issue, there was a desire to strengthen the Congress by bringing in mass elements by taking up the economic demands of the masses. Referring to class-war, Pandit Nehru said that, when a Socialist talked of it, he talked of something that he did not desire to exist. The Socialist talked of a thing that already existed in the present order of Society, in some form or other. Giving his views on industrialisation, he said that he advocated industrialisation in its broad theory, but that did not mean that he agreed to all that an individual industrialist did. Though industrialism brought with it many evils, it would help the Socialists to reach their goal. (The Bombay Chronicle, 17-5-36)

The views expressed by Pandit Nehru in the course of the interview, as also in the course of several public addresses at Bombay, occasioned protests from certain sections of businessmen in the City. On 19-5-36 a joint manifesto over the signatures of 21 businessmen, including Sir Naoroji Saklatwala, Sir Purushottamas Thakurdas, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, Sir Phiroz Sethna, Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Sir Shapoorji Billimoria, Sir Homi Mody and Messrs. V.N. Chandavarkar, Walchand Hirachand, Mathradas Vissamji, ~~and~~ K.R.P. Shroff and A.D. Shroff ~~it~~ was issued giving expression to these protests.

In the course of the manifesto, the signatories say:

"Mr. Jawaharlal in his presidential speech at the Lucknow Congress said:

"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 a vast revolutionary change in our political and social structure, ending the vested interests in the land and industry as well as the feudal autocratic Indian states system. That means ending private property except in a restricted sense and replacement of the present profits system by a higher ideal of co-operative service."

"This has been described as a new x civilisation and illustrated by what is happening in Soviet Russia today. We have no hesitation in declaring that we are unequivocally opposed to ideas of this kind being propagated, as in the present conditions of widespread economic misery in the country they are likely to find a ready, though unthinking, reception. We are convinced that there is a grave risk of the masses in the country being misled by such doctrines into believing that all that is required for the improvement of their wellbeing is the total destruction of the existing social and economic structure. The inculcation of any such ideas into the minds of the unthinking millions of this country would lead to a situation, wherein, not only the institution of private property, ~~by~~ but peaceful observance of religion and even personal safety are likely to be jeopardised.

"The business community and the propertied classes of this country have played not a small part in the furtherance of the national movement for the achievement of political freedom and have supported all practical measures for the amelioration of the lot of the toiling masses of this country and for the correction of inequalities in wealth by taxation on the basis of ability to pay. Whenever the larger interests of the country have demanded alterations in the existing laws, they have co-operated with other sections of the community in bringing about the necessary changes in consonance with the needs of the times.

"But reforms in order to remove the known evils are quite

different from a destructive and subversive programme which declares to every man with a stake in the country whether small or large that it is wrongful for him to own his business or property and that he is rendering no service to the community which would justify him in the expectation of legitimate protection of his interests by the state. We also consider it necessary to declare it as our firm opinion that such ^{an} ideal, apart from creating disorders in course of time, cannot but result in ~~xxxx~~ causing further divisions in this country and impeding the achievement of the common purpose of all patriotic Indians, namely, self-government for India." (The Bombay Chronicle, 21-5-36)

Commenting on the controversy, the Bombay Chronicle of 21-5-36 in the course of a leading article says:

A few businessmen of Bombay and the local Anglo-Indian papers have been making an attempt to scare away the business community as a whole from the Congress by misrepresenting its policy and that of its present President. The latest shape the attempt has taken is the manifesto issued by twenty-one businessmen in Bombay. The twenty-one businessmen command influence in Bombay, but that they do not represent the business community as a whole has been amply demonstrated during the President's visit. The present Congress policy and programme are not socialistic, except in a broad humanitarian sense, nor has Jundit Jawaharlal made an attempt to impose upon the Congress a Socialist programme. He has rather repeatedly declared that Socialism is not the immediate issue before the country, that he has no desire to make it the immediate issue, and that the most urgent problem before the Congress is to secure independence and that he would strive his utmost to concentrate on this issue the united efforts of all. Most businessmen have supported the Congress policy and will continue to do so.

(The Bombay Chronicle, 21-5-36)