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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

INDIAN BRANCH

Report for June 1936.

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

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References to the I.L.O.

A communique re. items on the agenda of the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference (issued by this Office on 3-6-1936) is published by the following:- The Hindustan Times, The Statesman, The Hindu and the Times of India, ^{dated} 4-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 5-6-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 6-6-1936, "Commerce and Industry", dated 9-6-1936 and "Kaukab-i-Hind", Lucknow, dated 12-6-1936.

... ..

A communique re. the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference (issued by the Government of India) is published in the Indian Textile Journal, dated 15-6-1936 and the May 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

... ..

The March and April 1936 combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a short note giving the personnel of the Indian workers' delegation to the 20th I.L. Conference and the agenda of this year's session.

... ..

A British Official Wireless message dated 4-6-1936 from Rugby re. the British delegation to the Conference is published by the Hindu dated 6-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 2-6-1936 from Rome re. cancellation of the Italian workers' delegation to the 20th I.L. Conference is published by the following: the Statesman, the Times of India and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 4-6-1936.

... ..

The Hindustan Times dated 4-6-1936 and the Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 7-6-1936, publish an article contributed by the Director of this Office on the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.

... ..

The Hindustan Times dated 8-6-1936 publishes a picture of Mr. R.W. Fulay, M.L.C., Indian Workers' Delegate to the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference.

... ..

A photograph of some of the members of the Indian Delegation to the 20th I.L. Conference was published by the Times of India, dated 25-6-1936, and the Hindustan Times, dated 29-6-1936.

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 1-7-1936, publishes the photograph of Mr. Bramsnaes, the President of this year's session of the I.L. Conference

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 1-7-1936, publishes a photograph of the 20th I.L. Conference in session.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 4-6-1936 from Geneva re. the opening of the I.L. Conference on that date was published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 5-6-1936 and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Leader, the Times of India, the Statesman, the Bombay Chronicle, and the National Call, dated 6-6-1936.

... ..

A communique re. the Director's Report to the Conference (issued by this Office on 6-6-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 7-6-1936, the National Call, dated 8-6-1936, the Times of India, dated 12-6-1936, the Leader, dated 13-6-1936, and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 15-6-1936.

... ..

A second communique on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 9-6-1936) is published by the following: the National Call, dated 12-6-1936, the Leader, dated 13-6-1936 and the Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India, dated 25-6-1936.

... ..

A third communique on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 12-6-1936) is published by "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..

A fourth communique on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 15-6-1936) is published in the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 16-6-1936, the National Call, dated 17-6-1936, the Times of India, dated 19-6-1936 and the Hindu and the Leader, dated 20-6-1936.

... ..

The Statesman, dated 3-6-1936, publishes a summary of the Director's Report to the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.

... ..

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 9-6-1936, publishes a review of the Director's Report.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 15-6-1936, publishes a leading article under the caption; "The Armament Race". The article, quoting extensively from the Director's Report, directs attention to the hollowness of industrial prosperity based on warlike preparations and asserts that conditions are becoming more and more favourable to the outbreak of international anarchy.

... ..

The Hindu, Madras, dated 12-6-1936, publishes a leading article on the Director's Report. Pointing out that "Mr. Butler's impartiality and regard for facts cannot be questioned", the article directs attention to the hollowness of industrial prosperity achieved as ~~xx~~ the result of increased production of war materials. It also points out that the unemployment figures given in the report do not include those of India and China, "which together account for nearly half the world's population and probably for more than half the world's unemployed". Regarding the plea made in the Report for unfettered resumption of international trade, the article points out that economic nationalism or "swadeshi" is an article of faith with vast undeveloped countries like India.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 25-6-1936 publishes an article under the caption: "Social and Economic Problems of the World"; the article is based on the observations on the present economic position made by the Director in his Report to the 20th I.L.Conference.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 21-6-1936, publishes a long and appreciative article bringing out the salient features of the Director's Report to the 20th I.L.Conference.

... ..

A Reuter's message, dated 13-6-1936, from Geneva re. the speech of Mr. Sodhbans on the Director's Report is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the Hindu, dated 14-6-1936, the Times of India dated 15-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message, dated 15-6-1936, from Geneva re. the speech of Mr. R.W. Fulay on the Director's Report, is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the Hindu, dated 16-6-1936, the Times of India, dated 17-6-1936 and the Leader, dated 18-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir B.N.Mitra's speech on the Director's Report, is published by the following: the Hindu, dated 16-6-1936, the Times of India, the Hindustan Times, and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 17-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 18-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, dated 18-6-1936, publishes an editorial note on Sir B.N. Mitra's speech referred to above. The speech is characterised as "irresponsible and obnoxious".

... ..

A communique re. Sir B.N. Mitra's speech on the Director's Report (issued by this Office on 24-6-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated ~~26~~ 27-6-1936 and the Times of India, dated 29-6-1936.

... ..

The Leader dated 28-6-1936 publishes an editorial article commenting on the above speech. The article takes exception to the remarks made by Sir Bhupendra regarding the ventilation of grievances against the Government of India by Indian employers' and workers' delegates at the Geneva Labour Conference. The article maintains that such ventilation of ~~gk~~ grievances is not irregular and states that it was "highly objectionable on the part of the Government of India's representative to question the right of the workers and employers to place their grievances before the Conference".

... ..

A communique re. Mr. H.B. Butler's speech in reply to the debate on the Director's Report is published by the Hindustan Times, dated 28-6-1936.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 17-6-1936, publishes an article under the caption: "The I.L.O.", in which, while handsome tribute is paid to the work of the I.L.O. and the belief is expressed that Indian labour has benefited greatly by its association with the Organisation, doubts are raised about its future. It is pointed out that the I.L.O. is only an adjunct of the League and the failure of the League will adversely affect the I.L.O.

... ..

The Hindu, dated 5-6-1936, publishes a leading article on the 20th session of the I.L.Conference. The article points attention to certain practical difficulties in the way of the adoption by India of a 40-hour week, and states:-

"So far as the question of the forty-hour week is concerned, the justification for it is two-fold. The introduction of a forty-hour week is advocated on the ground that in the event of its adoption, work will be available for more people and that those who already had work will get a quota of extra leisure which is bound to do them good. One small difficulty there is in the way of this argument being accepted. The advocates of a forty-hour week do not favour any reduction in the wages of the workers as a result of the change. In other words, the change should be brought about, they would seem to suggest, at the expense of some other factor of production or of the consumer — a suggestion which, in practice, may prove none too easy to adopt."

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle dated 10-6-1936 publishes a short report of four Preparatory Technical Conferences held under the auspices of the I.F.T.U. at Paris from 8 to 11-5-1936 to further the 40-hour week proposal. It is stated that the I.L.O. was represented at these Conferences by the Director and two other officials.

... ..

A communique on the Grey-Blue Report on Reduction of Hours in the Textile Industry (issued by this Office on 19-5-1936) is published by the Hindu, dated 28-5-1936 and the May 1936 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

... ..

The Statesman, New Delhi, dated 14-6-1936 publishes a leading article on the 40-hour week. The failure of the League to maintain peace, it is pointed out, should not be allowed to obscure the solid achievements of the I.L.O. in alleviating human suffering and ensuring social justice. Regarding the proposal for a 40-hour week, it is of opinion that in the present conditions of economic nationalism the proposal is premature. It says:

"Competition ~~is~~ such that there is no room for all-round increases in wage-bills, which is what the 40-hour week would involve. The argument that reduction in working hours leads to greater efficiency and higher output may be true up to a point, but it overlooks the fact that in the more progressive States today the hours of work are neither excessive nor onerous. In the course of time the hours of factory work will no doubt tend to become less and already the 5-day week is within sight. But such changes must come gradually and be adapted to economic conditions".

... ..

The Times of India, Bombay, dated 11-6-1936, publishes a leading article on the 40-hour week proposal. The article says that there is little chance of the Conference adopting a Convention embodying the 40-hour week and asserts that the opposition of employers is not due to obstructionist or selfish reasons. While approving the principle for humanitarian reasons, it is of opinion that economic facts make its immediate translation into practice inadvisable. It blames the I.L.O. for allowing its zeal for the betterment of labour to out-run its discretion.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 17-6-1936, and the Indian Textile Journal, Bombay, dated 15-6-1936, publish an article on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry. The article was contributed by this Office.

... ..

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 27-6-1936, publishes an article under the caption: "The 40-hour Week". The article points out that a 40-hour week will have serious effects on Western countries and that, as far as India is concerned, such a change will spell disaster to both employers and workers. Sir H.M. Mehta's arguments opposing the move are justified in the article.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 24-6-1936 publishes an article under the caption: "World's Industrial Parliament: What the I.L.Conference has done and is doing", contributed by the Director of this Office.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 9-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir Homi Mehta's speech opposing a 40-hour week for the textile industry is published by the following: the Statesman and the Hindu, dated 10-6-1936, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India, dated 11-6-1936, the Leader, dated 12-6-1936 and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..

A note correcting certain inaccuracies in the speech of Sir Homi Mehta on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry is published by the Hindustan Times, dated 17-6-1936, the Leader, dated 19-6-1936, and Commerce and Industry, Delhi, dated 23-6-1936.

A note to the same effect is published by the Times of India, dated 15-6-1936.

... ..

A communique re. Sir Homi Mehta's speech on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry (issued by this Office on 16-6-1936) is published by the following: "Swarajya, dated 19-6-1936, the Hindustan Times, the Times of India, the Leader, and the Hindu, dated 20-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 22-6-1936, the Statesman, dated 24-6-1936, "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 23-6-1936, and the Indian Labour Journal, dated 28-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, dated 12-6-1936, publishes two editorial notes on the 40-hour week proposal. Re. Sir H.Mehta's opposition to the proposal, the paper observes:

"Sir Hormusji Mehta talked of efficiency, the plight of the textile industry and the interests of workers, which all depended on the 54-hour week being maintained — in theory! This cynical complacency is typical of capitalism. But we are glad Mr. Fulay exposed the assertions of Sir Hormusji Mehta".

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 14-6-1936, publishes a leading article under the caption: "Paris and Geneva; The Forty Hour Week". The article refutes the arguments advanced by Sir H. Mehta against the 40-hour week proposal, directs attention to the French "New Deal Bill" initiated by M. Leon Blum, and warns the reactionary elements in the I.L.Conference against goading workers to desperation.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 9-6-1936 from Geneva re. speeches of Sir Homi Mehta and Mr. R.W. Fulay on the proposal for a 40-hour week, and the gloomy prospects of the Convention on the subject is published by the following: the Hindu, dated 10-6-1936, the Hindustan Times, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 11-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 12-6-1936.

... ..

A communique (issued by this Office on 17-6-1936) re. the speech of Mr. R.W. Fulay on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry, is published by the following: the Hindustan Times and the Times of India, dated 22-6-1936, the Hindu, dated 23-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle dated 25-6-1936, and the Indian Labour Journal, dated 21-6-1936.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 18-6-1936, publishes an editorial article under the caption: "Hot Air at Geneva", criticising Mr. Fulay's speech on the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry. The article states that unemployment in India is not so bad as it is in other countries; that dissatisfaction ~~was~~ more apparent than real and that Indian labour leaders ~~were~~ mere agitators. The article also refers to Sir Homi Mehta's references to the decline of the Indian textile industry as an argument against the 40-hour week. In this connection it is remarked:-

"As we remarked the other day, the Labour Office report on a shorter working week for the textile industry was largely based on arguments propounded by international organisations of textile workers and ran counter to the views expressed by the International Cotton Federation. The plan ignores local differences and conditions affecting textile industries in various parts of the world. It is only the theorist who can believe that arrangements for the working of industries can be applied universally. This is the root trouble with the International Labour Office. Most of its plans show zeal outrunning discretion. It is time that the countries affiliated to the Office showed as much realism about its weaknesses as they are beginning to show about the political side of the League of Nations, of which the Labour Office is a part".

... ..

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 20-6-1936, publishes an editorial article on the above speech. The article criticises certain inaccuracies in Mr. R.W.Fulay's statements regarding unemployment in India.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 18-6-1936, re. postponement of consideration of the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry is published in the following: the Hindu, dated 19-6-1936, the Statesman, the Times

of India, the Bombay Chronicle, and the Hindustan Times, dated 20-6-36, and the Leader and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 21-6-1936.

... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika, Calcutta, dated 21-6-1936, publishes a short editorial note deploring the decision of the I.L. Conference to postpone consideration of the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry to next year.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 22-6-1936, publishes an editorial note under the caption: "The Forty-Hour Week" on the postponement of consideration by the I.L.Conference of the question of the 40-hour week. The note deplores the hostile attitude of certain Governments and employers towards the question, and congratulates France on its recent decision to enforce a 40-hour week.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 19-6-1936 from Geneva re. the decision of the Conference to refer the 40-hour week proposal for the iron and steel industry, to a drafting committee, is published by the following:- the Hindu, dated 20-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Pioneer, the Statesman and the Hindustan Times, dated 21-6-1936, and the Times of India, and the Leader, dated 22-6-1936.

... ..

The June 1936 issue of Railway Labour, the organ of the E.B.Railway Indian Employees' Association, Calcutta, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 25-4-1936 on the I.L.O. Blue Report on holidays with pay.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 23-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr. Chelvapathy ~~Chetty~~ Chetty's speech in support of holidays with pay is published by the following: the Hindu, dated 24-6-1936, the Hindustan Times, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 25-6-1936, the Statesman, dated 26-6-1936, and "Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 30-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the adoption of a Draft Convention re. holidays with pay, is published by the Bombay Chronicle and the Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 26-6-1936.

... ..

The Amrita Bazar Patrika, dated 28-6-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above. The note commends Mr. Chelvapathy Chetty for supporting the Draft Convention and recommends that the Government of India should ratify it.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 26-6-1936 publishes a short editorial note commending Mr. Chetty's support of the scheme of holidays with pay. The note recommends that the Government of India should ratify the Convention.

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the speeches of Mr. R.W. Fulay and Sir Homi Mehta, on the resolution on "Dumping" is published by the Bombay Chronicle, dated 26-6-1936 and the National Call, dated 27-6-1936.

... ..

The Hindu of 25-6-1936, the Times of India and the Hindustan Times of 26-6-1936, the Leader dated 27-6-1936 and the Indian Labour Journal Nagpur, dated 28-6-1936 also publish the message. In addition, it is

stated that the Conference adopted a Draft Convention re. holidays with pay and that the session came to a close on 24-6-1936.

... ..

A Reuter's message, dated 14-6-1936, from Geneva re. Egypt's decision to join the I.L.O., is published by the Hindustan Times, dated 15-6-1936 and the Leader, the Amrita Bazar Patrika, the Bombay Chronicle and the Times of India, dated 16-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle dated 28-6-1936 publishes a news item dated 17-6-1936 received by the United Press of India from London to the effect that the I.L.O. has invited Egypt to join the Organisation and that the Egyptian Government has expressed willingness to accept membership.

... ..

~~The Hindustan Times, dated 28-6-1936, publishes a news item emanating from Ranchi re the~~ The Bombay Chronicle dated 29-6-1936 publishes an editorial note on the above news item. It states:

"The Organisation may be capitalist-ridden, but it has certainly made consistent efforts to ameliorate, to some extent, the condition of labour in the countries that are its members. If it has not done more or, if there are certain "member-states", the workers of which have been deprived even of the reforms adopted by the I.L.O. Conferences from time to time, the responsibility rests entirely with Governments concerned".

... ..

The issue dated 6-6-1936 of the Financial News, Bombay, publishes a note under the caption "International Labour Questions" published in its "Topics of the Week" columns. The note pays a compliment to the I.L.O. on the record of good work that it has established, ~~in the past.~~

... ..

A Reuter's message dated 25-6-1936 from Brussels re. legislation regarding minimum wages, holidays with pay, 40-hour week, etc. adopted by the Belgian Government, is published by the Statesman and the Hindustan Times, dated 26-6-1936.

A Reuter's message, dated 26-6-1936 from Paris on French Labour legislation re. the 40-hour week, holidays with pay, etc. is published by the following: the Statesman, and the Hindustan Times, dated 27-6-1936, the Bombay Chronicle, dated 28-6-1936, and the Leader, dated 29-6-1936.

... ..

The Indian Labour Journal, Nagpur, dated 28-6-1936, publishes an editorial article under the caption: "An Object Lesson to Indian Workers" on the promulgation of legislation in France and Belgium regarding holidays with pay, 40-hour week, etc. It is pointed out that such legislation is the result of pressure brought to bear on the Government by the workers. The article advises Indian workers that unless they also adopt the methods adopted by the French and Belgian workers, India is not likely to ratify any more Draft Conventions or to fully implement even some of the ratified conventions.

... ..

The March and April combined issue of the Trade Union Record, Bombay, publishes a communique issued by this Office on 14-4-1936 on "Labour Conditions in French India; Complaint to the I.L.O."

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 28-6-1936 publishes a news item emanating from Pondicherry to the effect that French Labour Laws have been made applicable to French India. It will be recalled that this action has followed certain complaints made to the I.L.O. on the backwardness of labour standards in French India.

... ..

The Industrial Bulletin dated 15-6-1936 ~~publishes~~ (issued by the Employers' Federation of India, Bombay), publishes a note on the Bill prohibiting employment of women on underground work in mines, recently

passed by Belgium. The adoption of the Bill, it is stated, will enable Belgium to ratify the I.L.Convention on the subject.

... ..

The Financial News, Bombay, dated 20-6-1936, publishes a short editorial note on the announcement of the Government of India that employment of women in underground work in mines will be prohibited from 1-7-1937. The note remarks that this reform will affect the industry adversely by increasing cost of production, as male labour is costlier than female labour.

... ..

A communique re. the 76th Session of the Governing Body (issued by this Office on 11-6-1936) is published by the following: the Hindustan Times, dated 12-6-1936, the Indian Labour Journal, dated 14-6-1936, the National Call, the Hindu, the Bombay Chronicle, and the Times of India, dated 15-6-1936, and the Railway Herald dated 25-6-1936.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, Bombay, dated 19-6-1936, publishes an editorial note applauding the decision of the Governing Body to place the question of the workers' right of free association on the agenda of the next year's session of the I.L.Conference.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 17-6-1936, publishes a note giving certain details of the Maritime Session of the I.L.Conference to be held in October 1936.

... ..

The Abstract of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for April 1936, publishes a note explaining that the Government of India are collecting opinions on the proposal of the I.L.O. to raise the minimum age for employment at sea from 14 to 15. The Chamber has

approved of the suggestion.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 1-6-1936, publishes a news item sent by air mail from Geneva giving figures of unemployment taken out from the unemployment statistics collected by the I.L.O.

... ..

"Commerce and Industry", Delhi, dated 2-6-1936, publishes an article entitled: "Industrial Competition between the East and the West" contributed by the Director of this Office. In the course of the article several references are made to the ideals and work of the I.L.O.

... ..

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 10-6-1936, publishes an article entitled: "Urgent Need for Social Insurance in India" in the course of which attention is directed to the work of the I.L.O. in the sphere of social insurance. The article was contributed by this Office.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 25-6-1936, publishes an article under the caption: "League and Nutrition". In the course of the article reference is made to the resolution on the subject of nutrition adopted by the 19th I.L.Conference and to the co-operation of the Office in the work of the Mixed Committee on the subject set up by the League of Nations.

... ..

The Hindustan Times, dated 2-6-1936, publishes a news item to the effect that the Preparatory Committee for the Far Eastern Conference on Rural Hygiene to be held at Java is now touring the countries of the Far East to secure first-hand information on health conditions in these countries. The message directs attention to the fact that the I.L.O.

is participating in the preparatory work for the Conference and will be represented at it.

... ..

The Leader, Allahabad, dated 9-6-1936, publishes a review of the March 1936 (Vol.2, No.1) issue of Contemporary India. The review contains a reference to the article under the caption: "The I.L.O. and Social Reconstruction" contributed to the number by the Director of this Office.

... ..

The Times of India, dated 2-6-1936, and the Bombay Chronicle, dated 3-6-1936, publish a report of the presidential address delivered by Mr. N.M. Joshi at the first annual Conference of the New G.I.P. Railway Staff Union held at Manmad on 31-5-1936. In his speech Mr. Joshi refers to the dilatory tactics pursued by the railway authorities in the matter of applying the Hours & Convention to Indian Railways.

... ..

The issue dated 6-6-1936 of the Financial News, Bombay, publishes a note under the caption: "Railwaymen's Grievances" in its "Topics of the Week" columns. The note comments on Mr. Joshi's speech ~~delivered~~ referred to above.

... ..

The Hindu, Madras, dated 10-6-1936, publishes a contribution from its Simla correspondent in which a query is raised about the position of Burma, after separation from India, with regard to representation at Geneva.

... ..

The Hindustan Times, Delhi, and the Hindu, Madras, dated 12-6-36 publish a press summary of the report of the Servants of India Society for 1935-36. In the course of the report, reference is made to

Mr. Joshi's membership of the Governing Body of the I.L.O. and to his championship of I.L.Conventions in the Legislative Assembly.

... ..

The Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce during 1935 publishes the presidential address delivered by Sir William Wright at the Annual General Meeting of the Chamber held on 25-12-1935. In the course of his speech Sir William made the following reference to the I.L.O.:

"Resolutions of Committees of the League of Nations passed in all good faith at Geneva, and which might apply to highly organised industrial countries, are so often completely unsuitable in India. In many cases they have the unfortunate effect of penalising the good employer or honest merchant, actually at times to the very serious detriment of the employee who has perhaps for many years been accustomed to the benefit of welfare schemes which would be either curtailed or cancelled by the operation of legislation, inaugurated probably with exactly the opposite intentions".

... ..

No Indian newspapers and periodicals received during the month in this Office, published items from the I.L.O. News Bulletin.

... ..

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

- (1) A Reuter's message dated 4-6-1936 from Geneva re the opening of the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.
- (2) A British Official Wireless message, dated 4-6-1936, from Rugby re. British delegation to the Conference.
- (3) A Reuter's message dated 2-6-1936 from Rome re. cancellation of Italian Workers' Delegation to the Conference.
- (4) A Reuter's message dated 9-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir Homi Mehta's speech on the 40-hour week for the textile industry.
- (5) A Reuter's message, dated 9-6-1936, from Geneva re. the speeches of Mr. R.W. Fulay and Sir H.M. Mehta on the 40-hour week.
- (6) A Reuter's message dated 13-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr. Sodhban's speech on the Director's Report.
- (7) A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr.R.W. Fulay's speech on the Director's Report.

(8) A Reuter's message dated 15-6-1936 from Geneva re. Sir B.N. Mitra's speech on the Director's Report.

(9) A Reuter's message dated 18-6-1936 from Geneva re. postponement of consideration of the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry.

(10) A Reuter's message dated 19-6-1936 from Geneva re. the decision of the Conference to refer the 40-hour week proposal for iron and steel industry to a Drafting Committee.

(11) A Reuter's message dated 14-6-1936 from Geneva ~~re~~ re. Egypt's decision to join the I.L.O.

(12) A Reuter's message dated 23-6-1936 from Geneva re. Mr. Chelva-pathy Chetty's speech in support of holidays with pay.

(13) A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the speeches of Mr. R.W. Fulay and Sir H.M. Mehta on the resolution on "dumping".

(14) A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 re the adoption of a Convention on holidays with pay.

(15) A Reuter's message dated 24-6-1936 from Geneva re. the termination of the 20th session of the I.L. Conference.

(16) A Reuter's message dated 25-6-1936 from Brussels re. certain labour laws giving effect to a few I.L. Conventions.

(17) A Reuter's message dated 26-6-1936 from Paris about certain French labour measures re. the 40-hour week, holidays with pay, etc.

(18) A news item received by the United Press of India from London regarding Egypt's acceptance of membership of the I.L.O.

(19) A news item received by the Bombay Chronicle from Geneva by air mail re. latest figures of unemployment collected by the I.L.O.

... ..

NATIONAL LABOUR LEGISLATIONDraft Regulations for Prohibiting Employment of
Women underground in Mines.

Attention is directed to page 803 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 13-6-1936 in which is published the text of certain Draft Regulations for prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines.

The principal provisions of the Regulations are given below:

(1) Total Prohibition after 1-7-37. - On or after the 1st day of July 1937, no woman shall be permitted to enter for purposes of employment or be employed in the underground workings of any mine.

(2) Exemptions.- The prohibition shall not apply to (a) women holding positions of management who do not perform manual work; (b) women employed in health and welfare services; and (c) any other women who may occasionally have to enter the underground workings of a mine for the purpose of a non-manual occupation.

The Draft Regulations will be taken into consideration on or after the 1st October 1936. ~~As~~ Any objection or suggestion which may be received in respect of the draft before the date specified will be considered by the Governor-General in Council.

(Government of India Gazette Part I -
dated 13-6-1936 - page 803). -

Supplementary Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936.

At page 8 of the Report of this Office for May 1936 reference was made to The Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936, notified on 23-5-1936. The Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India has issued on 27-6-1936 a set of supplementary regulations, called the Supplementary Coal Mines (Temporary) Regulations, 1936. The

Regulations provide that no liquid oxygen explosive shall be used in any underground part of a mine and lay down certain conditions for the firing of shots in mines. The Regulations apply only to coal mines. The full text of the Notification (No. M.1055 of the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, dated 23-6-1936) is published at pages 868-869 of Part I of the Gazette of India, dated 27-6-1936.

(Extracted from pages 868-869 of Part I, Gazette of India, dated 27-6-1936). +

27

CONDITIONS OF LABOUR.

Quarterly Strike Statistics for Quarter Ending 31-3-1936. +

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the first quarter of 1936 ending 31-3-1936, published by the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, there were 31 disputes during the period, involving 30,718 workers and entailing a loss of 318,002 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal where 13 disputes involving 13,619 workers entailed a loss of 120,971 working days. Next comes Bombay with 6 disputes involving 7,795 workers and entailing a loss of 62,852 working days, Madras with 5 disputes involving 5,227 workers and entailing a loss of 48,203 working days, Assam with 2 disputes involving 1,150 workers and entailing 18,600 working days, Bihar, Burma, the Central Provinces, the Punjab and the United Provinces with one dispute each involving 370, 212, 1,700, 220, and 425 workers and entailing losses of 6,290, 616, 57,949, 715, 1,806 working days respectively,

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 15 disputes involving 16,355 workers and entailing a loss of 183,696 working days, jute mills for 2 disputes involving 8,587 workers and entailing a loss of 62,174 working days, engineering workshops for one dispute involving 52 workers and entailing a loss of 78 working days. Other industries were responsible for 13 disputes involving 5,724 workers and entailing a loss of 72,054 working days.

Of the 31 disputes during the quarter under review, 17 were due to wage questions, 4 to personnel, one to leave and hours and 9 to other causes. In 9 disputes the workers were successful, in 8

partially successful and in 9 unsuccessful. 5 disputes were in progress at the end of the period under report.

(Strike statistics for the quarter ending 31-12-~~1935~~ 1935 are given at pages 19-20 of our April 1936 report). +

Absenteeism in Bombay Mills: More Effective Control
of "Badlis" (Substitutes) Proposed

An outline of a scheme for control of the employment of 'badlis' (substitutes) adopted by the Millowners' Association, Bombay, with a view to reducing the enormous turnover of labour in Bombay cotton mills, was given at pages 44 to 47 of our June 1935 report. Since the beginning of 1936, the question of increasing the effectiveness of the system was engaging the attention of the Labour Advisory (Managers') Sub-Committee of the Association. Statistics were regularly collected in member mills in order to ascertain how the system had been working, and, in particular, with a view to finding out how the total number of individual badlis employed during a month in each mill compared with the average daily absenteeism. As a result of the investigations made by the Sub-Committee, it was found that, while the badli control system was working fairly satisfactorily, it could be made more effective if the cards issued to the badlis contained the following instructions in Marathi:-

(1) All persons carrying badli cards should present themselves for work every morning with their badli cards; otherwise their cards are liable to be cancelled;

(2) They will be given first preference of employment as badlis, and those who have been attending work regularly will be given first chance of employment in permanent vacancies.

(3) They must not roam about in the departments, but must wait in a place allotted for the ~~purpose of employing~~ badlis.

(4) If substitutes carrying badli cards, but not employed for that day, find that a new man without a card has been engaged on the type of work they have been doing, they must report the

matter to the Head of the Department.

(5) If badli work is not given to them, they must obtain the signature of the Head of the Department before leaving the mill.

In certain instances, the limited success which had attended the introduction of the system appeared to the Sub-Committee to be due to an inadequate appreciation of the scheme by departmental heads. They, therefore, suggested that the position might be improved if all departmental heads were supplied with instructions sheets as follow:-

(1) Ascertain how many badlis are required on an average in each jobber's section.

(2) Assign to each head jobber a corresponding number of badli card holders.

(3) Every ~~xxx~~ day the departmental heads shall fill up vacancies from among the badli card holders of the respective sections controlled by each head jobber.

(4) Only on very rare occasions will the number of badli card holders of a particular section be less than that of the actual vacancies in that section.

(5) In such cases, the selection may be extended to the badli card holders of the other section, where there may be a surplus.

(6) If possible, the engagement of badlis should be made either just outside the department or at a convenient place in each section, so that the badli card holders need not loiter about in the department. Once they know that engagements are made at a particular place and that if they do not wait there, they will lose the ~~xxx~~ day's chance, all loitering in departments will be reduced to a minimum.

(7) All badli card holders must be particularly directed to obtain the signature of the head of the department on their cards on days on which they got ~~xxx~~ no work. Preference for badli work should be given to such card holders who get their cards signed properly.

Decisions of the Committee- The proposals made by the Sub-Committee were endorsed at a meeting of the Committee held early in May 1936, and member mills were recommended to adopt them in toto. During the course of discussion in the Committee, it was suggested that the real success of the badli control system could only be assured if Managers maintained a careful check on the number of new badli cards issued each month, and that the number of badli

cards issued during any month at any mill should eventually not exceed a figure more than 50 per cent. in excess of the average daily absenteeism.

(Summarised from the Excerpts from the Proceedings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, Bombay, during May 1936). +

Factory Administration in Mysore, 1934 - 1935* +

The following details regarding factory administration in the Mysore State during the year ending 30-6-1935 are taken from the Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce of the State for the year 1934-35.

Number and Classification of Factories- There were 206 factories on the register of factories at the beginning of the year. 5 factories were added during the year and 2 were struck off leaving 209 on the register at the close of the year. 51 of the 209 factories were seasonal and the rest ~~x~~ non-seasonal. Grouped under important industries, there were 51 cotton ginning and decorticating factories, 49 food, drinks, etc. factories, 35 textile factories, 21 engineering works, 21 brick and tile factories, 16 ~~at~~ oil mills, 9 printing presses, 3 chemical factories and 2 hides and skins factories.

Number of Operatives- The average number of persons employed daily in all the factories was 17,757 as against 18,709 in 1933-34. The number of adults employed fell from 17,038 to 16,086 and that of children from 1,693 to 1,449.

341 out of 1,449 children employed in the factories were examined by the certifying surgeons and 325 children were granted certificates

Inspection- 165 factories were inspected during the year as against 86 in the previous year. 137 factories were inspected once, 27 twice and one thrice. 44 factories were not inspected during the year and of these 10 did not work.

Accidents- The total number of accidents reported during the year was 119 as against 109 in the previous year. Of these, 1 was fatal, 59 serious and 58 minor.

* Administration Report on the Working of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending 30th June 1935, with the Government Review thereon. pp.29. (A copy of the Report was forwarded to Geneva with our Minute D.1705/36 dated 25-6-1936).

Safety Measures and Health Precautions- In some cases it was found that provisions made for ventilation and lighting and for the supply of drinking water were not adequate and the Inspector of Factories took action to remedy the defects. Fencing and guarding of machinery was reported to be fairly satisfactory.

Hours of Work.- The daily and weekly hours of work were regulated by the owners in accordance with the provisions of the Regulation. Rest intervals were granted in the majority of factories as provided for in the State Factories Regulation. The weekly holiday in almost all the factories was Sunday.

Prosecutions.- No prosecutions were instituted during the year. Greater care, it is reported, was taken to enforce the provisions of the Factories Regulation.

Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories.- The number of ginning factories working in the State was 30 and of pressing factories 6. The factories were inspected by the Ex-officio Inspectors of Factories appointed under the Regulation. All the pressing factories in the State continued to send the weekly return as required by the Rules framed under the Regulation. One of the pressing factories was irregular in sending the return and the proprietor was prosecuted. The total number of bales pressed during the year in the pressing factories was 16,889 as against 21,019 in the previous year.

Labour Disputes and Industrial Relations.- During the year under report, there were 3 labour disputes, one in the Kolar Gold Fields and two in the textile mills in the Mysore and Bangalore. Except for these three cases, the relations between the employers and the employees in the industrial concerns in the State were harmonious. The seasonal conditions were satisfactory. There was a slight rise in the prices of food grains and other articles consumed largely by the labouring classes as compared with the level of prices in the previous year. The demand for labour was steady and there was no change in the level of wages.

The term of the Board of Conciliation constituted by the Government for the settlement of industrial disputes and the promotion of industrial peace, expired on 30-6-1934 and the Board was reconstituted with effect from 31-7-1934. The continuance of the Board is reported to have a salutary effect on the relations between employers and employees in the State.

Trade Union Legislation.- The question of the introduction of legislation providing for the registration of trade unions in the State, as in British India, was engaging the attention of the Department and the Board of Industries and Commerce for some time. The subject was, on a reference from the Government, considered again by the Board at a meeting held on the 20-3-1935. The Director was asked to ascertain the views of the large employers of labour, labour organisations, etc. regarding the need for introducing legislation.

Welfare Work.- The mining companies and the textile mills were, as usual, devoting much attention to improvement in the conditions of labour. The welfare departments of the mining companies and the Bangalore Woollen, Cotton and Silk Mills, Co., have been doing good work.

(Factory administration in Mysore in 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 28-30 of our April 1935 report).*

27

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in
Mysore State, 1934 - 1935*

Number of Cases.- The total number of cases that came up before the Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation was 209 during the year as against 176 in 1933-34. 197 cases were disposed of and 12 cases were pending at the close of the year. Of the 197 cases disposed of, 52 related to accidents which proved fatal, 20 to non-fatal accidents and 125 to memoranda of agreements. The number of claims in the mining industry was 203 and in the textile factories one.

56 claims were contested during the year, of which 10 were dismissed and 25 allowed. Out of four appeals preferred to the High Court three were disposed of leaving one pending, at the close of the year.

Amount of Compensation Paid.- The total amount deposited with the Commissioners during the year was Rs. 31,528-4-0, as against Rs. 36,914-6-0 in 1933-34. A sum of Rs. 31,063-8-0 was distributed amongst the dependents of the deceased persons as compared with Rs. 33,186-8-0 the previous year. A sum of Rs. 944-12-0 was pending distribution at the close of the year.

Returns under Section 15.- The annual returns under Section 15 of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation for 1933-34 were received from ~~175~~ 175 factories out of 206 factories in the State. Returns were also received from the mining companies and other concerns in the mining area. It is stressed that unless the Regulation is suitably amended to provide sanction for non-submission of returns under Section 15 of the Regulation, it would not be possible to get the returns from all the factories. Draft amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Regulation to

* Administration Report on the Working of the Department of Industries and Commerce in Mysore for the year ending 30th June 1935, with the Government Review thereon. Government of His Highness the Maharaja of Mysore. General and Revenue Departments. G.O.No.D.4760-I.& C. 109-35-2, dated 7th February 1936. pp. 29.

bring it into conformity with the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act as amended up-to-date, have been submitted to Government for needful action.

(The Working of the Workmen's Compensation Regulation in Mysore during 1933-34 is reviewed at pages 31-32 of our April 1935 report).+

Hours of Work in Jute Mills;

Working Time Agreements in 1935. +

At pages 44-45 of our Report for July 1935 was given a summary of the decisions taken by the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, during 1934 for curtailment of hours of work. A brief review of the measures taken or in force during the 1935 is given below:-

Working Agreements, -1935.- The hours and conditions of work at the mills in the membership of the Association have, during the year under review, been governed by two separate, but closely connected, agreements, namely:- (a) The Indian Jute Mills Association Working Time Agreement, dated 6th October 1931, and (b) The "Terms of Arrangement with the Outside Mills", as adopted on 21-1-1933, and subsequently signed by the "Outside Mills". (For details, vide pages 20-21 of our June 1934 report).

Details of Working Agreements.- (a) Machinery. Throughout the year, four member mills of the Association, the Premchand Mill and the five "Outside Mills" worked with their full complement of machinery. The other Association mills, who, by the terms of the Association's working time agreement had worked throughout 1932, 1933 and the greater part of 1934 with 15% of their total looms closed down under seal, pursued the policy which had been begun in November 1934, of gradually increasing production by the ~~unsealing~~ unsealing of small percentages of their looms. Release each time of 2½% of the total complement of the looms of each mill took place on 1-11-1934, 1-5-1935, 5-8-1935 and

11-11-1935. At a meeting held on 12-11-1935, it was decided to release the remaining 5% from seal on 17-2-1936.

(b) Hours of Work.- With the exception of the Premchand Mill, who work under the agreement on precisely the same conditions as apply to the outside mills, all the mills in the membership of the Association worked for forty hours per week throughout the year. In accordance with the provisions of the terms of ~~arrangement~~ ^{agreement} between the Association and ~~of~~ the outside mills, the outside mills were at liberty, in order to achieve the extra production to which they were entitled as the result of the Association mills' unsealing of looms, to work for 55 hours 35 minutes per week as from 1st November 1934; 57 hours 10 minutes per week as from 1st May 1935; 58 hours and 45 minutes per week as from 5th August 1935; and 60 hours 20 minutes per week as from 11th November 1935.

Termination of Agreement with Outside Mills.- At pages 44-47 of our September 1935 report were given full details of the various ~~reasons~~ reasons which led to the Association at a meeting held on 30-9-1935, to decide to terminate the working time agreements, after the requisite six months' notice, by 31-3-1936. The main reason for the move was the unfair advantage taken by the outside mills of the shorter working week and reduction in number of working looms observed by the Association mills.

New Agreement Operating from 1-4-1936.- At the meeting held on 30-12-1935, the Association adopted an agreement operating from 1-4-1936 in supersession of the agreement terminating on ~~the~~ 31-3-1936. The essential features of this new agreement are that:- (a) unless previously suspended, modified, or cancelled, its provisions take effect on and from Wednesday the 1st April 1936; (b) the mills in the membership of the Association shall be entitled to work up to but not exceeding 54 hours per week on single shift, with no night work; (c) no member of the Association may acquire any interest whatsoever in any jute mill not in the membership of the Association; arrangements with mills not in the membership of the Association which are in existence on the date the agreement comes into operation not being affected, however; (d)

no member of the Association may, during the currency of the agreement, erect or place orders for any extra productive machinery or erect any extra relative buildings; (e) the Committee are authorised to arrange for the employment of Association Inspectors, each of the mills in the membership of the Association agreeing to give such facilities at all times as ~~may~~^{an} Inspector may from time to time reasonably require for the purpose of enabling him to carry out his duties; (f) complaints or questions of any breach of the agreement are to be dealt with under the Rules and Regulations of the Association as from time to time in force and any offending member shall be liable to a fine which may extend to the total amount of such member's deposit under the rules of the Association, or to expulsion from the Association, or to both; (g) the agreement may, by resolution of the members of the Association, be suspended, modified or cancelled on fourteen days' notice being given by the Association at any time prior to or after the 1st April 1936.

(Summarised from pages 24-29 of the Report for 1935 of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta). +

Retrenchment in Railways:

Selection Committee and Principles of Retrenchment. †

A Selection Committee has been appointed by the G.I.P. Railway authorities to consider the retrenchment of the surplus staff of the Railway and ~~that~~ it will begin to function shortly. The services of Mr. A.W. Pryde, Labour Officer of the Government of Bombay, have been loaned to the Committee in an advisory capacity. The Chairman of the Committee is the Chief Engineer of the Railway. The Committee has been appointed in accordance with the decision of the Government of India, who have instructed all State-managed railways to effect retrenchment on the general principles laid down in a circular issued by them.

Principles of Retrenchment.- Among the principles are (1) the staff to be discharged should be selected on the basis of comparative efficiency, the least efficient being selected for discharge; (2) the men selected for discharge, if they so desire, should be allowed to appear personally before the Selection Committee; (3) no appeal will lie against the decision of the Selection Committee; and (4) the staff selected for discharge should not be borne on the waiting list for re-employment.

(The Times of India, 29-6-1936). †

Enforcement of Conventions.Conditions of Mining Labour in C.P. and Berar, 1935* †

Supply of Labour.- According to the Annual Review on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 31-12-1935, the year saw a further slight improvement in the condition of the mining industry generally; and in spite of somewhat lower prices than those that ruled last year the demand for coal continued to be brisk and the manganese trade showed further signs of revival. Two coal mines, 18 manganese mines and three other mines, including one of graphite and two of minor minerals were opened during the year. The total number of working mines thus rose from 74 to 93. There was an increase of 80 per cent in the labour force employed in manganese mines, 2 per cent in coal mines and 6 per cent in limestone mines mostly in the Jubbulpore district. The supply of labour was ample and as usual mostly local.

Wages.- The level of wages, which are paid on a piecework basis, continued to be steady, although the amounts earned by individual labourers inevitably exhibit wide variations. The average earnings of male labourers employed in coal mines ranged from Re.0-6-0 to Rs.2 for surface work as against Re.0-6-0 to Re. 0-8-0 earned by women, the corresponding figures for underground work being Re. 0-4-0 to Re.0-8-0 for men and Re. 0-6-0 to Re.0-8-0 for women. In manganese and other mines unskilled male labourers earned on an average from Re.0-3-0 to Re.0-7-6 a day and women from Re.0-2-0 to Re.0-3-9 per day, while skilled labourers earned from Re.0-6-0 to Re.1-9-0 per day.

* Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, IV of 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending the 31st December 1935. Nagpur, Government Printing, C.P. 1936. Price - Annas Four. pp. 6.

Relations with Employers.- Relations between labourers and employers continued to be cordial. The year was marked by a complete absence of strikes and other labour disputes.

Health of Labour Force.- The general health of the labourers was on the whole satisfactory but epidemics broke out in several districts. The more important of the epidemic diseases were cholera (92 attacks with 37 deaths), smallpox (54 attacks with 4 deaths), influenza (527 attacks with no deaths) and malaria (2,696 attacks with no deaths). The dispensaries at the Bharweli and Tirodi mines in the Balaghat district maintained by the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company, Limited, continued to do good work in combating epidemic and other diseases.

Sanitation and Housing.- Sanitary conditions in mining camps were generally fair and some efforts are being made to improve them. Special attention is being directed to the camps at Tirodi in Balaghat district where sanitary arrangements have been reported to be defective. In pursuance of the orders issued by Government, the provision of adequate latrine accommodation on the surface is receiving the attention of colliery owners, and the labourers have now to be persuaded to use them. Water supply generally was ample either from wells provided by mine owners or from nalas adjoining mining camps.

Last year's review stressed the desirability of mine owners providing adequate housing accommodation for their labour force and the Government expresses satisfaction at the improvement that has taken place as a consequence. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company have undertaken a substantial programme of construction with a view to providing housing accommodation for their entire labour force at the Bharweli and Tirodi mines and land is being acquired for the purpose. In the Bilaspur district temporary huts have been provided for imported labourers. Satisfactory progress is recorded in all other districts

except Chanda. A great deal yet remains to be done and the Governor in Council again impresses on colliery owners their responsibility, from the humanitarian and business point of view, of providing reasonably ~~x~~ sanitary and adequate housing accommodation for their labourers.

Prices of Food Stuffs and Clothing.- The prices of food stuffs and clothing continued to be low and enabled the miners to maintain themselves and their families. They obtained their requirements as usual from markets in the mining camps or from weekly bazars held in the neighbouring villages.

Education.- The special schools for labourers' children continued to be maintained in the Chhindwara, Jubbulpore and Chanda districts, and another school was opened in the first named district. Elsewhere the labourers' children attend the neighbouring village schools.

Accidents.- The number of accidents rose slightly from 104 in 1934 to 107, of which 26 (as against 20 in the previous year) were fatal, 71 serious and the rest minor. The majority of the accidents were due as usual to negligence on the part of employees and not to any lack of precautions on the part of the management. 15 cases were dealt with under the Workmen's Compensation Act in the Chhindwara district and a total compensation of Rs. 5,627-12-0 was paid to the victims of accidents or to their dependents. At a mine in Chanda district the widow and son of the victim of a fatal accident were compensated privately by the payment of Rs. 105 instead of Rs. 300 to which they were entitled under the Workmen's Compensation Act. In Chhindwara and Chanda printed copies ~~at~~ ⁱⁿ the vernacular of the more important provisions of the Act were distributed to mine labourers.

Inspection.- The majority of the mines were inspected by district magistrates except in the Nagpur district. The civil surgeon, Bhandara, inspected the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company's mines in

Bhandara and Balaghat districts and the civil surgeon, Chanda, inspected all the mines in that district and gave instructions in regard to sanitation in the mining camps. Government considers that district magistrates and civil surgeons should inspect a fair proportion of the mines situated within their charges.

Hours of Employment and Employment of Women and Children.- The ~~majority of the mines~~ hours of employment on surface workings varied from $6\frac{2}{3}$ to 10 and for underground work from 6 to 9 ~~hours~~ per day. The regulations prohibiting the employment of women underground are being generally observed by mine owners. No case of employment of children under 13 years of age was detected.

Receipts from Mines.- The provincial receipts from mines rose from Rs.297,036 to Rs. 400,755 owing to an improvement in the coal trade and the revival of the manganese industry. Of the total revenue, Rs.200,276 was derived from coal mines, Rs. 104,216 from manganese mines and Rs. 96,263 from mines for other minerals. The pit's mouth value of coal fell from Rs. 3-14-0 to Rs. 3-10-0 per ton in the Chhindwara district, while it rose from Rs. 3-3-0 to Rs. 3-6-0 in the Chanda district.

(The Annual Report on the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces and Berar during 1934 is reviewed at pages 50-52 of our June 1935 report). *

Factory Administration in Burma, 1935.* +

Number of Factories.- ~~According~~ ^{in 1935,} The Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Burma, covers the first year's working of the Factories Act, 1934, which came into force in Burma on 1st January 1935,

* Annual Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Burma for the year 1935. Rangoon: Supdt. Govt. Printing and Stationery, Burma, 1936. Price.- Rs. 2-0-0 = 3s. pp. 30.

superseding the Indian Factories Act of 1911 as subsequently amended. According to the report, the number of establishments registered as factories under the Act in Burma, excluding the Northern Shan States, at the end of the year 1935, was 1,013 as against 1,003 in 1934. Of these, 965 were working during the year as against 946 in 1934. 30 new factories were registered and 20 deleted. A small factory for the manufacture of rubber shoes and other rubber articles was started, and the returns show 7 more cotton ginner^{ies}~~ies~~ and 10 more rice mills working than in 1934. Of the total factories working, 51 were classified as seasonal under the Act and 914 treated as pe^rennial. Rice mills and vegetable oil mills were formerly treated as seasonal for statistical purposes. The Act now precludes this and they have to be classified as perennial.

Number of Operatives.- The total number of persons employed in factories in Burma, excluding the Northern Shan States, was 90,322 as against 85,829 in 1934. The increase was distributed mainly over the rice milling and cotton ginning industries. Government and local fund factories showed a slight increase in the total number employed, but that increase was not in paid labour but in jail (saw mill and carpentry) workshops.

Employment of Women and Children.- During the year 11,924 women were employed in factories as against 11,285 in 1934. As in previous years they were distributed chiefly amongst rice mills, cotton ginneries, match factories and textile factories.

The annual returns show 638 adolescents and 88 (as against 217 in 1934) children as being employed. Of these totals, 486 adolescents and 44 children purport to be employed in the rice milling industry. The persons referred to would be part of the coolie labour provided by contractors for carrying of paddy. The new classification is little

understood, and any young person is referred to as a boy or girl up to the age of 20 or so. The figures for ~~adults~~ adolescents are quite unreliable. The figure for children, it is remarked, appears this year to be a nearer approach to the truth.

Hours of Work, - The Act of 1934 lays down a 60-hour week in the case of factories which are, or can be notified as, seasonal under the Act. In all other factories the weekly maximum has been reduced from 60 to 54 except for workers on continuous processes who may work 56. In saw mills and rice mills, now classed under perennial factories, a 60-hour week was previously general. Saw mills have reduced their normal milling hours to 54 weekly, which has probably added to production costs. Rice mills still retain in most cases a 12-hour milling day for 6 days a week with separate night shifts in the busy season. The result is that during these 12-hour milling shifts each worker has now to be given at least 3 hours rest interval, the intervals being taken turn by turn. The inspectorate has found it very difficult, particularly in the smaller mills, to ^{ascertain that} ~~get the necessary~~ procedure for recording these intervals ^{are granted} ~~instituted~~ satisfactorily, and with the existing small staff no adequate check is possible. In the past, when a 2-hour interval was sufficient, the inspectorate were satisfied that, in view of the intermittent nature of the work of attending to the plant, each worker could take at least 2 hours' rest in a 12-hour shift and recording of the times was waived. The same cannot be assumed in respect of a 3-hour interval and the new Burma Factories Rules, 1935, made under the Act now require the times of the intervals to be recorded.

Other industries have not been greatly affected by the further restrictions in hours of work. Engineering works have usually observed a 9-hour day or less in the past. Some establishments engaged on continuous processes may have had to increase their staffs slightly to comply

with the requirement of a weekly holiday for each worker.

The calculation of overtime rates has always given some trouble owing to the fact that it has to be assessed on an hourly basis, whereas so many workers are paid normally on a monthly rate. The difficulty is now further increased by the distinction between daily and weekly overtime.

Exemptions to Rules re. Hours of Work.- Conditions under which exemptions from hours of work restrictions may be enjoyed have been codified in the Burma Factories Rules, 1935, due regard having been paid to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on Labour and to certain International Conventions on Hours of Employment ratified by British India. Permission for a limited amount of overtime in order to deal with exceptional press of work was granted during the year to a few private concerns and to the Government Press.

Wages.- Returns received from a few selected factories show ranges of wages almost identical with those in last year's report. No marked rise or fall occurred in wage rates in any of the main industries.

The Report remarks that it is likely that the new Payment of Wages Act will upset to a certain extent traditional customs. Unless it can be strictly enforced in all factories, it may merely cause inconvenience to the well-organised large firms where methods of payment of wages are ~~are~~ already satisfactory, and be a dead letter to the numerous smaller concerns where abuses do exist.

Sanitation and Health.- The co-operation of such local authorities as exist has as usual been invited in regard to sanitary matters. New rules have been designed to secure a greater degree of cleanliness both in factory buildings and latrines. Standards are not likely to improve however until more frequent inspection is possible. No unusual cases of industrial disease were noted.

Safety Provisions.- Although the proportion of accidents due to machinery and which can definitely be ascribed to lack of protective gear is not unduly high, such accidents usually involve serious injury. Occupiers of many of the smaller factories still give little attention to maintenance of such protective gear, and in many cases the workers themselves fail to appreciate the value of the protection afforded.

Lead Rules, 1935.- The Hazardous Occupations (Lead) Rules, 1935, made under the Act by the Governor-General in Council came into force on 19th February 1935. They relate however to the employment of women, adolescents and children only. Further provisions for the protection of adult male workers are under consideration.

Accidents and Prosecutions.- Reported accidents comprised 18 (as against 17 in 1934) fatal, 264 (as against 293 in 1934) regarded as serious, and 953 (as against 1,072 in 1934) minor, making a total of 1,235 (as against 1,667 in 1934) accidents. Perennial factories accounted for 1,218 accidents with 14 deaths, 257 serious injuries and 947 minor injuries. 8 fatal cases out of 17 cases of accidents in seasonal factories suggest that a large majority of non-fatal accidents in seasonal factories are not reported.

Convictions were obtained in 33 cases against 19 in 1934. Fines ranged from Rs.10 to Rs.150 and the average was Rs.40. Of the 33 convictions, 10 were in respect of offences connected with hours of employment. The new provisions of the Act as to hours had in each case been previously brought to the notice of the firms concerned.

Inspection.- The Chief Inspector and the Assistant Inspector made 730 inspections during the year. Inspectors of Boilers acting as ~~add~~ Additional Inspectors made 105 inspections and Civil or Medical Officers 16. Factories not inspected numbered 214. The volume of

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work of an administrative and special technical nature ~~involved in~~ the inspectorate has increased very substantially in recent years owing to extended legislation and rapid advances in scientific discovery. New industrial processes spring up almost daily in the West, and are apt to be copied by small firms in the East without expert guidance and in ignorance of potential dangers to the operative. A continual study of these matters has to be made. The Payment of Wages Act is likely to ~~x~~ throw considerable further work on the department if it is to operate fairly on all classes of factory and benefit the persons who really need its provisions. The hours of work restrictions of the Factories Act will similarly operate unfairly unless means for enforcement are adequate ~~XXXXX~~ Proposals for essential strengthening of the whole-time staff are under consideration.

(Factory Administration in Burma in 1934 is reviewed at pages 37-40 of our June 1935 report).

Workers' Organisations.Trade Union Unity:Negotiations Committee to meet in July 1936. +

References was made at pages 19-27 of the Report of this Office for May 1936 to the discussions at the last session of the A.I.T.U.C. on the question of **Trade Union Unity**. (For resolution adopted on this subject see page 26 of our May 1936 report).

The following information about further action to be taken for bringing about unity is taken out from a message dated 7-6-1936 issued by the Associated Press of India:- The National Trade Union Federation has ~~RECEIVED~~ received in the first week of June an official communication from the A.I.T.U.C. with regard to the nature of further action which the A.I.T.U.C. is proposing to take for bringing about structural unity. The A.I.T.U.C. has appointed a committee to negotiate with the Federation on the basis of Mr. V.V. Giri's proposals as modified by the A.I.T.U.C. session at Bombay. The meeting of the committee appointed by the T.U.C. with the office-bearers of the N.T.U.F. is expected to come off only by the middle of July 1936, as Messrs. N.M. Joshi and R.R. Bakhale will be busy with the anniversary of the Servants of India Society at Poona from June 8 ~~x~~ for about a month.

After this informal meeting, at which both the bodies will try to settle the points which yet remain unsettled, a meeting of the General Council of the National Trades Union Federation will be convened at a central place like Nagpur, or perhaps at Calcutta. The nomination of delegates to Geneva may probably be included in the agenda to ensure a thoroughly representative gathering. While in certain quarters it is

felt that the question of electing the delegate to Geneva and the advisers should be taken up before the question of affiliation, so that the prospective candidates may not come in the way of unity, Mr. Bakhale is inclined to leave election of delegates to the combined executive of the new Trade Union Congress.

~~The~~ The Hindustan Times, 8-6-1936) +

Plea for Working Joint Labour Board pending Unity:

Appeal by A.I.T.U.C. President. +

Following the decision of the A.I.T.U.C. at its last session held at Bombay on 17 and 18-5-1936, to negotiate ^{a settlement} unity with the N.T.U.F., vigorous efforts are being made to bring about unity in Indian labour ranks. Mr. Sibnath Banerjee, President, A.I.T.U.C., has issued a statement to the press in the first week of June, in which he points out that up to now full use of the Joint Labour Board, which formed a sort of half-way house to unity, was never made, and makes a plea for efficient working of the Board pending the successful termination of the negotiations for unity. The following is a summary of the statement:-

A.I.T.U.C. desires Unity.- After reviewing the various efforts made for restoration of unity, he says; "It was confidently expected by many that the Bombay session of the A.I.T.U.C. would see the merging of the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Federation of Trade Unions. Though this consummation, ~~was~~ devoutly wished for, has not been fully achieved, we can surely comfort ourselves with the idea that we are today nearer structural and organisational unity between these two great bodies than ^{at} any time during the last few years. Mr. V. V. Giri had made certain proposals for unity. These are far from perfect. As a matter of fact, if accepted, they will give rise to a number of anomalies and in regard to some important measures of the Trade Union Congress, acceptance of Mr. Giri's terms would mean absolute surrender on the part of All-India Trade Union Congress. But the majority of the delegates seemed to be ready for unity almost at any cost. So, those terms, with very little modifications, were adopted. Mr. Giri has already expressed his approval of the position taken by the Trade Union Congress. It is expected that the National Federation of Trade Unions will also endorse these unreservedly.

Plea for working Joint Labour Board.- "But some prominent members of the National Federation of Trade Unions, however, feel that the machinery of Joint Labour Board was not worked at all. Without ~~apportioning~~ ^{making} our blame on any one, one can easily admit the correctness of this complaint. Besides willingness, many things more are necessary to make the Joint Labour Board function. The huge distance of one industrial place from another in India is a stumbling block. However, much we desire to see structural unity established at the earliest possible date, let us not neglect the existing Joint Labour Board and let us work it for all it is worth, till unity is achieved. The problems of rival unions, joint action, ~~and~~ demonstrations against oppression, ~~and~~ selection of candidates to municipalities and councils and many ~~etc~~ other common problems can be tackled immediately by the Joint Labour Board. I feel it also necessary to form provincial Joint Labour Boards in Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, so that regular meetings and functioning of these boards may be possible and the maximum of benefit derived from them. I am sure, such Joint Boards and ^{joint} joint activities resulting therefrom will ^{make} pave the way for structural and organisational unity smoother and easier".

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 5-6-1936) +

Assessing Chances of Trade Union Unity:

Mr. Jammadas Mehta Points out Difficulties. +

Mr. Jammadas Mehta, President of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation and a former President of the National Trades Union Federation, discussed on 18-6-1936 the question of organisational unity in the Indian labour movement in the course of an interview ~~in the course of~~ ~~an~~ given to a representative of the Times of India. In the course of the interview, Mr. Mehta directed attention to certain fundamental differences in outlook between the labour groups concerned, and said that, owing to this and other factors, like temperamental incompatibility etc., the prospects of unity being restored immediately is not very hopeful. The following is a brief summary of ~~the~~ Mr. Mehta's views:-

After reviewing the results of the various attempts at restoration of trade union unity, Mr. Mehta said:-

(1) Demand for Structural Unity.- "Since 1935, the Trade Union Congress leaders, particularly Mr. R.S. Ruikar, have felt the necessity for further rapprochement between all labour wings. A conference of representatives of two bodies was called in Bombay in August

1935, when an all-India Joint Labour Board was formed consisting of the representatives of the two bodies, with Mr. V.V. Giri as chairman and Mr. Ruikar as secretary. This Board did not function for more than four months, when Mr. Ruikar pressed for "structural unity" in place of the Board. A further attempt was, therefore, made in that direction at Nagpur.

(2) The N.T.U.F's Alternatives.- "The National Trades Union Federation promised to make its own proposals in regard to the question of "structural unity". In January last, the Federation met and made two alternative proposals to the A.I.T.U.C.: (a) that the Joint Labour Board should be enlarged so as to comprise the executives of both these bodies, and its scope and authority should extend to all labour questions, except ~~to~~ ~~the~~ those of strikes, political issues and foreign affiliation; (b) that the Federation would be willing to affiliate itself to the Trade Union Congress as an experiment for a year on the basis of the constitution of the Federation.

(3) Counter Suggestions of A.I.T.U.C.- "This was the offer before the A.I.T.U.C. at its recent session in Bombay, but the Congress did not accept either of the two proposals. The Congress made certain counter-suggestions, which were matters of policy, relating to foreign affiliation and strikes. In view of these facts, it is doubtful whether it can be said that unity has been achieved. The Federation will have carefully to consider the counter-proposals of the Trade Union Congress. The whole question is therefore once again in the melting pot. Besides, the temperamental incompatibility of the leaders of the two bodies has recently become more conspicuous, as will be seen from the controversy that is going on between them in the Press. While both sides honestly feel the need for unity, the real difficulty is that they differ sharply in matters of principle and method.

(4) The Class-War Issue.- "The fundamental difference is that, while the Federation emphasises that the trade union movement should, as far as possible, confine itself to the amelioration of the working conditions of the industrial classes by legislation and negotiation, the Trade Union Congress places greater stress on the class struggle side of the movement.

(5) A.I.T.U.C.- A Minority.- "One of the reasons which made the leaders of the Trade Union Congress reluctant to accept the experimental affiliation for a year was their knowledge that in regard to both the number of unions and their membership, the Congress was far behind the Federation. Under the constitution of the Federation, which the Trade Union Congress was bound to accept, ~~both in the Executive and the combined~~ body, the Congress would be in a permanent minority, a position which was naturally unacceptable to the Congress. This is the stark naked fact which cannot be ignored. I may add that the public have been mystified as to where exactly the question of unity stands, in spite of the resolution passed at the recent session of the Trade Union Congress. They should have no difficulty now in understanding the whole position".

(The Times of India, 19-6-1936).

Mr. Giri's Views on Unity Issue: "No Choice but to Unite"

The following press statement dealing with the points raised by Mr. Jammadas Mehta in the interview given by him to the Times of India has been issued by Mr. V.V. Giri:

"Without entering into controversies, which I temperamentally avoid, I might clarify the position in regard to Trade Union Unity.

No new Issue to be brought in.- After formulation of definite proposals for bringing about structural unity, ~~and~~ any discussion on the question should be confined to those proposals. No new issue could or should be raised, especially by those who were a party to those proposals. At its meeting in Delhi in January last when the Working Committee of the National Trades Union Federation made two sets of alternative proposals, the said Committee was "prepared, in the event of the Executive of the All-India Trade Union Congress accepting either of the proposals to recommend them for acceptance to the General Council of the Federation". Now that the Trade Union Congress has accepted one of the proposals, the only course left is to recommend it to the General Council of the Federation for acceptance. I believe arrangements are being made for convening a meeting of the General Council of the Federation.

The "Class Struggle" Issue.- As for "class struggle", I fail to see how this question could ~~be~~ arise at this stage. Whether a trade Union is an organ of class struggle or not was discussed at length at three Unity Conferences and the following was finally incorporated in the Constitution of the National Trades Union Federation:-

"A Trade Union is an organ of class struggle; its basic task, therefore, is to organise the workers for advancing and defending their rights and interests; and although collective bargaining is the necessary implication of a Trade Union and although in the transitional period to socialism negotiations, representations, joint action and other methods of collective bargaining must remain an integral part of trade union activities, labour and capital cannot be reconciled within the capitalistic system".

Imaginary Difficulties.- We cannot complain of what we have ourselves created or agreed to after mature consideration. The difficulties imagined do not exist at all and, even if there should be any, they are not insurmountable. The acceptance of my proposal on the part of the Trade Union Congress leaves no other choice to the Federation Committee than to recommend it to the General Council of the Federation for approval and thus make unity an accomplished fact.

(The Indian Labour Journal, 3-7-1936).

Rejoinder to Mr. Mehta's Statement by Mrs. Mulji. *

Mr. Jammadas Mehta's statement to the Times of India about the question of "Structural Unity" in the Indian labour movement has evoked a rejoinder from Mrs. Maniben Mulji, General Secretary of the All-India Trade Union Congress. Below are summarised the main points brought out in the statement issued by Mrs. Mulji in this connection.

A Mischievous Statement.- Mr. Mulji points out at the outset that the views of Mr. Mehta are not representative of the N.T.U.F. and lacks in authority, and accuses Mr. Mehta of mis-statement of facts. According to Mrs. Mulji, Mr. Mehta's action is calculated to create a rift in the relations between the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation, at a stage when the latter is seeking affiliation as a unit in the All-India Trade Union Congress. The relations between the All-India Trade Union Congress and the National Trades Union Federation are not only cordial, but are creating the basis for "structural unity". At this juncture an interview of this nature from Mr. Jammadas Mehta can have no other object but to disrupt the unity of the Indian working class.

Rank and File of Federation for Unity.- After pointing out that it was the Girni Kamgar Union and not the A.I.R.F. that took the initiative for restoration of unity, and that the A.I.T.U.C. continued these efforts, though "at every stage the N.T.U.F. has found some issue or other as a pretext to break the unity move, till the Joint Labour Board was formed in August 1935, Mrs. Mulji says:- "Since then, as Mr. Jammadas admits, Mr. Ruikar, on behalf of the A.I.T.U.C. has pressed for structural unity. In December last, the T.U.C. made another effort and agreed to ~~not~~ yield on the issue of representation at Geneva, in the interests of unity. Still the Federation leaders stubbornly x

refused to yield, very much to the dissatisfaction of their own rank and file. The joint meeting was abortive. But the militancy of the workers in the Federation asserted itself, and under pressure from below, the issue of unity was again raised at their general meeting and the outcome was Mr. Giri's proposals".

No "Counter-Proposals".— Regarding the action taken by the last A.I.T.U.C. session on Mr. Giri's proposals, Mrs. Mulji says;— "It is now a well-known fact that the A.I.T.U.C. accepted Mr. Giri's proposals at the last session. The modifications to the constitution suggested are of a minor character, which, given the goodwill and the desire to unite, can be mutually adjusted as they do not involve principles of a fundamental nature; and a joint meeting has been called for the purpose. It is a travesty of the facts to state that they are "counter proposals" of the A.I.T.U.C. This, undoubtedly, is Mr. Jammadas's attempt to create a smoke-screen for a retreat even from the position taken up by the Federation in Mr. Giri's proposals."

Fundamental Differences.— On this point, Mrs. Mulji says;— "In pointing out the fundamental differences between the N.T.U.F. and the A.I.T.U.C. as a difference between "the amelioration of grievances through negotiations and legislative activity", on the one hand, and "laying greater stress on the class struggle" on the other, Mr. Jammadas pays lip sympathy to the desire for unity on both sides. This difference is of Mr. Jammadas's creation. A genuine trade unionist cannot separate the two. He should not only have recourse to negotiations and legislative activity, but also resort to collective withdrawal of labour in order to create sanctions for collective bargaining. If he denies this principle, Mr. Jammadas is not a trades unionist, and he has no business to dabble in the workers' movement. If he accepts it as a principle, where does he differ from the A.I.T.U.C.?— is it in

actually resorting to direct action?"

Not Afraid of Majority Decisions.- Regarding Mr. Mehta's charge that the A.I.T.U.C., being in a minority, is fighting shy of the necessity to accept ~~the~~ majority decisions, Mrs. Mulji says:- "The final insinuation that the A.I.T.U.C. does not want unity because it would be in a minority is mischievous. The All-India Trade Union Congress group has considered this point and has agreed to abide by majority decisions on representation to Geneva and the political programme and has conceded the principle of foreign affiliation to the N.T.U.F. as a unit, in the interests of unity. It still stands by this decision and calls upon the Federation ~~group~~ to unite. If the Federation group will be in a majority, then why is Mr. Mehta afraid of "structural unity" and why is he putting obstacles in its way?"

Appeal for Unity.- Mrs. Mulji closes with ~~one~~^{an} appeal for unity, and says:- "Finally, let me say to the N.T.U.F. trade unions that, in spite of the political differences between us, there is still a basis for unity on the principles of trade unionism and internal democracy. Unity is necessary to meet the increasing offensive on the standard of living of the working class and the intensifying repression in the country".

(The Times of India, 22-6-1936).+

Congress and Labour Organisations:

Liaison Work of Sub-Committee.

Reference was made at page 27 of the Report of this Office for May 1936 to the formation of a Labour Sub-Committee by the executive of the Indian National Congress. Dr. Narasingham, the Secretary of the Sub-Committee, has issued early in June 1936 a press statement drawing the attention of all Trade Unions and labour organisations in the

country to the fact that the Congress Labour Sub-Committee is at present engaged in collecting all relevant information regarding labour organisations. Office bearers of such central organisations and unions have already been approached, but those who have not been approached are requested to correspond with the Secretary of ^{the} Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee is collecting from labour organisations and trade unions copies of their constitutions, annual reports, etc. The Congress Labour Sub-Committee has announced its intention to maintain the closest contacts with Indian Trade Union organisations.

(The Hindu, 4-6-1936). +

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Intellectual Workers.

Service Conditions of Working Journalists;

Efforts to Collect Data by Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta.

The Indian Journalists' Association, Calcutta, is at present engaged in collecting statistics of wages, ^{and data about} hours of work, leave and holidays, provident fund, if any, and other special conditions of service of working journalists serving in newspapers and periodicals in all the provinces of India, with a view to inaugurating a campaign for the improvement of conditions of service ^{there} of working journalists. It is felt that it would not be possible to expect any improvement in the situation without direct negotiation with the employers, and this again is impossible if adequate facts and figures are not made available. The General Secretary of the Association has, therefore, issued a circular letter to all working journalists in India requesting information, among others, on the following points:- (1) The capacities in which the journalist has served in ~~the~~ ^{the} paper and other papers with a statement of the length of service in each paper; (2) present salary; (3) working hours; (4) leave, casual and general, ordinarily allowed in a year; (5) provident fund, if any, with a statement as to when it was established, the employers' and the workers' contributions, etc;.

††† (The Bombay Chronicle, 24-6-1936).

(Not published in the Amrita Bazar Patrika or the Statesman.)

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.Economic Condition of Indian Textile Industry:Statistics of Production, 1930-1935. +

In his speech opposing the adoption of a 40-hour week for the textile industry, Sir Hormusji Mehta, Indian Employers' Delegate at the 20th Session of the I.L. Conference, adduced the weak economic condition of the Indian textile industry as one of the reasons for India's inability to subscribe to such a Convention. In this context, Sir H. Mehta stated that ~~an~~ the textile industry was going down hill in India and that during the past four years 20 per cent. of the industry has been scrapped, including 6 million spindles and between 20 and 30 thousand looms. Mr. Fulay, the Indian Workers' Delegate at the Conference, in his speech supporting the 40-hour week proposal for the textile industry, refuted Sir H. Mehta's statement about the decadence of the industry and said; ^{"It was stated,} ~~that~~ 20 per cent. of the industry had been scrapped. Apparently, that may seem to be true, but in reality what has happened is that the mills have merely changed their places — that is to say, new mills have come into existence in Northern India, in South India, and in the States, and the number of mills actually has increased".

The discrepancy between the statements made at the Conference by the employers' and workers' delegates, has occasioned surprise in India. The Simla correspondent of the Times of India, Bombay, after making special enquiries in the Government of India Secretariat reported ~~this~~ to his paper on 12-6-1936:

"Sir Hormusji Mehta's statement at Geneva this week regarding the condition of the textile industry in India has come as a shock to official circles, and, in the absence of any explanation of his extraordinary figures, continues to be a puzzle.

"Sir Hormusji, in supporting his statement that the textile industry in India is 'going down hill', is said to have quoted figures indicating that since 1931-32, two-thirds of the spindles and one-sixth of the looms engaged in the industry in India at that date have been

scrapped. This comparison is made with figures available from the Department of Industries, according to whose statistics, production except for 1934-35 (when there was a small drop), has been steadily increasing, and we are asked to believe that this increase has been effected simultaneously with a two-third reduction in spindles. Unfortunately, the Department of Industries have no figures of the number of spindles and looms in operation from 1933-34 onwards, but up to 1932-33 there was a steady annual increase.

"Statistics of the number of persons employed in the industry show that the number in 1934 was slightly in excess of those employed in 1931 so that this makes the figures Sir Hormusji is alleged to have quoted still more puzzling. Some elucidation from authoritative bodies, like millowners' associations, would be welcomed".

(The Times of India, 15-6-1936)

The Hindustan Times, Delhi, which also inquired into the matter, gives the following information in its issue of 17-6-1936:

"Enquiries made in Simla show that statistics do not bear out the allegation made last week at Geneva by Sir Hormusji Mehta that the textile industry in India is "going down hill". ~~The textile industry was going down~~ The most recent statistics available show that conditions in this industry in India are continuing satisfactorily. For example, the number of persons employed last year in British India totalled 385,065, while in 1933 the figure was 364,217. So far as production is concerned, the eleven-month period of 1935-36 compares very well with last year, while last year shows a substantial increase on the previous year.

"The actual figures are given in tabular form below:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Spindles</u>	<u>Looms</u>	<u>Production</u>
1935-36 (for 11 months only)	Figures not yet published	Figures not yet published	699,447,879 lbs. 3,278,039,145 yds. 2,671,402 dozs.
1934-35	((736,578,133 lbs.) (3,397,107,287 yds. (2,412,231 dozs.
1933-34	(645,860,855 lbs. (2,945,051,727 yds. (1,587,152 dozs.
1932-33	9,166,934	130,705	(694,901,057 lbs. (3,109,898,949 yds. (1,693,312 dozs.
1931-32	8,908,330	173,551	(672,258,000 lbs. (1,454,003 dozs.
1930-31	8,802,339	171,725	(590,358,000 lbs. (1,279,048 dozs.

Production quantity (in lbs.) and their equivalent (in yards).

~~The~~ Statement showing the number of persons employed in the cotton textile industry:-

	<u>1930</u>	<u>1931</u>	<u>1932</u>	<u>1933</u>	<u>1934</u>	<u>1935</u>
In British India	353,451	382,525	397,358	385,065 364,217	385,065	figures not available.
In Indian States.	51,297	54,246	56,207	figures not available ----		
Total	404,748	436,771	453,565			

(The Hindustan Times, 17-6-1936) +

Reorganisation of Statistical Branch (Commerce Department):

Unemployment Statistics to be Collected. +

The need for reorganising and developing the statistical side of the Commerce Department of the Government of India have in recent years been stressed several times in the Legislative Assembly. The general complaint is that the present machinery, owing to several reasons, is unable to provide the public with complete, reliable and up-to-date trade statistics, as ^{are now done} ~~is now done~~ in England and the United States. In particular, it is being felt that the absence of reliable and comprehensive statistical information about the incidence of unemployment in India, is standing in the way of Government pursuing an active policy of combating unemployment. At present, difficulty is being experienced owing to the location of the main Office of the Statistical Branch of the Commerce Department at Calcutta, and, Government is, therefore, planning to transfer the entire office to Delhi. The reorganised Statistical Office, ~~when~~ it is understood, may make a beginning with the difficult task of collecting unemployment statistics.

(The Hindustan Times, 3-6-1936). +

Indian Iron Merger Scheme:General Plan Outlined. +

The London Correspondent of the Statesman, in a message dated 16-6-1936 to his paper says that, as a result of prolonged discussions in Bombay and London between the Bengal Iron Company and representatives of the Indian Iron and Steel Company and Tata Steel interests, the general plan for an amalgamation has now been agreed in principle. Firstly, the Bengal Iron and Indian Iron and Steel Companies, already closely connected will be amalgamated. A new steel company with a capital of about £3,500,000 is also being formed, in which the merger undertaking along with Tata Steel interests will participate on a shareholding basis. Broadly, this will be the structure of the scheme which will bring together all the leading Indian pig iron and steel producing interests, eliminating unnecessary competition. Simultaneously both the Indian Iron and Steel Company and Bengal Iron Company will take the opportunity to clean up their balance sheet position. The negotiations are incomplete, but an official statement is likely to be issued very shortly.

(The Statesman, 18-6-1936). +

Report of Special Tariff Board:Protection to Cotton Industry Lowered.* +

The Report of the Special Tariff Board set up by the Government of India on 10th September 1935 to make an enquiry regarding the level of

* Report of the Special Tariff Board on the Enquiry regarding the level of duties necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian Cotton Textile Industry against imports from the United Kingdom of cotton piecegoods and yarn, artificial silk fabrics and mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk. Delhi: Manager of Publications, 1936. Price Re. 1-10 or 2s.9d. pp. 135. PTB-SCR.

duties necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian Cotton Textile Industry against imports from the United Kingdom of (a) cotton piecegoods, (b) cotton yarn, (c) fabrics of artificial silk and (d) mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk, has been published. The terms of reference of the Board were:-

"To recommend on a review of present conditions and in the light of the experience of the effectiveness of the existing duties, the level of the duties necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian Cotton Textile Industry against imports from the United Kingdom of (a) cotton piecegoods, (b) cotton yarn, (c) fabrics of artificial silk and (d) mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk. By adequate protection is meant duties which will equate the prices of imported goods to the fair selling prices for similar goods produced in India".

Findings and Recommendations.- Below are given the principal recommendations of the Report:-

The Board recommends that on cloths of bordered grey (i.e., chadars dhotis, saris and scarves) bleached goods and coloured goods (excluding prints) the duty necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian cotton textile industry against imports from the United Kingdom should be 20 per cent. ad valorem.

On plain grey goods the duty necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian cotton textile industry against imports from the United Kingdom should be 20 per cent. ad valorem or $3\frac{1}{2}$ annas per lb. whichever is higher.

On an examination of the c.i.f. c.i. price and the mills' realisation price of closely comparable samples submitted by importers, the Board has also come to the conclusion that its recommendation regarding the duty necessary to afford adequate protection to the Indian textile industry against imports of cotton piecegoods is justified.

Having regard to the fact that the Indian textile printing industry is yet in its infancy and that sufficient costings have not been given to justify equation of prices, the Board makes no recommendation regarding the duties necessary in the case of printed goods.

In the case of artificial silk and mixtures of cotton and artificial silk, the Board finds that in view of the dominating position attained by Japan and of the overriding influence exercised by that country where supplies and prices of artificial silk goods and mixtures in India are concerned, the Board does not feel justified in attempting to equate the prices of such goods imported from the United Kingdom to the fair selling prices of similar goods produced in India and on the information and data produced the Board is unable to make an accurate estimation either of the protection afforded by the present tariff or of the level of duties necessary to afford adequate protection against imports from the United Kingdom of fabrics ~~or~~ of artificial silk and mixture fabrics of cotton and artificial silk.

The Board has estimated the fair selling prices of yarns of different counts produced by Indian mills and has followed a method similar to that adopted in the case of cloth costings. The Board has compared these fair selling prices with the ~~at~~ c.i.f. c.i. prices of imported yarns of the same counts, but finds the comparison complicated by the consideration that different brands of the same counts of yarn are sold at varying prices.

The Board finds that on counts of 40s the duty required to afford adequate protection varies from nothing to 2.84 annas per lb. and on counts of 50s from nothing to 0.89 annas per lb. and on counts of 60s from nothing to 10.9 per cent. ad valorem. On a review of the whole position the Board has come to the conclusion that the existing levels of duty afford adequate protection to the industry and recommend that on yarn of counts of 50s and below the duty should be 5 per cent. ad valorem or 1¹/₄ anna per lb. and on counts above 50s, 5 per cent. ad valorem. +

Indian Textile Interests Indignant.

The Report has evoked indignant protests from Indian textile interests. The following extracts from an editorial article published in "Indian Finance", dated 27-6-1936 express the Indian point of view:-

In spite of the terms of reference being left open, the enquiry was prejudiced, from the start, in favour of a reduction of duties. The Government of India have only been anxious, for reasons of policy, that such action should be based on the findings of a Tariff Board. Now that the recommendations of the Board are to their liking, and it is possible to suggest that prompt action is called for in the interests of the trading community, the Government of India have given effect to the Board's recommendations by a notification under Section 4, (1) of the Indian Tariff Act, which vests in them the necessary powers.

Neither the elaborate procedure of a Special Tariff Board, nor the legality of the Government's action thereon, can detract from the fact that a paramount problem of our national economy has been decided by executive action without the Legislature having an opportunity to consider it from a broader standpoint of public interest than what the Government of India, not to speak of the Tariff Board, can be expected to bear in mind. The country and the Legislature can acquiesce in such action only if the conclusions of the Board and the reasoning behind them were altogether beyond challenge. As it is, the soundness, of the Board's conclusions is far from self-evident.

If it is remembered that the extent of protection now afforded ~~is~~ is the result of an arbitrary averaging and that the goods, which are sufficiently dissimilar to stand in the way of comparison of costs and prices, are, at the same time, sufficiently similar to make them essentially competitive, it will be realised that there is the gravest risk in reducing the duty on plain grey piecegoods to 20 per cent. ad valorem or 3¹/₂ ~~annas~~ annas per lb., whichever is greater, and the duty on bordered grey bleached and coloured piecegoods to 20 per cent. ~~at~~ ad valorem.

It is only natural that the report of the Board and the action of the Government of India thereon should be treated by the Indian public with an outburst of indignant protest. Bombay business leaders have expressed their apprehension that the reductions in the scales of import duties might not only cut into the profits of the more efficient mills, but would have the effect of sending into liquidation a number of other units which may be considered to be reasonably efficient. It may be said that India has her obligations in this regard on account of the Ottawa Pact, the Indo-British Trade Pact and the Mody-Lees Pact. But the Ottawa Pact had already been denounced; and once it is realised that the Mody-Lees Agreement is ~~x~~ of an unofficial nature, it will be seen that Government need not be in any undue hurry to effect the reduction in the import duties on cotton goods. We trust the Assembly will lose no time in bringing this question up for discussion and re-establishing faith in the continuance of the policy of protection to Indian industry. +

Possibilities of Indian Glass Industry:

Survey by Industrial Research Bureau Expert. +

As a result of a recommendation made by the Industrial Research Council at its first session held in July 1935, Mr. E. Dixon, Assistant director of the Industrial Research Bureau, has made a survey of the Indian glass industry, and submitted a report on economic conditions in the industry. The following is a brief summary of the report:-

Location.- At present the glass industry in India is located in five main areas — the United Provinces, Bengal, the Bombay Presidency, the Central Provinces and the Punjab. The chief glass-making centre is the United Provinces, which includes Ferozabad, the home of the bangle industry.

Small-Scale Operations.- Most Indian glass works were found to be small, though there are a few large works. During the early days of the industry, it is pointed out, many foreign experts were employed in India, but few apparently adapted themselves successfully to Indian conditions. It is observed that the industry bears the stamp of the Japanese more than any other influence. At Panipat in the Punjab there is a branch of the glass industry, said to be more than 200 years old, where spangle glass to the value of Rs. 20,000 is manufactured annually.

Raw Materials.- India possesses all the principal raw materials required for the manufacture of glass with the exception of soda ash. Supplies of coal and refractory materials in India are discussed, and there appears to be a promising future for exploitations of valuable deposits of Sillimanite and Kyanite which have recently become of considerable importance. Nearly all Indian glass furnaces are pot furnaces and the pots ~~of~~ for these are mostly imported. It is suggested that there is a promising future for Indian-made pots.

Import Figures.- Figures of imports are carefully examined. The glass bangle industry is holding its own against foreign competition, but bottles and phials are coming into India in increasing numbers. The chief exporter to India is Japan, whose prices are so low that Indian factories cannot at present compete. Though there is a large demand for funnels and globes for lamps in India, there is only a small import which shows that this section of the industry is holding its own. On the other hand the amount of sheet and plate glass imported is steadily increasing, while practically all table-ware is imported.

Production Figures.- Statistics of the industry are stated to be most difficult to obtain, but a number of valuable figures are given in the survey. For example, it is estimated that the value of bangles made in factories, as distinct from those made in cottages, together with the value of the glass made for supply to the cottages, is about Rs. 3 millions annually.

Quality.- Discussing the quality of Indian glass-ware, the report says that it cannot be described as good, and that cheapness is usually the sole manufacturing consideration. This ~~is~~ put down as being due to lack of supervision and not necessarily to any want of skill on the part of glass-blowers. Practically all glass-articles are copies of imported wares. "Very little glass-ware of a distinctive nature is produced, and it seems remarkable that Indian art, much of which is expressed in geometric designs, has not been utilized in this very beautiful medium as a mode of expression".

Main Conclusions.- Below are given the more important of the conclusions reached in the report:-

The soda ash content of Indian glass is unnecessarily high and the lime content is low, resulting in glass of inferior quality. The various costs for materials vary widely in different localities, being greatly influenced by railway freights, but soda ash, weight for weight, is everywhere very much more costly than the other bulk materials. In spite of this, the cost of coal consumed is the heaviest of the charges for materials in the manufacture of ordinary white glass. In the manufacture of bangles ~~at~~ the cost of colouring agents is sometimes greater than the cost of coal. The fuel consumption is very high in relation to the quantities of glass melted.

Cost of Production Unnecessarily High.- The report concludes with the finding that the manufacturing costs of India's glass are unnecessarily heavy, as fuel and soda ash are used to excess because of the wasteful furnaces employed. The additional expense so incurred has no justification as the resulting glass is deteriorated by the large quantities of soda ash used.

(The Statesman, 26-6-1936). +

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Employment and Unemployment.

Educated Unemployed in Madras Presidency:

Census Ordered by Government of Madras. +

To ascertain the extent of educated unemployment in the Madras Presidency, the Government of Madras have just ordered a census of the educated unemployed to be taken by the Commissioner of Labour, Madras. The graduates of the Madras, Andhra and Annamalai Universities and holders of Diploma in Economics or European languages who are not at present employed, will be invited to send their names to the Commissioner, giving particulars of previous employment, if any, and the nature thereof. When they are in possession of the necessary statistics, the Government will set about devising means of tackling the problem.

(The Hindu, 23-6-1936). +

Settling Graduates on Land:

Details of Punjab Scheme. +

The Punjab Government has in hand a scheme for settling university graduates on the land and turning them into practical farmers. A novel feature of the experiment is the provision of such amenities of life as are normally wanting in rural areas and the ^{absence} ~~presence~~ of which in towns make the intellectual classes drift to towns.

The idea is to allot two squares of land each to over 100 graduates, but these persons must not otherwise be in possession of land and should be prepared to work the land themselves and not leave it in the hands of tenants. In fact, it is being considered whether it would be better not to let these graduates acquire proprietary rights and give them a sort of permanent tenancy so that they may stick to land. The idea of

the authorities is that the houses of these settlers, though made of mud, should be of such design as to be suitable for middle class families. Each house will have its own garden and lawn for tennis court. Government would give all the assistance necessary to make the graduates develop community life and live in concord, irrespective of the difference in religious beliefs. Club life and games would be encouraged.

It is hoped that the amenities for social life and enjoyment provided, would induce the graduate-settlers to stick to the land. The scheme has passed through the preliminary stages, and a Board, including the Commissioner of Development, Punjab, ^{and} the Nili Bar Colony Officer, will shortly be constituted to select proper graduates for the purpose.

(The Times of India, 2-6-1936). +

Cigar Making as a Cottage Industry;

Training Class for Unemployed Opened in Rangpur, Bengal. +

Faced with the growing incidence of unemployment, efforts are being made by several District and Local bodies to stimulate decaying cottage industries and to start new ones. An experiment of this kind, with great possibilities of success, is reported from Rangpur, Bengal.

Rangpur occupies a prominent place among the tobacco-growing tracts of the world, but no tobacco industry has so far developed in this district, although raw materials exported from this place have been manufactured into finished products in Burma, Java and Ceylon. In order to introduce cigar-making as a cottage industry in the tobacco area, Mr. S.K. Ghosh, I.C.S., the District Magistrate of Rangpur, has initiated a scheme of cigar-making. A training class has already been opened with eight young men of the locality.

The cigars turned out here compare favourably with those of Burma and Madras. It was learned on enquiry that a young man after three months' training can easily turn out 200 cigars per day and earn Re.1/- daily. An ordinary labourer working in his spare time can earn four four to six annas per day.

(The Amrita Bazar Patrika, 2-6-1936).

Unemployment In Mysore States;State's Relief Measures Reviewed in Light of Sapru Report. +

The report on unemployment conditions in the United Provinces of the Sapru Committee is continuing to attract serious attention in other Provinces of India, as also in the more advanced Indian States. The Government of Mysore State recently made a detailed examination of the Report with reference to conditions in Mysore and have issued a statement showing what is actually being done by way of unemployment relief in the light of the suggestions made by the different departments of the State.

The examination has been made in consultation with the Heads of Departments and their views obtained. A review of the replies received indicate that (1) in a large number of cases, continuous action on the lines recommended by the Sapru Committee is already being taken; (2) in some cases, the conditions are somewhat dissimilar and the recommendations do not apply. This is so especially in regard to the recommendations about medical and legal practitioners, and (3) in some cases the possibility of adopting the recommendations with necessary modifications need to be further examined.

Some of the main points referred to by the Government are as follows

Public Works.- The expenditure on public works is being maintained by the Mysore Government at a fairly high level. In recent years, there has been a large development of irrigation and there are at present in hand projects to cost about Rs. ~~4.24~~ millions. The Public Works Department of the State is encouraging engineering graduates who come forward to take up contracts. Employment is also being found for them in connection with village improvement works.

Electrical and Mechanical Engineering.- No difficulty has been experienced in placing Mechanical and Electrical Engineering graduates in Government and private institutions for receiving practical training. Arrangements have also been made with the Kolar Gold Fields for training and recruiting local people.

Accelerated Pace of Industrialisation.- The manufacture of steel and rolled sections has just been started in Bhadravati. The manufacture of pharmaceuticals has been established on a permanent basis. The

lac industry is being developed and an organisation created for industrial research. Factories for the manufacture of electrical materials, cement, paper and spun silk are being established either by Government or with Government aid. Schemes for the starting of new industries are under the active consideration of the Board of Industries which consists of officials and non-officials interested in industries and commerce. Sericulture is a very important subsidiary occupation in the State and owing to outside competition the industry is in a very bad way. With the additional allotments made by Government, arrangements are being made for the increased distribution of disease-free seed and cross-breed layings to the sericulturists and other measures are also being taken to help the industry through the present crisis. The rates ~~of~~ charged for power have been recently reduced in the interests of small industries.

Vocational Training:- Committee Reports.- One of the important recommendations of the Sapru Committee relates to vocational training and the reform of elementary and secondary education. The need for similar action has long been felt in Mysore and a Committee was appointed by Government. The Committee has just submitted their report. The conclusions and recommendations of the Sapru Committee will be of great help to Government in formulating their final conclusions and the action to be taken to implement them.

Technological Studies and Cottage Industries.- A Technological Institute will soon start work at Bangalore and the various industrial and weaving schools are being reorganised so as to increase their usefulness to the community. The Khadi Centre at Badanwal organised by Government and the various District board centres are doing very good work to popularise spinning and weaving in the villages and some rural reconstruction centres have been started where poultry farming, bee-keeping, etc. are being taught. A scheme for starting more centres with the co-operation of the Village Improvement Committees is being formulated.

Tobacco Cultivation.- Tobacco cultivation and poultry farming are receiving special attention of Government and some progress has already been achieved in both these industries.

Further Study Needed.- The following recommendations deserve to be examined in detail by the Government and the officers concerned:-

- (a) Maintenance of unemployment statistics by Government, University and the Education Department.
- (b) Grant of subsidies to medical men to settle in rural areas.
- (c) The compulsory retirement of all Government employees who have attained 55 years. This is the rule and is invariably followed except in the case of ministerial officers.
- (d) The reduction of the limit of age for people entering the subordinate service.
- (e) Passing orders on the report of the vocational Committee and implementing the decisions.
- (f) The development of subsidiary agricultural industries such as fruit growing, dairy farming, market gardening, poultry farming, etc.
- (g) To bring up-to-date Mr. Sambasiva Aiyar's Industrial Survey of Mysore.
- (h) The introduction of small industries and the study of the work done in Bengal, Japan and European countries.
- (i) Establishing contacts between the Science Departments of the Mysore University and the Institute of Science and industrialists and businessmen; and lastly, (j) Securing for the people of the Mysore State an adequate share in the "All-India" services.

(The Hindu, 2-6-1936). †

Unemployment in U.P.:Action taken by U.P. Government on Sapru Report. +

The following information about the action ^{in brief} by the Government of the United Provinces on the recommendations of the U.P. Unemployment (Sapru) Committee Report is taken from a communique issued in the middle of June 1936 by the Industries Department, U.P. Government:-

Rs. 400,000/- Annual Grant.- The United Provinces Unemployment Committee's report was discussed by the Legislative Council on March 2 and 3, 1936. Government then undertook that if the Legislature voted additional taxation, they would earmark Rs. 300,000 per annum for the purposes mentioned in the Report and an additional Rs. 100,000 for schemes of expansion or improvement in various transferred departments which would also have, as their result, reduction in unemployment among educated young men. The taxation measures (Stamps and Court-fees) were adopted by the Council in March. Accordingly, the following schemes of recurring expenditure have been accepted:-

Details of Distribution.- (1) Practical training for industries in a special colony at Cawnpore under almost commercial conditions, Rs. 25,000; (2) State-aid in the establishment and running of (a) an industrial credit company, Rs. 150,000 (only Rs. 100,000 in the first year); ~~Rs. 150,000~~ (b) a company for marketing and small-scale finance, Rs. 50,000; (3) (A) Practical training in agriculture - (a) under almost commercial conditions on the Fyzabad Farm, and (b) on departmental farms, Rs. 10,000; (B) instruction in estate management - (4) Provincial Employment Board, Rs. 15,000; (5) training in certain subsidiary agricultural industries and grants-in-aid for their development, Rs. 25,000; (6) additional provision for veterinary training, Rs. 3,000; (7) additional provision for ~~subsidiary~~ subsidies to rural medical practitioners, Rs. 7,000; (8) enhancement of the amount placed at the disposal of the Board of Indian Medicine, Rs. 15,000; (9) establishment of six centres of agricultural improvement in canal areas, (The expenditure is expected to rise to about Rs. 30,000 per annum later on), Rs. 20,000; (10) additional provision for grants-in-aid for the establishment of fixed rural dispensaries, Rs. 15,000; (11) extension of the district Health Scheme to four out of the remaining 18 districts, Rs. 55,000; and (12) revival of three travelling dispensaries, Rs. 9,000.

The full text of the Communique, explaining in greater detail the schemes referred to above, is published in the Leader, Allahabad, dated 15-6-1936.

(The Leader, 15-6-1936). +

Social Insurance.Health Insurance Scheme for India:Government of India Consults Local Governments. +

According to the Associated Press of India, the Government of India is at present considering the possibilities of inaugurating an Health Insurance Scheme for India. At the last session of the Legislative Assembly, several members had pressed the desirability of Government taking action in the matter, though hitherto the difficulties caused by the size of the country and the unorganised state of industries and of labour have stood in the way of a serious consideration of the question. The Local Governments have been asked by the Government of India to submit reports on the subject, and it is understood that one or two Local Governments have already forwarded their reports. It is anticipated that the Government of India will be in a position to form its conclusion by the end of October of the current year. Inquiries go to show that there is very little chance of the Government of India dealing legislatively with the matter, but provincial replies may indicate the desirability of a thorough enquiry into this most complicated question.

(The National Call, 13-6-1936).+

PUBLIC HEALTHLeprosy in Jute Mill Areas: Action by Indian
Jute Mills Association in 1935. +

Reference was made at page 83 of our July 1935 report to the measures taken during 1934 by the Indian Jute Mills Association to eradicate leprosy in jute mill areas. Particulars of the activities undertaken in this field in 1935 are given in the Report for 1935 of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association; a brief account of the work done is given below:-

Report of Leprosy Propaganda Officer.- During June 1935, Dr. B.N. Ghosh, M.B., the Leprosy Propaganda Officer, made a comprehensive tour of the jute mills with the object of inspecting and reporting on the arrangements for the treatment of lepers. As a result of Dr. Ghosh's observations and findings, the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association forwarded to the Committee of the Association a "Report on Leprosy in the Jute Mills under the Indian Jute Mills Association" in which the following proposals were made for improving the anti-leprosy work being done in the mills —

(a) Training of mill doctors.— All mill doctors should, if possible, be trained to diagnose and treat leprosy.

(b) Treatment clinics.- The standard of work in the present treatment clinics should be improved and the necessary equipment and accommodation provided and steps should be taken to secure the regular attendance of all patients in the mills who are suffering from leprosy. This might be made a condition of their being allowed to continue their work. It is also advisable that more clinics be opened in mills where there are no clinics at present, and that the medical officers of these mills should receive the necessary training in order to carry out the work effectively.

(c) Examination of newly recruited workers.- In order to prevent cases of leprosy, particularly infectious cases of leprosy, being recruited in the mills, all newly recruited workers should be examined by the mill medical officers.

(d) Re-examination of for leprosy of all mill workers.- It has been suggested that all the mill workers might be re-examined for leprosy. Since the survey of 1929-30, cases of leprosy dismissed from one mill have taken up work at other mills, and many new workers have

been recruited and it is advisable that steps should be taken to detect the many unknown cases of leprosy which undoubtedly exist.

Defects of Existing Arrangements.- The report stated that of the 84 mills under the Indian Jute Mills Association, arrangements for the treatment of lepers had been made in 36. In 48 mills there were no arrangements for the treatment of leprosy. The following comments were made regarding existing treatment centres:-

(a) In some of the centres the work is being done in a satisfactory way; in other centres the doctor in charge has not the necessary knowledge to do the work effectively and some of the doctors are not ~~keen~~ keen on the work;

(b) Some of the clinics have satisfactory accommodation and some of them have not; and

(c) in some of the mills in which there are clinics and provision for treatment, only a few of the patients working in the mills attend.

Member Mills consulted re Intensification of Campaign.- The Committee considered that it was important that the anti-leprosy work done in the jute mills should continue, that it should be extended and that it should be made more effective. They accordingly issued a circular to members asking them to state:-

(a) whether, if they had not already done so, they were agreeable to send their mill doctors to undergo a course of instruction in leprosy work;

(b) whether, if they had not already done so, they were prepared to provide the necessary equipment and accommodation for leprosy clinics at the mills under their control; and,

(c) whether they desired that a re-examination for leprosy of all jute mill workers should take place or not.

Replies to the circular have recently been received from all members; the information contained therein has been passed on to the Bengal Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Relief Association for consideration and further report.

(Summarised from pages 95-97 of the Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association for 1935). †

Nutrition Advisory Committee Set Up:
Viceroy Addresses First Meeting of Committee,
Simla. 18-20th June 1936. +

The Indian Research Fund Association has recently set up a Nutrition Advisory Committee. The first meeting of the Committee was held from 18 to 20-6-1936 under the presidentship of Col. Jullu. His Excellency the Viceroy opened the meeting.

Reasons for Setting up the Committee.- General Sprawson, Director General of the Indian Medical Service, in inviting the Viceroy to open the meeting, explained that the reason why an advisory committee on human nutrition ~~was~~ had not been formed so far was, first, that Sir Robert McCarrison, who was until recently in India, himself constituted sufficient advisory authority on the subject of nutrition. Now, however, the scope of the work had broadened and the number of workers in the field had increased. Secondly, spade work was necessary in the analysis of the common food stuffs of India; they now had sufficient data to start a practical examination of the nutritional state of the country and, thereafter, advise on what might best be done to improve the condition of the people.

Viceroy's Speech.- The Viceroy, who is very much interested in the problems of nutrition, in his introductory speech recalled that the Royal Commission on Agriculture (of which he was the Chairman) had laid stress upon the immense importance to India of the subject of human ~~at~~ nutrition and, recommended the setting up of a nutrition committee. He said:-

"In no country is the subject of greater importance than in India. During the last 10 years, public opinion in this country has shown an evergrowing interest in the problems of human nutrition, and the time has come when all concerned should apply themselves with renewed energy and enthusiasm, not only to the active prosecution of research in this

in this field, but also to the practical application in the homes of the people of the fruits of that research in terms of the diet of the population both in the rural areas and in the towns.

"The Royal Commission on Agriculture envisaged the setting up of a central institute of human nutrition, but lack of funds has hitherto prevented the implementing of that recommendation. The Commission also advised that a link should be established between nutrition research and agricultural research. I have faith that the future will witness the founding of such a central institute of human nutrition. Agricultural research will shortly be in full swing at the new Imperial Institute of Agricultural Research at Delhi. The inauguration of this station affords an excellent opportunity to create a permanent liaison between research workers in human nutrition and those engaged in agricultural research. The appointment of an expert in human nutrition to work in the Delhi Agricultural Institute would be welcomed by the whole staff of agricultural research workers.

"The time has come to press forward with the difficult matter of making available to the general public the fruits of research in human nutrition. This, of course, is a function that belongs to the Provincial Governments and their officers. There is opportunity however for further exploration of that principle of joint endeavour between the provinces and central research institutions. The Nutrition Institutes at Coonoor and Calcutta have to their credit much work of the utmost value. I hope, the provinces will make the fullest use of that material, and that they will suggest for investigation by the central institutes any special problems with which they ~~may~~ may be confronted.

"The question how best to convey to the public the essential facts of diet in its relation to health is one that is deserving of close and systematic study by all concerned. Whether we are concerned to advance among the rural population improved agricultural practice or better nutrition, our best endeavours will achieve little that will endure unless and until literacy is imparted to the women of the countryside".

Proceedings of the Committee.- The Committee sat for three days (18, 19 and 20-6-1936) and has arrived at certain conclusions regarding the ~~directions in which~~ ^{work} work has hitherto been done, and plans for the future. These recommendations will be placed before the Governing Body which meets some time in August or September 1936. While the recommendations of the Committee will not be made public until they have been examined by the Governing Body, it is understood that among the subjects discussed were the following:- (1) Analysis of Indian foodstuffs; (2) animal experiments in connection with food and deficiency diseases; (3) malnutrition; (4) a cheap spectographic method of examining food values,

and (5) field work. It is claimed that enough data has been collected to determine the nutritive value of the diet of the people of India in various territories. The experts have not at present drawn up charts offering alternative diets, which can be eaten by the masses of the people, but they expect that public health departments in the provinces will form their conclusions from the results forwarded to them.

It is understood that about Rs. 90,000 will be spent on nutrition work in India during 1936.

(The Statesman, 19 and 23-6-36)

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Women and Children.Finding Work for Displaced Women Mine Workers:Bihar Government's Efforts to Introduce Handloom Weaving. †

The Bihar ~~Government~~ Government are, it is understood, investigating the possibility of finding employment for the women who will be thrown out of work by the new rules prohibiting women from working in mines.

Handloom Weaving.- In this connection inquiries are being made regarding the introduction of handloom weaving among these women workers. But any scheme to introduce weaving among them in the coalfields of Jharia must, it is felt, necessarily start with the establishment of an institution to teach weaving by an intensive course extending over a year. This would enable them to produce coarse cloth of the nature and design used by the workers in mines so that there may not be any difficulty in marketing. It is suggested that a central weaving institute at some central place like Jharia may be started with about 100 women at a time who should be granted stipends. If it is found difficult to persuade them to come to join such a central institute, the alternative proposal is that there may be a number of smaller institutes at centres to be scattered over the coalfields.

Points for Investigation.- The specific points that the Government have asked officers in Jharia to inquire into are the following:-

- (1) whether the scheme of introducing handloom weaving among the women in coalfields is likely to be successful;
- (2) whether it would be advisable to establish one weaving institute at some central place or should there be a number of institutes scattered over the coalfields;
- (3) whether it is anticipated that there will be difficulty in disposing of ^{the} coarse cloths to be manufactured by these women.

Initial Capital.- As regards ^{the} capital which will be required for carrying on the business of weaving by these women, it is being ^{ascertained} ~~inquired~~ whether it is likely to be provided by the learner herself or from her husband's savings or whether a weavers' co-operative society should be established. As an alternative it is proposed to fix the stipend during training at Rs. 6 and putting by each month Rs. 2 to the credit of the learner to be made over to her at the end of the training period. This system is followed in Bihar technical schools.

(The Statesman, 22-6-1936).+

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Agriculture.

Debt Conciliation Boards for Mysore State;

Main Features of Government Bill. †

The Bangalore Correspondent of the Statesman gives in the paper's issue dated 1-6-1936 details of a Bill providing for the setting up of conciliation boards to relieve agriculturists' indebtedness on the lines of the Central Provinces and Madras Acts on the subject which the Government of Mysore is planning to introduce in the Mysore Representative Assembly.

Main Provisions.- The scheme is on a voluntary and not compulsory basis; the main provisions of the Bill are;-

(1) The Measure applies to agriculturists who earn a living mainly by agriculture and whose debts exceed Rs. 100.

(2) It provides for the appointment of debt conciliation boards consisting of a chairman and two members, appointed by the Government, who shall hold office for three years.

(3) Any creditor or debtor wanting the intercession of the board may apply to it and notice is sent to the creditors and debtor and creditor brought face to face with each other.

(4) If creditors to whom not less than 50 per cent. of the debts are due and the debtors agree to an amicable settlement, the agreement is recorded by the board and registered and it has the same effect as a civil court decree.

(5) Amounts due under the agreement, if unpaid, are recoverable by the Deputy Commissioner as land revenue arrears and, if they are not so recovered, the amount may be recovered as if a civil court decree had been passed for its payment.

(6) In case there is no settlement and a creditor is responsible for refusing to agree to an amicable settlement, the board shall grant the debtor a certificate in respect of the debts owed by him to such creditors. If a creditor subsequently sues in court for the recovery of the debt in respect of which a certificate has been granted the court shall not allow the creditor the costs of the suit or interest at more than six per cent. after the date of the certificate.

(7) If after registration of an agreement, any unsecured creditor sues for the recovery of a debt, any decree passed in such a suit shall not be executed as against the assets of the debtor set apart in the agreement until all amounts regarded as payable under such agreement have been paid.

Jurisdiction of Civil Courts Barred.- There are also provisions in the Bill which act as deterrents to creditors who refuse to be accommodative and as inducements to those who are helpful. Finally, jurisdiction of a civil court is barred in respect of any matter pending before the board, whose order will be final.

(The Statesman, 1-6-1936). †

Maritime Affairs.Raising Minimum Age for Admission of Children to Employment at sea to 15; Bengal Chamber of Commerce approves Suggestion.

The Indian Merchant Shipping Act, 1923, as amended in 1931, fixed 14 years as the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea. Though India has not ratified the Convention fixing the minimum age for employment at sea at 14, adopted by the I.L.Conference of 1920, the amendment effected in 1931 makes India conform to the requirement of the 1920 Convention ⁱⁿ respect of the minimum age for admission to employment at sea. The Government of India have recently circulated for opinion the proposal of the I.L.O. to raise the minimum age for employment at sea from 14 to 15. The views of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce on this suggestion were invited by the Shipping Master, Calcutta, and the Chamber Committee, after consultation with their Shipping Sub-Committee, ~~in the matter~~ ^{re} replied that they saw no objection to the raising of the minimum age limit to 15 years.

(Summarised from the Abstract ~~Extracts~~ of Proceedings of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for April 1936). +