
Report for December 1938.

N.B. Every section of this Report may be taken out separately.

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Ratifications.The Employment of Children Act, 1938,
(Act XXVI of 1938) and Draft Rules made thereunder.

Reference was made at page 4 of our September 1938 report to the introduction and adoption by the Central Legislature in September 1938, of the Employment of Children Bill, 1938. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 1-12-1938 and is published at pages 162 to 163 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 10-12-1938. Certain draft Rules called the Employment of Children (Federal Railways and Major Ports) Rules, 1939, made under the Act, are published at page 2060 of Part I of the Gazette of India, dated 17-12-1938 for criticism and suggestions.

The Act fixes at 15 the minimum age of employment of children in any occupation connected with the transport of passengers, goods or mails by railway and in any occupation involving the handling of goods within the limits of any port to which the Indian Ports Act of 1908 is applicable; the Act gives partial effect to the I.L. Convention regarding Minimum Age (Industry) (Revised), 1937.

Draft Convention and recommendations regarding Safety Provisions (Building)
Bengal Chamber of Commerce opposes Legislation.

Reference was made at pages 2 to 4 of our March 1938 report to the resolution adopted by the Central Legislature on the Draft Convention and Recommendations regarding Safety Provisions (Building); the Legislature recommended that provincial Governments be consulted regarding the desirability and practicability of legislation to secure greater safety for workers in the building industry. The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, consulted by the Bengal Government, has expressed the following opinion on the subject.

Accident Incidence Small:- From figures which the Chamber has been able to get, it was seen that in 5 of the major building concerns of the province, there occurred only 3 fatal and 23 non-fatal accidents in 1936-37, and no fatal and 26 non-fatal accidents in 1937-38. The ~~daily~~ number of workmen employed by these interests totals several thousands (it is pointed out that it was difficult to obtain precise figures). In the light of the accident figures given, it is argued that the risk of injury is not great and certainly not such as

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would warrant the introduction of the elaborate precautions and legislative enactments which the Draft Convention of the International Labour Office visualises.

Insurance rates for the protection of employers against the risks of compensation under the Indian Workmen's Compensation Act compare with the rates in Great Britain as follows:-

	India	Great Britain.
Demolition work (buildings).	112 As. per Rs.100 of wages.	217/9d. per £100 of wages.
Ordinary building erection work (excluding special work on steel structures)	20 As. do.	21s. do.

It will be observed that the insurance rate in India for demolition work is considerably lower than that in force in Great Britain while on ordinary building work, the Indian rate shows but a slight increase over the U.K.rate. These comparisons, in the view of the Chamber Committee, demonstrate that the hazard in building operations in India is generally less than in Great Britain.

Strength of Bamboo Scaffolding:- The lightness, strength and flexibility of the bamboo as scaffolding material make it extremely adaptable and, in point of fact, the modern steel scaffolding used in Europe is based upon designs, common in bamboo work many years ago. One of the biggest building interests in Bengal states that in their experience they have never known of the collapse of a bamboo scaffolding and maintain that in the hands of the workers of this country, no more efficient form of scaffolding could be found. Generally, the extent of the hazard is characterised as small and not caused by the scaffolding employed but generally by the accidental dropping of tools or pieces of material, which no legislation can eliminate.

Chamber's opposition to Legislation:- The interests represented by the Chamber are at one in their opposition to legislation on the grounds of it either being unnecessary or impracticable.

Should, however, Government consider that legislation of some type or form is required, then it is thought that it should be Central and of application to the whole of India, first on the ground that building interests in Calcutta, as in other parts of India, are called upon to undertake work in more than one province and, secondly, because of the fact that it is reasonable to assume a greater degree of skill on the part of workers in

urban areas with the lessening of the possibility of accident than can be expected in rural areas where, therefore, the need of protection is as great if not greater.

Reduction of accidents small:- As adequate precautions are already taken and enforced, it is extremely difficult to suggest means of reducing the present incidence of accidents in the industry.

Any serious accidents, ^{that} there may be in the building industry ^{are} generally ~~are~~ due to the employment of unskilled workers or failure on the part of the employers to comply with the generally accepted precautionary measures which reputable building firms already adopt. An examination of the present mode and manner of working of the ~~members~~ of the Chamber reveals little scope for improvement in the reduction of accidents which are few and such that no legislation or regulations could possibly avoid. Workers in the building trade are now subject to the provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act and the liability thus imposed upon employers will, to some extent, prevent continual recourse to unskilled labour — a frequent source of accidents. Improvements in the technical and general education of workers seem again to offer perhaps the best means of reducing to the very minimum the number of accidents in this as well as any other industry; and benefit might accrue from the recommendations concerning co-operation in accident prevention and vocational education, were simple means adopted suitable to the conditions and customs of this country.

(Summarised from the abstract of proceedings of the Committee of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce for August, September, and October, 1938). ✓

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National Labour Legislation.

The Employment of Children Act, 1938,
(Act XXVI of 1938), and Draft Rules made thereunder. ✓

Reference was made at page 4 of our September 1938 report to the introduction ~~of~~ and adoption by the Central Legislature in September, 1938, of the Employment of Children Bill, 1938. The Act received the assent of the Governor General on 1-12-1938 and is published at pages 162 to 163 of Part IV of the Gazette of India dated 10-12-1938. Certain draft Rules, called the Employment of Children (Federal Railways and Major Ports) Rules, 1939, made under the Act, are published ^{in the} at page 2660 of Part I of the Gazette of India dated 17-12-1938. ✓

First-Aid Facilities in Madras Factories:
Government prescribes Rules. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 1734 to 1735 of Part I of the Fort St. George Gazette dated 13-12-1938 where are published certain amendments to the Madras Factories Rules, by which the provision in factories of facilities ~~for~~ rendering first-aid in the case of accidents is made compulsory. The ~~amendments~~ amending Rules also prescribe the minimum contents of first-aid boxes to be maintained by factories.

Exemptions to Hours of work Provisions in Factories Act:
Definition by Governments of Bengal, C.P., and Assam.

Attention is directed to (a) pages 2068 to 2071 and pages 2087 to 2090 of Part III of the Central Provinces and Berar Gazette dated 25-11-1938 and 2-12-1938 respectively and (b) pages 2548 to 2552 of Part I of the Calcutta Gazette dated 17-11-1938, where are published amendments (proposals in the case of C.P.), to the Factories Rules of C.P. and Berar, and Bengal, defining the classes of persons deemed to hold positions of super^{vision} or management, and the classes of workers in factories ~~employed~~

from the provisions of the Factories Act relating to hours of work.

Pages 1409 to 1412 of Part II of the Assam Gazette dated 9-11-1938, publishes the draft of certain rules defining the classes of workers in factories who are exempted from the provisions relating to hours of work. ✓

The Berar Boiler Regulations, 1938. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 2141 to 2224 of Part III of the Central Provinces and Berar Gazette dated 16-12-1938 where are published the Berar Boiler Regulations, 1938, made under the Indian Boilers Act, 1923. ✓

Extension of Payment of Wages Act to Unregulated
Factories in C.P. ✓

By a Notification (No. 5035-2016-VII dated 13-12-1938 of the Commerce and Industry Department) published at page 1198 of Part I of the C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 16-12-1938, the Government of the Central Provinces has extended the provisions of the Payment of Wages Act, 1936, to the payment of wages of persons employed in the establishments carrying on the industries of (i) bidi-making, (ii) shellac manufacture, and (iii) leather tanning in the districts of Nagpur, Bhandara, Jubbulpore, and Bilaspur to which the provisions of the Central Provinces Unregulated Factories Act, 1937, (XXI of 1937), are applicable. ✓

Safety on Board Ship:
Burma Government's Notification. ✓

With a view to prevent accidents by gas poisoning to workmen engaged on board ships loaded with white rice or boiled rice, the Governor of Burma has directed that the following conditions should be observed before working such cargo:-

(1) When hatches have been closed for any considerable time no workman should be allowed to enter a hold unless the Master is satisfied that the hold is gas free.

(2) In all cases where abnormal heat is discovered the Master should take suitable safe means to locate and remove the cause.

(The above instructions have been issued in a Circular No. 19 of dated 17-11-1938, of the Department of Commerce and Industry, published at page 1110 of the Supplement to the Burma Gazette dated 19-11-1938). ✓

The Draft C. P. Payment of Wages (Non-Federal
Railways) Rules, 1939. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 2259 to 2274 of Part III of the C.P. and Berar Gazette dated 23-12-1938 where is published the draft of the Central Provinces and Berar Payment of Wages (Non-Federal Railways) Rules. The rules apply to persons employed upon any railway (including Factories) by or under a ^{non-rail} railway administration operating in the Central Provinces or Berar. ✓

The Draft Ajmer-Merwara Factories Rules, 1938. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 673 to 695 of Part II A of the Gazette of India dated 3-12-1938 where is published the draft of the Ajmer-Merwara Factories Rules, 1938. ✓

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal, 1937.*

Statistics.- According to the annual report on the working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during 1937, 2022 returns were received from employers during the year under report. 134 accidents resulting in death, 434 in permanent disablements and 5,982 in temporary disablements were recorded during the year under review in respect of which compensation was paid. Rs. 90,727 was paid as compensation in respect of fatal cases, Rs. 110,394 in respect of cases resulting in permanent disablement and Rs. 63,757 in respect of cases resulting in temporary disablements. The average number of workers employed during the year was 757,956.

The year under review opened with one case of occupational disease pending in respect of alleged lead poisoning, the only occupational disease for which compensation has so far been claimed in Bengal, while two more claims were instituted during the year. Of the three claims, compensation was awarded in one, the other two cases remaining pending at the close of the year.

General Compulsory Insurance suggested.- The report refers to the unsatisfactory nature of the existing procedure for recovery of decretal amounts. In his report for 1936, the Commissioner observed that unless the certificate officers in the districts could be brought to ~~lend their fuller co-operation in the matter of recovery of compensation,~~ the power given to the Commissioner by the Act was likely to be rendered a nullity. Similar difficulty was experienced also during the year under report. It is pointed out that much can be done to expedite certificate procedure, but those that have first-hand acquaintance with the working of certificate departments in moffussil districts would be extremely chary of laying the blame for the delays mainly at the door of the certificate officers. In the majority of cases, these officers have to deal with various intractable factors, over which they have very little or no control. The ultimate solution of the difficulty, the Commissioner suggests, would be to insist on compulsory insurance by the employers of their liability under the Act. The common objection that such a requirement would increase the operating costs of manufacturing concerns, and so would be a serious handicap to industry is disproved by the fact that the great majority of the big firms are already ~~insured~~ insured in this respect. As for the small firms, the incidence of the extra cost that will have to be incurred by them on this account is likely to be extremely small. Incidentally, it may be observed that if a compulsory scheme is enforced in all industrial concerns, the relative competitive position of any particular firm will not be affected, and, in the long run, the extra operating costs will be passed on to the consumers of manufactured goods. To start with, only factories within the definition of the Factories Act may be brought within the ambit of a compulsory scheme or the operation of the scheme may be still further restricted.

*Annual Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Bengal during the year 1937. Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal Government Press, Alipore, Bengal. 1938. Price Annas 2 or 3d. pp.15.

It seems to be high time, the Report remarks, that the whole question was brought to the notice of Government.

Activities of Workers' Organisations.- The Press Employees' Association under the guidance of Mr. Satish Chandra Sen continued to take keen interest both in the Workmen's Compensation Act and the newly enforced Payment of Wages Act. The Indian Seamen's Union with Mr. Aftab Ali, as President, also showed some activity, particularly in the first half of the year. In view of the fact that quite a large number of seamen receive compensation every year, it ~~may be~~ expected that in the near future seamen's organisations will be taking more interest in helping their members in getting compensation, without the help of lawyers. The Calcutta Claims Bureau as representative of the largest number of insured employers continued its full co-operation with the Commissioner in the speedy disposal of claims concerning their insured. ✓

Strike Statistics for Quarter ending 30-6-1938. ✓

According to the statistics of industrial disputes in British India for the second quarter of 1938 ending 30-6-1938, published by the Department of Labour, Government of India, there were 94 disputes during the period. The 94 disputes involved 142,063 workers and entailed a loss of 3,844,306 working days. The largest number of disputes occurred in Bengal, where 31 disputes involving 29,413 workers entailed a loss of 750,614 working days. Next come Bombay with 24 disputes involving 16,871 workers and entailing a loss of 52,687 working days, Madras with 16 disputes involving 29,044 workers and entailing a loss of 690,713 working days, Punjab and Bihar with 7 disputes each involving 3,021 and 10,680 workers and entailing losses of 36,681 and 439,680 working days, respectively, the Central Provinces with 4 disputes involving 3,254 workers and entailing a loss of 3,284 working days, Sind with 3 disputes involving 657 workers and entailing a loss of 2,045 working days, and U.P. and Assam with 1 dispute each involving 48,381 and 742 workers and entailing losses of 1,867,118 and 1,484 working days, respectively, while there were no disputes in Delhi and Orissa.

Classified according to industries, cotton and woollen mills were responsible for 39 disputes which involved 85,387 workers and entailed a loss of 2,116,144 working days; engineering workshops were responsible for 13 disputes involving 17,359 workers and entailing a loss of 388,262 working days; jute mills were responsible for 6 disputes involving 18,562 workers and entailing a loss of 678,040 working days; mines were responsible for 2 disputes involving 3,812 workers and

entailing a loss of 188,040 working days; railways (including railway workshops) were responsible for 1 dispute involving 440 workers and entailing a loss of 660 working days; other ~~industries~~^{industries} were responsible for 36 disputes involving 16,503 workers and entailing a loss of 473,160 working days. (One strike affected 4 industries.)

Of the 94 disputes during the quarter under review, 44 were due to wage questions, 25 due to personnel, 5 due to leave and hours, 1 due to bonus and 19 due to other causes. In 8 disputes the workers were successful, in 27 partially successful and ~~in~~ in 42 unsuccessful. 17 disputes were progressing at the end of the period under report. ✓

Long Hours and Employment of Children in Bombay Hotels:

Amelioration demanded by Hotel Workers' Union. ✓

The workers employed in Bombay hotels have recently formed themselves into a union called the Hotel Kamgar Union and have formulated certain demands, the more important of which are reduction of hours of work and prohibition of children ^{in hotels} in hotels.

It is pointed out that the hotel workers of Bombay are today working under conditions which have made them virtual slaves of the owners. The owners are employing children more than adults as this proves to be more profitable than employing adults. Children are badly treated, beaten and are not paid more than boarding and lodging, their paltry wages being not seldom absorbed by the owners under pretext of fines and loss and damages to the hotel materials. Even the men employees do not get their wages in full or regularly. Over and above all this, the hotel workers, including the children, work no less than 16 hours a day on the average.

The Secretary of the union has expressed the Union's disappointment at the Government's delay in the introduction in the legislature of the Shops Hours Bill which was published by the Government some time back. (Vide pages 7 to 9 of our March 1938 report).

(The Bombay Chronicle, 11-12-1938). ✕

Working Class Cost of Living Index Numbers for Various
Centres in India, during October 1938. ✓

The cost of living index numbers for working classes in various centres of India registered the following changes during October 1938 as compared with the preceding month.

Bombay.- The index number (Base: Year ending June 1934) of the cost of living for working classes in Bombay in October 1938 remained unchanged at 105. The average in the year 1937 was 106.

Ahmedabad.- The index number (base: year ending July 1927) of the cost of living in Ahmedabad in October 1938 rose by 1 point to 72; for 1937 the average was 75.

Sholapur.- The index number (base: year ending January 1928) of the cost of living in Sholapur during October 1938 declined by a point to 71. The average for 1937 was 73.

Nagpur.- The index number (base: January 1927) of the cost of living in ~~at~~ October 1938 fell by 2 points to 61.

Jubbulpore.- The index number (base: January 1937) of the ~~cost of~~ cost of living in Jubbulpore in October 1938 remained stationary at 57.

(Extracted from "Monthly Survey of Business Conditions in India", October 1938)
Safety in Mines: Government of India to convene a

Conference to consider Proposals. ✓

It is understood that the Government of India will ~~shortly~~ ^{on 18-1-1939} convene a conference of representatives of the interests concerned to consider proposals regarding sand-stow^{ing} in coal mines.

(The Statesman 30-12-1938). ✓

Conditions of Work in Indian Posts and Telegraphs

Department, 1937-38.* ✓

Financial Working: The Posts and Telegraphs Department consists of four branches: Post Office, Telegraphs, Telephones and Radio.

* Report on the work of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department 1937-38. Published by the Manager of Publications, Delhi.
Price annas 8 or 9d. pp.81.

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The financial results of the working of the Department for the year 1937-38 are summarised below:-

	Post Office	Telegraphs	Telephones	Radios	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Receipts .	7,93,88,458	2,51,68,819	96,29,816	8,02,510	11,49,89,603
Expendi- ture.	7,46,09,840	2,68,07,839	68,19,585	10,26,472	10,92,63,736.
Surplus (+) or Deficit(-)	+ 47,78,618	- 16,39,020	+28,10,231	-2,23,962	+ 57,25,867.

Strength of Staff: On 31-3-1938 the total number of persons employed by the department was 117,235 as compared with 116,058 (excluding Burma) at the close of 1936-37. The figure includes 21,307 extra departmental agents who are ~~not~~ whole-time servants of Government and 2,773 members of the Audit and Accounts staff. Out of the remaining 93,155 employees, 427 belonged to the superior (gazetted) staff, which includes 136 divisional and other Superintendents, 43 postmasters and 63 telegraph traffic officers, most of whom are in executive charge of the larger post and telegraph offices or of postal and railway mail service divisions, and 97 assistant and deputy assistant engineers, most of whom are in executive charge of engineering sub-divisions or in comparable posts. The remaining 88 officers are actually holding higher charges such as are commonly regarded by the general public as controlling the business of the department.

Unions and Associations: On 31-3-1938 the number of All-India Unions or Associations of employees of the Department, recognized by Government was 11; ~~the~~ total membership, as reported by the various Unions or Associations, was 40,073, the total number of whole-time permanent employees under the Department being over 93,000.

Co-operative Credit Societies: At the end of the year there were 58 Co-operative Credit Societies working for the

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benefit of the staff of the Posts and Tekegraphs Department with a membership of 63,601 and a subscribed capital of Rs. 28,09,000. These figures represent an increase of about 1500 members and Rs.89,000 of subscribed capital over the corresponding figures at the end of 1936-37 (excluding Burma). Loans amounting to over Rs.76,10,000 were advanced to 26,229 members in the year under report, as compared with about Rs.74,18,000 advanced to 25,852 members during 1936-37. The deposits made by members in the Societies increased from Rs.15,44,000 in 1936-37 to Rs.17,77,000 in 1937-38, indicating that the Societies have not only provided cheap credit but have also helped to encourage thrift.

Volume of Postal Business.- Excluding the air routes, there existed at the end of the year about 159,000 miles of lines over which mails were carried by different agencies, as against 157,000 miles (excluding Burma) during the previous year. The milage of mail moter lines increased by about 2,000, seventy-three new lines, having been opened during the year. The following figures give some idea of the volume of business transacted by the Department during the year.

Approximately.

Total estimated number of postal articles handled.	...	1,190 millions.
Number of registered articles posted.	...	40.3 millions.
Number of insured articles posted	...	2.8 ,,
Value of insured articles posted	...	Rs. 813.3 ,,
Number of money orders issued	...	40 ,,
Value of money orders issued	...	Rs. 762.8 ,,
Amount collected from the value-payable post	...	Rs. 171.2 ,,

(Conditions of Work in the Indian Posts and Telegraph Department during 1936-37 were reviewed ^{on} ~~at~~ pages 20-22 of our February 1938 report). ✓

The Bombay Shops Bill: Government to introduce
Legislation early in 1939 ✓

Reference was made at pages 7 to 9 of our March 1938 Report to the decision of the Government of Bombay to introduce legislation regulating conditions of work in shops and other commercial concerns in the Province. In pursuance of this decision the Bombay Shops Bill was drafted by the Government and circulated for eliciting public opinion. It is understood that ⁱⁿ the light of opinions received, the government ^{has} made certain alterations in the draft Bill, and that the Bill will be introduced in the local Legislature ^{during this} ~~at its~~ forthcoming January session.

(The Indian Labour Journal
18-12-1938). ✓

Progress of enquiry into Family Budgets and
Housing conditions in Cawnpore. ✓

With a view to give a correct perspective of labour conditions in Cawnpore, a survey of family budgets and housing conditions of mill workers in Cawnpore has been undertaken by the Labour Office, United Provinces. The Bureau of Economic Intelligence, United Provinces, framed a comprehensive questionnaire on the subject which was issued in September, 1938. The enquiry is being conducted with the help of five paid investigators, under the guidance and supervision of the Director of Public Information who is in charge of the Bureau of Economic Intelligence.

The collection of budgets is being done on a random sampling basis and an attempt is being made to collect detailed information pertaining to every tenth house in the labour mohallas. The city of Cawnpore has been divided into six different wards, each under the charge of an investigator, for purposes of collecting family budgets. More than 500 budgets have already been collected and are being carefully scrutinized.

(December, 1938 issue of "Public
Information" issued by the
Government of U.P.) ✓

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Industrial Organisation.
Employers' Organisations.

Employers' Federation of India;
6th Annual General Meeting, Calcutta, 1938.

The sixth annual general meeting of the Employers' Federation of India was held at Calcutta on 20-12-1938 with Sir Edward Benthall, Deputy President, in the Chair in the absence of Sir H.P.Mody, the President. Below are summarised the message sent by Sir Hormusji Mody and the presidential address of Sir Edward Benthall.

Sir H.P.Mody's Message. - In the course of his message Sir Hormusji pointed out that 1938 had been a momentous year in view of the new political and economic forces that had come into being in India. "Many amongst us", he said, "may have found the process of adjustment to the changed conditions somewhat painful, but I think we may claim that all of us have recognised the necessity of moving with the times. On the manner in which we respond to the progressive, and fight the destructive, elements in the political and economic spheres will depend in a large measure the industrial advancement of the country. While we must resist all extravagant demands and attempts to impose burdens on industry which it cannot bear, we must steadfastly pursue a policy of greater and greater regard for the welfare of those whose labour produces the goods we sell."

Presidential Speech. - Sir Edward Benthall in his address pointed out how, every year since the foundation of the Federation six years ago, an increasing number of employers had come to recognise the need for organisation and co-ordination in matters concerning labour throughout India and said that at present industrial associations employing 1,700,000 workers were members of the Federation.

Welfare Work. - Sir Edward declared that it was the desire of employers to give a fair deal to labour not only because it was an antidote to subversive forces but because it was right in itself. "The part which employers are playing in modern India," Sir Edward declared, "should not be underrated. The development of industry and the provision of work for the unemployed is in itself a first-rate service to the State. But apart from creating and managing the organisation which enables wages to be paid, employers are now-a-days more than ever adding regularly to better conditions of labour by providing improved housing, by building and financing schools, by setting up pension and provident funds, by establishing co-operative societies, by inaugurating clinics and welfare centres, by improving water supplies and providing medical facilities, by starting co-operative stores and by the hundred and one ways in which a worker's life is made more tolerable by a sympathetic employer. I am convinced personally that any machinery which tends to bring the employer and employed closer together is worth supporting and that an extension of the employment of labour officers is one of the best means of establishing closer contact, especially in industrial units where the manager is not able for one reason or another to give the special attention to labour questions which is demanded by modern industrial conditions in India."

Lack of Sound Leadership.- After stressing the importance of the work done by labour officers which has contributed a good deal to better industrial relations, Sir Edward referred to labour leadership and said: "India needs today more than she has ever done the services of able and disinterested labour leaders. The general level of education among the working class is unfortunately still so low that it is inevitable that they should at times fall a prey to agitation. At the same time, the Indian workman, like workers in other countries, is quick to appreciate integrity and honesty of purpose and though he may fall a prey once to false guidance, he is not likely to be so misled for long. After all, every decent employer knows that even on its lowest basis it is 'good business' to treat labour well and to see that it gets a fair deal. This fact alone, if appreciated by labour leaders, should help to bring about better relations between them and the average employer who does clearly try to do his best for his workers. In my view our efforts as an Employers' Federation and as individual employers should be directed to ensure that everything possible is done to encourage and advance better relations between ourselves and labour leaders and to make certain that when we stand firm, we are standing firm on a course that we know to be just and fair to all parties."

Sir Edward also expressed concern at the propagandist activities of subversive elements in labour ranks.

Relations with Provincial Governments.- The relations of the Employers' Federation with provincial Governments, Sir Edward declared, were cordial. "We have", he pointed out, "certainly appreciated the fair manner in which they have on the whole dealt with the difficult questions which they have had to face, and we trust that they appreciate that in our dealings with labour we, the employers, have gone more than half way to meet them."

Resolutions: All India Industrial Council.- Mr. G.H. Cooke (Burmah-Shell) moved the following resolution urging the formation of an All-India Industrial Council:

"That having regard to the powers conferred upon the Central and Provincial Governments under the provisions of the Government of India Act, 1935, in respect of legislative measures affecting the regulation of the conditions of labour in industrial undertakings, the Employers' Federation of India recommends to the Government of India that immediate steps be taken in collaboration with provincial Governments to consider the setting up of an Industrial Council consisting of representatives of employers and labour and of the Central and Provincial Governments whose duty it shall be to advise upon the co-ordination of labour legislation and administration throughout British India."

Several ~~members~~ members spoke on Mr. Cooke's resolution which was, however, withdrawn, the meeting having agreed in principle that some form of co-ordinating authority was necessary, but desired that the form of that authority should be left for further discussion ^{amongst} between members of the Federation.

Office bearers for 1939.- The following office-bearers were elected for 1939: President- Sir Homi Mody; Deputy Presidents- Sir Edward Benthall and Mr. J.H.S. Richardson.

(The Statesman, 22 and 23-12-1938)

20th Annual General Meeting of the

Associated Chambers of Commerce of India, Calcutta, 1938. ✓

The twentieth session of the annual general meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India was held at Calcutta on 19 and 20-12-1938 under the presidentship of Sir George Campbell. The meeting was formally opened by Lord Linlithgow, the Viceroy.

Viceroy's Address: Labour Legislation.- In the course of his opening address, the Viceroy referred to recent trends in the labour legislation of the country and remarked:

"Decent and humane conditions of work are, as I am sure you will agree, the most effective antidote to subversive forces in the labour movement; and that consideration has always been present to my Government in their labour legislation. But progress has been tempered with caution. My Government entirely share the view that there may well be advantage in the provinces and the centre taking counsel together in order to co-ordinate labour policy so far as local conditions permit, and the whole of this matter is under active consideration."

The rest of his speech was, in the main, devoted to a review of the position regarding the inauguration of Federation.

Sir George Campbell's address.- After welcoming the visitors and delegates to the Conference, Sir George reviewed the working of provincial autonomy and emphasised the need for co-ordinating labour legislation in the country.

(The Statesman, 20 and 21-12-1938.)

Resolutions: Co-ordination of Provincial Legislation.- Mr. G.L.Orchard (Madras Chamber) moved a resolution drawing the attention of the Government of India "to the serious effect on industry and commerce in this country likely to be caused by differences in provincial legislation, and the necessity for the establishment of some machinery of co-ordination in these matters so as to ensure uniformity."

Mr. ~~G.L.~~ Orchard made it clear that the interests he represented were not opposed to the introduction of legislative measures for the improvement of the conditions of industrial labour or for the benefit of the community as a whole. They had, to a very large degree, supported the measures that had, in recent years, come before the Central Government for consideration. "It is my desire", he added, "that this Association should bring to the notice of Government not only the diversities of legislation which ~~has~~ ^{has} been passed by provincial Governments since the new constitution was introduced and accepted as a workable proposition, but also the many schemes which we have been told our local Governments have now under consideration. We have seen Bills introduced both in Bombay and Madras which are obviously of vital concern to other parts of India. The Government of Madras

are known to be considering proposals for introducing sickness insurance and unemployment relief, and they also have under examination a scheme for the enforcement of a 48-hour week. One can readily visualise the disadvantages that industry in Madras would suffer if these measures were enforced and similar benefits to workers were not made compulsory elsewhere."

The resolution found general support and the early settling up of the Industrial Council recommended by the Whitley Commission was suggested. The resolution was adopted.

Spread of Communism.- Mr. H. Horsman (Upper India Chamber, Cawnpore) moved the following resolution: "Events within the past year having shown the incalculable damage that is being done to the industries of the country and to the workers dependent thereon by the continuous spread of communistic propaganda among the working classes, this Association calls upon the Governments concerned to ensure the enforcement of more stringent precautions to discourage communism by all means in their power in the interests of the industrial progress and the general peace and welfare of the country."

In supporting this resolution, Sir Edward Benthall referred to the loss due to strikes in 1937 of 8,982,000 working days involving 647,800 workers, and pointed out that as employers, it was their duty to impress upon the Government that it was they who had created ~~the~~ work by building up industries, and that only ~~the~~ joint efforts of ~~employers and workers brought wealth~~ to the country. Therefore, they were fully justified in demanding from the Governments concerned the maximum protection against disruptive elements from outside. He had no complaint against genuine labour leaders, but competition among the communist leaders seemed directed towards the attainment of personal power over labour. Their activities were almost solely confined to fomenting strikes which sometimes had no relation to the cause of the workers. Setting forth the demands of the Association, Sir Edward said that the Governments should not fail to give the fullest backing possible, by the exercise of all powers at their command under the law, to afford protection to workers who were anxious to work. He believed that much could be done by making strikes, declared without due notice, illegal and in that connection expressed satisfaction with the Bombay Trade Disputes Act, 1938.

The resolution was adopted.

Other Resolutions.- Other resolutions were adopted (1) protesting against the high level of taxation in India and its incidence upon commerce, industry and trade; (2) urging measures for enabling decrees under the Civil Procedure Code given by British Indian Courts to be directly enforced in Burma and vice versa; (3) emphasising the necessity for ensuring that agricultural interests are adequately protected by Tariff Boards; (4) protesting against the high incidence of stamp duty on inland currency bills; and (5) welcoming the proposed legislation for the registration of trade marks; *and (6) urging a more detailed examination of the problem of Storing in Coal mines.*

(Summarised from the text of resolutions a copy of which was communicated to this Office by the Secretary of the Associated Chamber of Commerce.) ✓

Worker' Organisations.Meeting of the A.I.T.U.C. General Council, Lucknow, 22 and23-12-1938-

A meeting of the General Council of the All India Trade Union Congress was held at Lucknow on 22 and 23-12-1938 with Dr. Suresh Chandra Banerji, President of the Congress, in the chair. The meeting was held in order to discuss, inter alia, the recent Bombay Trade Disputes Act and to make recommendations regarding the Indian Workers' delegation to the next I.L. Conference. Among those who attended the meeting were Messrs N. M. Joshi, M.N. Roy, M.R. Masani, Harihar Nath Shastri, Zaman and Aftab Ali. The meeting was attended also by the Director of this office on invitation.

A brief summary of the presidential address of Dr. Banerji is given below:

Socialist State - the Aim of the A.I.T.U.C. - The primary object of the Trade Union Congress is the amelioration of the living conditions of labourers by organising them. But as real improvement in their living conditions is impossible without the establishment of a socialistic state, the establishment of ~~such~~ such a state is also the ultimate object of the Trade Union Congress. Hence, the A.I.T.U.C. cannot be indifferent to the socialist movements in and outside India. It must also play its role in these movements and this it can do effectively only by mobilising its forces rapidly and in a most scientific manner not only in British but also in Indian India. Such mobilisation of its forces on an all-India basis was well-nigh impossible a year before as labour was then divided. Now, as ~~again~~ ~~has~~ labour's ranks were, once again united, its only look-out should henceforth be, first, not to allow disruption in the ranks, and, second, to organise the movement so that joint action on an all India basis will become possible at any given moment.

Social and Political Movements in Indian States:-

Dr. Banerji criticised the policy of the Indian National Congress towards the national movement in Indian States and expressed the opinion that the Congress should take a more active and direct part in the political affairs of the States. He admitted that the Working Committee of the Congress had declared that with the great awakening that was taking place among the people of the States, there must be an increasing identification of the Congress with the States' people. But the Working Committee had not only been silent as to how this increasing identification ~~will~~ ~~will~~ be brought about but had also practically thrown cold water on such a possibility by advising British Indian people not to

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take part in the civil disobedience activities of the States' people.

International Situation:- Reviewing the international situation and the growing power of Japan in Asia, he declared that present tendencies had made " the safety not only of Russia, ~~shaky~~ the pole-star of all the exploited people all over the world, ~~shaky~~ but had also made the task of countries like India which are rapidly advancing towards democracy more difficult." These changes, he said, were sure directly or indirectly to influence labourers of India.

Bombay Trade Disputes Act and the Bengal Jute Ordinance:-

Dr. Banerji while criticising the recent Bombay Trade Disputes Act, said that he was more than convinced that the Bill was not drafted with any malignant or mischievous spirit, and that it was the outcome of the policy which the Government thought to be correct and good for labourers. He urged the Congress authorities not to make the Act operative in Bombay and also ~~not to try to introduce in its unchanged form similar bills in any other province until negotiations over the Act in Bombay were complete.~~

As regards the Bengal Jute Ordinance, Dr. Banerji said : " Immediately after its promulgation 25,000 workers belonging to various jute mills of Bengal lost their jobs. The remaining 200,000 working in the mills have been daily losing in wages a huge amount. The price of jute has also gone down causing untold sufferings to millions of peasants of the villages of Bengal. As far as I have been able to understand, this Ordinance has done good only to one class of people and that is the European capitalists of Calcutta. As a matter of fact there is every reason to think that this bill was a gift to the Europeans for their support to the present Ministry during the last no-confidence motion. As a protest against this Ordinance, about 60,000 jute workers of Bengal are already on strike for over a month."

Dr. P.P.Pillai as the representative of the I.L.O, and Mr. N.M.Joshi, M.L.A. then addressed the Conference.

Resolutions:- The following is a summary of the resolutions adopted by the Council:

1. Bombay Trade Disputes Act:- The Council declared that the Bombay Trade Disputes Act was uncalled for and prejudicial to the interests of the workers and calculated to generate undesirable rivalry by bringing into existence different kinds of unions and unions controlled by employers. It encourages an unhealthy tendency towards the formation of occupational unions in place of strong industrial unions and thus weakens the trade union movement as a whole. Further, under certain circumstances, it deprives the trade unions of their right to negotiate, transfers it to outside agencies and thus takes away

from the workers, in effect, their legitimate constitutional weapon of strike by making it illegal as long as conciliation by arbitration proceedings is pending. While asking the Bombay Government not to give effect to the Act the Council warned other provincial Governments not to introduce bills of a similar nature. The Council fixed 22-1-1939 for an all-India demonstration to protest against the Bombay Trades Disputes Act.

2. Urge for Labour Legislation regarding Minimum Wage etc:- The Council suggested to the National Congress the inclusion in its immediate legislative programme of the right of association and collective withdrawal of labour, civil liberties of the working classes, security of employment, a living wage, provisions against old age and sickness, unemployment insurance, and the principle of collective agreement with trade unions.

3. Delegation to I.L.Conference :- The Council recommended Mr. R.S.Nimbkar's nomination as delegate to the forthcoming I.L. Conference. Mr. Aftab Ali, Mr. Krishnaswamy Mudiraj and Mr. Zaman have been suggested as advisers.

Mr. N.M.Joshi was selected to represent labour on the National Planning Committee set up by the Indian National Congress.

Conditions of Labour in Assam:- The Council urged the Assam Government to institute an inquiry into the conditions of labour in the province with special reference to tea plantations.

Bengal Jute Ordinance:- The Council condemned the Bengal Jute Ordinance "which aims at protecting the interests of the capitalists, particularly the European ones, and is detrimental to the jute growers, the workers and the public. It directly hits the workers as it does not provide any safeguard against the reduction of wages below the subsistence level owing to the shortening of hours of work, nor is there any provision for those who are thrown out of employment."

Affiliation of N.T.U.F. with A.I.T.U.C. extended for another Year.- The Council decided to renew the affiliation for another year of the National Trades Union Federation with the All-India Trade Union Congress.

(The National Herald and the Leader, 24 to 26-12-1938.) ✓

2nd All-India Textile Workers' Conference,

Cawnpore, 24 & 25-12-1938. ✓

The second session of the All-India Textile Workers' Conference was held at Cawnpore on 24 & 25-12-1938 with Mr. N.M. Joshi M.L.A as President. A brief summary of Mr. Joshi's presidential address is given below:

The need for Organisation of Textile Workers:- Mr. Joshi pointed out that the need for an all-India organisation of textile workers was great in view of the national and international importance of the textile industry. If the interests of all

workers in the textile industry in the country were to be protected fully, it was necessary that the handloom weaver and the hand-spinner should be brought within the scope of the All-India organization and of the trade union movement. He felt it was a pity that the present trade union movement did not extend beyond the limits of the organised machine industry.

Conditions in India:- Describing the conditions of labour obtained in India, Mr. Joshi pointed out that wages were low and hours long, unemployment and old age were not provided for and that most of the workers lived in one-room tenements. Present wages in the textile industry were extremely low, standard of life poor and workers heavily indebted. "I feel", he said, "that industrial workers in India have a right to ask for the same conditions of life and work which exist in other advanced countries."

Mr. Joshi complimented the Provincial Congress Governments, since in three provinces committees of enquiry were appointed to consider the question of wages in the cotton textile industry with the result that wages had recently been increased by about 10 per cent. in Bombay, C.P., and U.P. But, he pointed out, the reduction in wages which had taken place since the first post-war depression was not yet made up.

The Bengal Jute Industry:- Mr. Joshi criticised the Bengal Government's policy in regard to the jute industry and pointed out that improvement in the province was more difficult than in others because the Jute Mills' Association, Calcutta, was not only a very reactionary, but also a very powerful organization, which had great influence with the Government of Bengal since the latter depended upon European support.

Urgent Need for Social Insurance Schemes:- Provision against sickness, unemployment and old age for the textile operatives, said Mr. Joshi, was urgently needed, and the initiative in this direction, should be taken by the Provincial Governments "since the Central Government was inactive, though central legislation on the subject of social insurance was preferable."

Reorganisation of Textile Industry:- Mr. Joshi emphasised the need for better organisation and better management of the textile industry and declared that workers had a right to insist on such reorganisation and to exercise the certain control over the industry since the industry was given protection by the Government. He pointed out that there was much scope for the expansion of the industry in India since consumption of textiles in this country was very low when compared to that in the U.S.A. or Great Britain.

Industrial Relations:- Referring to industrial relations, Mr. Joshi said that the present economic structure which was based upon competition involved struggle as the method of adjustment of claims among various elements of production, and therefore industrial disputes and strikes, in his opinion, were inevitable. He considered that it was the duty of the Government to try and help parties to disputes to arrive at amicable settlements. This could be done by placing the machinery for conciliation at the disposal of both parties. The services of conciliation

officers should be made available to both parties before disputes develop and strikes take place, and also after. If ~~he~~ fails, a more formal enquiry should be instituted and reports on the merit of the dispute should be published. Mr. Joshi thought that it was wrong to penalise strikes, as, under present conditions, strike was the only ultimate weapon in the hands of working classes to protect their interests. He also expressed the opinion that if strikes were to take place without negotiations taking place between the two parties and before the workers availing themselves of the Government conciliation machinery, Government help should not be so readily available to them. Mr. Joshi criticised the Government of Bombay for passing the Industrial Disputes Bill and hoped that Governments of other provinces would not follow the example of Bombay.

Resolutions:- A brief summary of the resolutions adopted by the Conference is given below:-

1. Demand for Minimum Wage Legislation:- A comprehensive resolution was passed by the Conference demanding an immediate rise in wages, restoration of wage-cuts affected in the textile industry during the years of the economic crisis, and standardisation of wages and improved conditions of work throughout the industry. The same resolution also embodied the fundamental demands of the textile workers in India and called upon the latter to make vigorous efforts to secure them. The demands include (1) recognition of trade unions by employers, (2) an eight-hour day-shift and seven-hour night-shift and extra allowance for night work, (3) prohibition of rationalization ~~without adequate guarantees against unemployment and excessive work,~~ (4) a minimum living wage, and standardization of wage-rates in the industry, (5) security of service and effective guarantees against victimisation for union work (6) health, sickness and unemployment insurance schemes and provision for old-age pension under public control, (7) provision of one month's holiday with full pay and (8) establishment of labour exchanges with the co-operation of trade unions.

In another resolution ~~the~~ the Conference urged the Government of India and the Provincial Governments to introduce legislation for fixing a minimum living wage for all industries, regulated and unregulated, and for securing to the workers protection against the risks of sickness, unemployment, ~~and~~ invalidity and old-age.

2. Bombay Trade Disputes Act condemned:- The Conference adopted a resolution condemning the Bombay Trade Disputes Act, 1938, and the Bengal Jute Ordinance, 1938, and protesting against the proposed amendment to the Indian Trade Disputes Act sponsored by the Government of India by which strikes would be made illegal during the proceedings of the conciliation machinery.

3. Formation of All-India Textile Federation:- Finally, the Conference decided to form an All-India Textile Federation with the object of bringing all textile workers in India under one organisation and appointed a committee consisting of Mr. Parulekar, Mr. Nimbkar, Mr. Karnik, Mr. Bannerjee and Mr. Randive (convener) to draft the constitution of the Federation.

(The National Herald and Leader, 26-12-1938 and Hindustan Times, 27-12-1938.)

Trade of India in 1937-38* ✓

Indian Agricultural Conditions. - The Review of the Trade of India for 1937-38, after a brief survey of the world economic conditions, points out that the unfavourable developments in the world markets for primary commodities in the year under review had a serious effect on Indian agricultural conditions. With the reversal of the commodity boom, prices of most of India's staple products declined very sharply and this meant a shrinkage in the income of the agriculturist. The full effects of the price-fall were not, however, felt in India till the middle of 1937, but thereafter conditions in the case of most of the agricultural commodities deteriorated rapidly, the fall being 25 per cent. and more in most cases, in a period of only a few months. Thus, raw cotton declined from March 1937 to October 1937 by 33 per cent. and raw jute fell off in value from May 1937 to March 1938 by 25 per cent. Wheat, which reached its highest level in April 1937, dropped by 35 per cent. in March 1938 and tea by 16 per cent. in about the same period. On the whole, the year under review witnessed a steep fall in the prices of India's staple ^{agricultural} products.

Industrial Conditions. - The year under review ~~has~~ witnessed a sudden and rapid change from boom to relative depression. At the ~~beginning of the year there was hectic activity in the various commodity and share markets, and an unbounded optimism and confidence pervaded the business community which led to much speculation and overtrading. This made the position essentially unhealthy and vulnerable.~~ Once the downward movement started, it rapidly gathered force. Industries resisted the downward movement for some time but after October 1937, when world conditions deteriorated still further, the resistance of most Indian industries gave way and they succumbed to the general depression in the commodity and share markets.

Money Market. - Money was in better demand during the early months of 1937. International and internal trade was definitely on the upward grade, commodity prices were booming and there was hectic activity in the share markets. Further, there were far more new capital issues than for many years past, and all these factors increased the demand for money. These lively conditions continued up to April 1937 and as a result of greater demand for money, currency had to be expanded to the extent of Rs. 80 millions, largely against the transfer of sterling securities to the Issue Department. The Reserve Bank also bought securities and thus put more funds into the market to ease the situation. After April 1937, and especially towards the end of the year, the boom conditions in the commodity and share markets were reversed and the demand for money naturally fell off. These varying monetary conditions in 1937-38 did not, however, affect the comparatively low interest rates ruling in the market.

*Statistical Research Branch, India. REVIEW OF THE TRADE OF INDIA IN 1937-38. Published by order of the Governor-General in Council. Delhi: Manager of Publications. 1938. Price Rs.2-12-0 or ~~rs.~~ 6d. pp.326

Rupee Sterling Exchange.- The rupee-sterling exchange rate remained steady during the year at ls. 6³/₄d. India, including Burma, had a favourable merchandise balance of Rs. 431.9 millions in 1937-38 as compared with Rs. 777.7 millions in 1936-37 and Rs. 305.3 millions in 1935-36. Including transactions in treasure, the visible balance of trade in favour of the two countries amounted to Rs. 583 millions in the year under review as compared with 922.7 millions in the preceding year and Rs. 609¹/₂ in 1935-36.

Trading Conditions.- The separation of Burma from India from April 1937 has made it difficult to compare this year's trade statistics directly with those of previous years. The total value of India's exports to all countries including Burma in the year under review amounted to Rs. 1810 millions which was Rs. 40 millions less than in the preceding year but Rs. 310 millions more than in 1935-36. On the other hand, imports into India from all countries including Burma, in the year under review, rose by Rs. 320 millions in value as compared with the previous year and Rs. 240 millions as against those in 1935-36. Thus, imports into India have shown a remarkable recovery in the year 1937-38. It is well-known that imports lag behind exports in the case of Indian trade and the large increase in the value of India's total exports after the trade recovery started in the middle of 1936, has led to these larger imports in the year under review. Naturally, for the time being, this has reduced the favourable balance of India's trade. India's trade position, however, is intrinsically sound and her present difficulties as regards the reduced favourable balance of trade are due, to some extent, to accidental causes.

Balance of Trade.- The merchandise balance of trade in favour of India in the year under review amounted only to Rs. 158.8 millions as compared with Rs. 511.9 millions in the preceding year, thus showing a fall of over Rs. 350 millions. This was due to the great increase in the value of imports. If transactions in treasure are included, however, ~~that~~ the ~~mere~~ total visible balance of trade in favour of India has been the lowest in the year under review amounting to only Rs. 302.4 millions as compared with Rs. 649 millions in the preceding year and Rs. 405.2 millions in 1935-36. The falling off in the exports of gold was also responsible for the low figure of the favourable balance in the year under review.

Quantum of Exports and Imports.- The quantum of India's exports had decreased by over 10 points in 1935-36 from the figures for the base year 1927-28. In the next year, however, exports registered an increase of nearly 10 per cent. as compared with the base year and were considerably larger than in 1935-36. In the year under review though the exports are larger than in 1927-28 yet they are considerably lower than in the preceding year. The quantum of imports dropped by over 8¹/₂ points in 1935-36 as compared with the base period. There was a further decrease in 1936-37 when the index was only slightly over 86. In the year under review, the quantum of imports has increased substantially and is larger than in the two preceding years though it is still 4 per cent. below the base year.

Tariff Changes.- During the year under review three Acts were passed introducing certain changes in the tariff: (1) The Indian Tariff (Second Amendment) Act, 1937, clarifying the position regarding the protective duty on wheat and wheat flour; (2) The Sugar Industry Protection (Temporary Extension) Act, 1938; and (3) the Indian Tariff

(Amendment) Act, 1938, continuing the existing protective duty of As. 12 per maund on broken rice.

(The Trade of India in 1936-37 was reviewed ^{on} ~~at~~ pages 60 to 63 of our November 1937- report.) ✓

Progress of Tea Culture in Assam for 1937. ✓

According to a report published by the Government of Assam on the progress of tea culture in the province for 1937, the number of gardens at the close of the year was 1,119 as against 1,103 in the previous year. Of these, 385 were owned by Indians.

Area Under Plantation.- The total area under tea during the year increased from 438,863 acres (revised) of the previous year to 439,701 acres, new extensions being 720 acres, replanting on land previously abandoned 1,547 acres and abandonments 1,369 acres. The area plucked decreased from 403,826 acres to 401,626 acres and represents 91.0 per cent. of the total area under tea against 92.0 per cent. of the previous year. The area owned by Indians was 58,580 acres out of a total area of 1,693,385 acres. The area in the occupation of Indian planters was 277,339 acres.

Labour Force.- The daily average number of labourers employed in gardens during the year was 510,806 against 505,237 in the previous year, the permanent garden labour being 453,876, permanent outside labour 29,834 and temporary outside labour 27,096, against 447,263, 29,290 and 28,684 persons respectively in the previous year. There was a slight increase in labour during the year under review. The incidence of area (plucked) under tea to labour comes to .79 acre per man against .80 in the previous year.

Statistics of Production.- The total outturn of tea in the province during the year was 241,467,611 lbs. of black and 67,372 lbs. of green tea against 223,073,051 lbs. and 96,259 lbs. respectively in the previous year, or an increase of 18,365,673 lbs. in all. The increase occurred in all the districts and is due to purchase of manufacturing right and extra quota by some gardens. The total outturn of green tea decreased from 96,259 lbs. to 67,372 lbs. in the year under report, showing a decrease of 28,887 lbs. The average outturn per acre for the province increased in the year under report by 48 lbs. as compared with that for the previous year.

Due to the restriction scheme the general condition of the industry was on the whole satisfactory and the prices obtained were better than those obtained ~~in the previous~~ ^{in the previous} year although the price of Surma Vally tea obtained in Calcutta was slightly lower. Strictly economy had to be observed almost in all the gardens due to the world-wide depression.

(Summarised from pages 1465 to 1467 of Part II of the Assam Gazette dated 23-11-1938). ✓

Cotton Textile Mills Industry in India during 1937-38. ✓

The Millowners' Association, Bombay, has recently issued its annual Statement regarding the progress of the Indian Textile industry during the year ending 31-8-1938. The salient features of the Statement are summarised below.

Number of Mills. The total number of equipped mills in India (excluding Burma) on 31-8-1938 was 380 (excluding 44 mills in course of erection or recently registered) as against 370 on 31-8-1937. The number of mills in Bombay City remained stationary at 69. The number of mills in Ahmedabad decreased by 3 to 78. The number of mills in the Bombay province exclusive of Ahmedabad and Bombay City and Island increased from 60 to 61, in Bengal from 26 to 28, in Rajputana from 5 to 6, and Madras province from 47 to 54. There was no change in the number of mills in Berar, the C.P., Hyderabad (Deccan), Central India, the Punjab, Delhi and the U.P. Two mills were started in Bihar and Orissa. Of the 380 mills in the country, 20 were partly or completely idle. Of these 20 mills, 2 were located in Bombay City and Island and 3 in Ahmedabad.

Number of Spindles and Looms. The total number of spindles in the equipped mills of the country stood at 10,020,275 as against 9,730,798 in the previous year. The total number of looms is 200,286 as against 197,816. In Bombay City and Island the number of spindles increased from 2.89 millions to 2.91 millions and the number of looms from 66,750 to 67,294. In Ahmedabad the number of spindles ~~is~~ decreased from 1.976 millions to 1.942 millions and looms from 48,833 to 47,147. In the Bombay Province exclusive of Bombay City and Island and Ahmedabad, the number of spindles and looms increased from 1.234 millions and 25,885 to 1.258 millions and 26,381 respectively. In the United Provinces the number of spindles and looms were respectively 735,662 and 11,331, as against 741,051 and 11,245; in Bengal 415,012 spindles and 9,388 looms as against 352,368 and 8,545 respectively; in Madras 1,302,960 spindles and 6,707 looms as against 1,150,886 and 6,169 respectively; in C.P. 323,118 spindles and 5,739 looms as against 322,926 and 5,739 respectively; in Central India 377,573 spindles and 10,432 looms, against 369,834 spindles and 9,967 looms; in Hyderabad 124,140 spindles and 2,132 looms as against 125,180 spindles and 2,133 looms; in Delhi, 107,976 spindles and 3,028 looms as against 104,376 spindles and 3,028 looms; in Punjab 94,942 spindles and 2,114 looms as against 94,314 spindles and 1,853 looms; and in Mysore 151,216 spindles and 2,587 looms as against 127,816 spindles and 2,354 looms.

Number of Operatives. The average number of operatives employed daily on day-shift work was approximately 437,690 as against 417,276 in the previous year. Particulars of the numbers employed on night-shift work are not available.

Capital Invested. The total paid-up capital of the industry on 31-8-1938 amounted to Rs.404,948,000 as against Rs.398,270,000.

Activity of mills. During the year under review, the industry consumed 1,831,000 candies (of 784 lbs) of cotton as against 1,573,000 candies in the previous year. The average number of spindles working daily during the year was 8901,635 out of a total of 10,020,275 erected.

In the previous year the corresponding figures were 8,441,001 and 9,730,798. Of the 200,286 looms installed, an average of 183,368 were working daily during the year as against 177,111 in the previous year out of 197,810 looms installed. The above quoted figures of spindle and loom activity do not include night-shift working. The figure of cotton consumed, however, includes night and day consumption.

(Summarised from statements relating to progress of Cotton textile mill industry in India for 1937-38 forwarded to the Office by the Millowners' Association, Bombay) ✓

C. P. Industrial Survey:
Government Appoints Committee. ✓

The Government of the Central Provinces has appointed a Committee with Dr. J.C.Kumarappa as Chairman to conduct an industrial survey of the province. The terms of reference of the Committee, inter alia, are:-

(1) To review the work done in the province by the Department of Industries since its establishment.

(2) To ~~supervise~~ the collection of data relating to large, small and especially cottage industries from previous publications and reports by an officer appointed for the purpose.

(3) To advise the Officer-in-Charge as regards the lines on which the industrial survey of the province should be undertaken and to review its progress from time to time.

(4) To visit typical villages, study their economic condition and examine the possibility of reviving cottage industries, and in doing so to take the advice and guidance of the All-India Spinners' Association and the All-India Village Industries Association.

(5) To report on the industrial possibilities of the raw materials available in the province, with special reference to the forest and mineral resources.

(6) To report on the measures which the Government can undertake to promote industrial development within the province, specially of cottage industries in the villages, and to suggest methods for financing the same or otherwise promoting them.

~~(The Hindustan Times, 23-12-1938.)~~
(Summarised from page 1227 of Part I of
the G. P. & Berar Gazette dated 16-12-1938).

SPG. 3.

Industrial Planning of Bihar:-Sub-Committees appointed for detailed investigation. ✓

At an informal conference held at Ranchi on the 24th and 25th October 1938, under the presidentship of the Hon'ble Minister for Education and Development, Bihar, to consider the industrial planning of the province, it was decided to form various committees for carrying out detailed investigation into the prospects of different industries in the province. In pursuance of this decision the Government of Bihar has appointed the three following committees:- (1) Chemical Industries Committee with Mr. A.S. Khan, I.E.S., as convener, (2) Mechanical Industries Committee with Mr. P.N. Mathur, Tata Iron and Steel Co., as convener and (3) Cottage Industries Committee with Mr. S.M. Dhar, I.C.S., as convener.

All the three committees have power to co-opt additional members for dealing with particular problems, if they consider it necessary. The Chemical Industries Committee and the Mechanical Industries Committee will also deal with all the cottage and small industries coming within their respective scope. The Cottage Industries Committee will, therefore, meet after the reports of the other two committees are available.

(Pages 1088 to 1089 of the Supplement to the Bihar Gazette Dated 30-11-1938). ✓

India terminates Ottawa Agreement: New ^{Indo-} Anglo-
~~British~~ ~~Indian~~ Trade Agreement under negotiation. ✓

Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, Commerce Member, announced in the Central Assembly on 5-12-1938 the decision of the Government of India to terminate the Ottawa Agreement with effect from 31-3-1939.

Notice of termination was given on ~~his~~ behalf of the Government of India on 13-5-1936, as a result of a resolution passed by the Indian Legislative Assembly. The Government of India at the same time intimated willingness to enter upon conversations with a view to ^{the} conclusion of a new agreement. Negotiations were subsequently initiated and are still in progress. It was agreed between the two Governments that the Ottawa agreement should continue in force subject to termination at three months' notice by either party unless it was replaced by a new agreement.

A new trade treaty in place of the Ottawa Pact is expected to come before the next budget session of the Central Assembly beginning on 3-2-1939.

(The Statesman 15 & 31-12-1938). ✓

SPG. 1.

First Meeting of the All-India National Planning
Committee, Bombay, 17 to 21-12-1938. ✓

The first meeting of the All-India National Planning Committee set up by the conference of Congress Industries Ministers held at New Delhi on 2 and 3-10-1938 (vide pages 17 to 20 of our September 1938 report) was held at Bombay from 17 to 21-12-38. The proceedings of the committee ^{were} formally inaugurated by Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Congress President, while Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru presided over the session.

Mr. Bose's Address: Inaugurating the proceedings of the Committee, Mr. Bose pointed out that there was no reason for any one to apprehend that efforts at industrial planning would have an adverse effect on the production of khadi or the promotion of cottage industries. In fact he had made it clear in his speech at the Industries Ministers' Conference in October 1938 that there was no inherent conflict between cottage industries and large scale industries; he had divided industries into three classes: cottage, medium-scale and large-scale industries. ~~Mr. Bose~~ Mr. Bose announced that a seat had been reserved for a representative of the All-India Village Industries Association on the National Planning Commission, and that a seat could be allotted on the Committee also.

The Committee would have, in the first place, to turn its attention to the mother industries, which Mr. Bose defined as those on which the development of other industries was dependent, such as power industry, industries for the production of metals, heavy chemicals, machinery and tools, and communication industries like railways, telegraph, telephone and radio. The Committee then would have to investigate how the existing organisations like Government research institutions, scientific survey organisations, departments of industries, universities and engineering colleges could be utilised for undertaking research. The Industrial Research Bureau of the Government of India, he said, ought also to be utilised by the Committee. A scheme could be formulated whereby scholarships could be given to students for studying in foreign countries. Also, the Committee would have to consider the problem of finding the necessary capital for its plan of industrialisation.

Pandit Nehru's Address. In the course of his address Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru remarked that there had been during the last few years a vital national movement in the country which had revolutionised life in the remotest of villages and that this had its effects on cottage industries. In fact, development of cottage industries had been made a special plank in the national movement during the last 18 years. Any kind of planning which was divorced from national movement would not only ^{not} derive vigour or strength but was likely to fail.

He suggested that the Committee should have a representative of cottage industries and a representative of labour. In the first place, it was necessary to avoid any kind of conflict between large-scale industries and cottage industries. Secondly, while the representative of labour might not always be of great help in their work, he wanted labour to feel that their view-point was not ~~over-not~~ overlooked in any scheme of national planning.

Sub-committees. Two sub-committees, one to go into the financial and administrative aspects and the other to draw up a questionnaire to be issued to provincial governments were appointed by the committee on 17-12-1938.

The general policy which the National Planning Committee should follow and the draft questionnaire submitted by the questionnaire sub-committee were considered by the National Planning Committee at its meetings on 20 and 21-12-1938.

Other subjects considered:

(1) Development and control of waterways. The committee at its meeting on 20-12-1938, adopted a resolution urging the provincial Governments to create provincial and, where necessary, inter-provincial commissions for the development and control of the various rivers and waterways in the country for the purpose of providing water for agriculture and industries, hydro-electric power, cheap transport, prevention of erosion, silting and floods and safeguarding the health of the people. The committee further suggested that the proposed commissions should also consider and deal with the problem of shifting of river beds.

(2) Appointment of sub-committee for Major industries. Among other subjects, the committee discussed the appointment of a sub-committee to consider the question of major industries, but further discussion on the subject was postponed till the committee received replies to the questionnaire to be issued to various provincial Governments, Indian States and other public institutions.

(3) Headquarters and Officers of the committee. The head office of the committee will be located in Bombay. The Hon. Mr. L.M.Patil, Minister for Local Self Government, Bombay, will be honorary treasurer, while Mr. G.P.Hutheesing will act as honorary secretary.

(The Times of India of 19,
21 and 22-12-1938). ✓

(vide pages 48-49 of this report under Section: "General" for the views of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress on the National Planning Scheme)

Social Conditions.

Working of Prohibition in Salem District:

Beneficial Effects on Mill Workers.* ✓

Reference was made on pages 30 to 31 of our February 1938 report to the beneficent effects of prohibition on industrial workers in Salem District, Madras, as a result of the introduction of prohibition in the District. A report on the first year's working of the Madras Prohibition Act, 1937, in the District submitted recently by the Collector of the District, gives further details of the effects of prohibition on industrial workers and is summarised below:-

Effect on Attendance.- In pre-prohibition days, in the Rajendra Mills, Selam, 60 to 70 per cent. of the workers were addicted to drink and, as a result, were inclined to neglect their duties; they were irregular in attendance and often came late. The following statistics relating to mill attendance are illuminating:

	1937- per cent.	1938- per cent.
June	62	91
July	60	94
August	64	92
September	66	94

Effect on Quality of Work.- Other features of pre-prohibition days were the existence of bad work in all departments resulting in the stoppage of several machines in each department both during the day and the night; inadequate supply from the blow room and carding department causing the stoppage of several spinning frames thereby driving workers in that department out of employment from time to time; quarrels among workers resulting in injuries; breaking of machines due to careless handling; rough handling of maistris and supervisors; smoking of ganja beedies; idleness and indifference of workers; frequent leaving of work to quench thirst; prevalence of minor accidents; prevalence of betel-chewing and spitting resulting in the machines becoming rusty and the rooms smelling badly; impossibility of arranging two regular shifts; heavy absenteeism among women due to minor ailments and their ill-treatment by their husbands. (Due to absenteeism not a single labourer received full wages.) Many of the coolies were dirty and insufficiently clad. Large sums had to be advanced to workers at festival times, failing which workers would absent themselves.

The position has now greatly changed as a result of prohibition. The quality of the work of the mill hands has improved all round. It is now possible to work three shifts in all the departments. The Government of Madras, Home Department, O.O. No. 3842, 21st November 1938

worked in some departments. There is regular feeding and machines are not stopped; they work at full capacity and are properly handled. Absenteeism has been greatly reduced and many earn full wages. The workers generally are cleaner and better clad. The mill hands obey the maistris and supervisors. They are not wasting time unnecessarily. Their health has improved. They do not now complain of headache. There is a dispensary in the mills and the cost of managing it has been considerably reduced since prohibition came in. During the whole year, only one accident had occurred which had to be reported to the Factory Inspectorate. The women have derived great benefit, both in health and efficiency. They are generally much cleaner and better clad. They earn on an average considerably more ~~and~~ their home life is now generally happy. A check of the accounts for June and September 1937 with the same months of 1938 showed that daily production had gone up from 10 bales to 19 bales. There had been considerable reduction in the purchases of spare parts.

Improved Tone of Labour in Magnesite Syndicate, Salem.- The director of the Magnesite Syndicate, Ltd., Salem Junction, has summarised his observations on the effect of prohibition on his employees as follows:-

"(1) The attendance has greatly improved and on some days 95 per cent of the coolies on our roll books are at work.

(2) The women appear to take more interest in their dress. A number of women have proper sarees instead of rags.

(3) There appears to exist a more peaceful and contented atmosphere probably caused by the coolies being able to purchase more and better quality of food.

(4) To my knowledge which a number of our coolies are becoming expert dancers which amusement they practise in their villages. This spirit, I feel sure, has reduced to a minimum the antagonistic atmosphere prevailing, prior to prohibition, between husband and wife."

Conditions in Other Factories and Mines.- A preliminary report, based on observations during the first six months of the working of the Act, by two lady investigators deputed by the Madras University, records an improvement in the workers' standard of living. Many of those who were formerly taking two precarious meals are now assured of three and as against one hot meal they now have two and even three. More money is spent on items of food. The expenditure on clothing has increased to a certain extent. The most significant change according to the investigators is in regard to debt clearance: 5 per cent of the persons examined were free of debt and 80 per cent were engaged in a steady repayment. Of actual saving there were not many instances as money formerly spent on drinks is now spent on necessities and in clearing debts. ✓

Future of Criminal Tribes in U.P.:
Recommendations of Enquiry Committee. ✓

The Government of the United Provinces appointed some time back a Committee to enquire into the present position of the Criminal Tribes of the province and to make recommendations as to future policy. The Committee has recently submitted its recommendations, a brief summary of which is given below. The Committee hopes that its recommendations will "effect the liberation ~~fm~~ of the criminal tribes from leading a life of misery, squalor and crime to which they have for many generations been condemned ~~to~~ by circumstances, custom and heredity and their restoration to society as honest, industrious and useful citizens." It is interesting to note that the provinces with the largest population of the criminal tribes are the United Provinces, Bombay and the Punjab, the comparative population being about 1.4 millions, 300,000 and 150,000 respectively. Of these, 41,016 are registered in the United Provinces, about 13,000 in the Punjab and 11,000 in Bombay.

Recommendations: (1). Scientific Classification:- Government notification in respect of the various criminal tribes should be modified on the merits of each case on the following lines: (a) by excluding an area in which a tribe resides; or (b) by exempting families by name; or (c) by cancelling the notification altogether and only proclaiming the criminal families by name.

(2). Establishment of Reform Panchayats.- Reform panchayats should be organised among the various criminal tribes with village as primary unit followed by the thana panchayat and the district committee. Officials and non-officials and philanthropic societies together with elected representatives of the criminal tribes will be on the district committee with the collector as president, the superintendent of police as vice-president, a deputy collector as secretary and a paid panchayat officer as assistant secretary. Sub-Inspectors ~~from~~ criminal tribes should be abolished and in their place constables should be employed to keep police records only. Besides, paid propagandists may also be employed as well as any voluntary agency that may be available for reform propaganda among the tribes-

Panches and sarpanches should be encouraged by ^{the} grant of concessions. A grant of Rs. 18,000 should be made for the organisation of panchayats and Rs. 15,000 for the grant of scholarships to the children of the criminal tribes.

(3) Graded System of Settlements.- Instead of the existing uniform system of settlements, a graded system with reformatory at the top followed by industrial, labour supplying industrial-cum-agricultural settle-

ments and free agricultural colonies at the bottom should be organised. It is not necessary that every settler must go through the gamut of these various settlements but it is intended that there should be progressive treatment and eventually the settler should be left in the agricultural colony to be absorbed in the general population.

(4). Reclamation Agencies.- As regards settlements, both official and non-official agencies under official control should be utilized for their management. The reformatory must be run by Government and of the other settlements at least one should be under direct Government management. No single philanthropic society should be given monopoly of management of the settlements and ~~official~~ offers from agencies like the Harijan Sewak Sangh should be considered. No effort at proselytisation should be made in any settlement but religious instruction through preachers belonging to the same religion as the settlers should be given in the settlements on a voluntary basis.

(5) Administration.- The officer in charge of the criminal tribes should be ~~attached to Government~~ headquarters instead of the Criminal Investigation Department and he should be assisted by adequate clerical and administrative staff including an officer of gazetted rank and inspectors in charge of groups of six to eight districts. The officer in charge will be responsible for the reform of the criminal tribes both in and outside settlements. He should be a superintendent of Police. The duties of inspectors will be to organize panchayats and other reform measures among the criminal tribes in the districts within their ~~jurisdiction and also inspect~~ records of the police concerning the criminality of the tribes. In short, inspectors will be experts to assist the district officers in the reform work as well as in the ~~administration of the Criminal Tribes Act.~~

The probable cost of the proposed reforms will roughly be about Rs. 100,000 per year.

6. Prohibition of Sale of Tribe Girls.- The question of the sale of girls belonging to settlements by their parents for purposes of prostitution was raised and it was desired that it should be prohibited. The committee commended the objective but were not sure how it could be attained without moral awakening in the tribe itself. The practice, it was recommended, should, however, be discouraged as far as possible.

(The Leader, 3-12-1938). ✓

Provision of Work-Houses for Bombay Beggars:

Bill to amend Municipalities Act introduced in the Bombay Legislature ✓

Attention is directed to pages 606 to 607 ~~where~~ of Part V of the Bombay Gazette dated 12-12-1938 where is published a Bill introduced by Mr. Jhabvala on 9-11-1938 to amend the Bombay Municipalities Act, 1888. The Bill seeks (1) to make it obligatory for the Municipality to establish and maintain industrial work-houses for able-bodied beggars and (2) to empower it to clear slum areas. ✓

Non-official
~~Private~~ Housing of Industrial Workers in Bombay:
Bill introduced to amend Bombay Municipal Act. ✓

Attention is directed to pages 608-610 of Part V of the Bombay Government Gazette dated 12-12-1938 where is published a Bill to amend the Bombay Municipal Acts, introduced by Mr. S.V.Parulekar on 9-11-1938.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons appended to the Bill points out that it is recognised in all advanced countries that provision of adequate housing accommodation for workers and other poor sections of the community is an obligation of municipal authorities. In those countries large sums of money are spent annually for slum clearance and the construction and maintenance of decent houses. In India little attention is paid to this important aspect of the social life of the people. What has hitherto been done in a few major cities and towns is too inadequate to meet the needs of the situation. This Bill does not deal with this large problem. What it seeks to achieve is to require the local bodies to undertake legal responsibility for the construction and maintenance of dwelling houses for the working classes and to set apart for this purpose a certain percentage of their annual revenues. It is recognised that any large-scale housing programme that may be undertaken cannot be financed from ordinary revenues of the municipalities and local ~~boards~~ boards. Loans will have to be floated for that purpose. But the money set apart under this Bill may enable the local bodies to undertake small schemes for improving housing conditions or for granting subsidies for constructing new houses or for bearing the interest charges on the loans which may be floated hereafter. ✓

Subsidised rural Medical Relief in Bombay Province:
Progress of Scheme. ✓

The Bombay Government has sanctioned the opening of 161 centres distributed over the province for rural medical relief in pursuance of the scheme for subsidised medical practitioners in rural areas. These centres have been allotted among practitioners of allopathic and indigenous systems of medicines.

Grant to Allopathic Practitioners.- Under the subsidised scheme, each allopathic practitioner will receive a subsidy of Rs.50/- a month plus a fixed travelling allowance of Rs.25/- a month if his duties are not confined to one village area. He will also receive an annual grant of Rs.350/- for medicines and instruments. The total cost of subsidising each medical practitioner will thus amount to Rs.1,250/- per annum on the assumption that he will ordinarily work among three or four

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villages. Four-fifths of this cost (or Rs.1,000 a year on account of each subsidised medical practitioner) will be borne by Government, and the remaining one-fifth will have to be borne by the district local board concerned.

Grant to Practitioners of Indigenous Systems. The conditions relating to the payment of subsidies to ayurvedic and unani (indigenous systems) medical practitioners will be the same as those relating to the payment of subsidies to medical practitioners of the allopathic system, with the difference that the ayurvedic and unani medical practitioners will be paid a subsidy of Rs.30/- per mensem each plus a fixed travelling allowance of Rs.15/- per mensem each and that the allowance for medicine to be placed at the disposal of each such practitioner will be Rs.150/- per annum.

Periodic Review of Work. There is no objection to any of the district local boards increasing the grant for medicines in respect of any of the centres maintained by it, provided that the additional cost is borne entirely by the Board. The suitability of the villages selected for medical relief will be reviewed at the end of three years, obtaining, where necessary, the opinions of the district local boards.

Proposals for opening further relief centres are being expedited.

(Summarised from a Press Note dated 8-12-1938 issued by the Director of Information, Bombay.)

Educational Reconstruction in India:Discussions of Central Advisory Board of Education, New Delhi, 3-12-38.

The Wardha Education Scheme (vide pages 33-34 of our January 1938 report) was the main subject of deliberation before the Central Advisory Board of Education which met in New Delhi on 3-12-1938. In January, 1938, the Board appointed a Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of the Hon'ble Mr. B.G.Kher, Premier and Educational Minister, ~~Government of~~ Bombay, to examine the scheme of educational reconstruction, incorporated in the Wardha Scheme, in the light of the Wood-Abbott Report on General and Vocational Education and other relevant documents. This Sub-Committee met in Simla in June 1938 and submitted its report to the Board on 3-12-1938.

Report of the Sub-Committee.- The Sub-Committee observed that the Wardha Scheme as presented in the Zakir Husain Report was one of education through activity and not of production as is generally believed, and that this scheme was in full agreement with the ~~recommendations~~ made in the Wood-Abbott Report so far as the principle of learning by doing was concerned. The criticism of the scheme that it neglected religious education and was entirely secular in outlook was examined by the Sub-Committee who observed that the scheme did not imply any alteration in the present position by which any community at its own expense was permitted to give religious teaching in Government or Local Body schools to the pupils of that community. It was, however, emphasised by the Sub-Committee that the State should continue the present facilities for every community to give religious teaching when desired.

The Sub-Committee also discussed whether or not it was possible to teach through the basic craft all subjects to the standard anticipated. There was general agreement that in the lowest classes education could be satisfactorily carried out through activities, but certain elements of cultural subjects which could not be correlated with the basic craft must be taught independently. Again, spinning and weaving should not be the only basic crafts but any craft of equal or higher educative possibilities could be taught. Stress was laid in the Sub-Committee's report on the training of teachers, the raising of their status, pay, etc.

Board's Decision on Sub-Committee's Report.- While generally approving these recommendations, the Board decided that copies of the Sub-Committee's report should be forwarded to provincial Governments for consideration.

Financial Aspects of the Wardha Scheme.- The financing of the Wardha Scheme was outside the Sub-Committee's terms of reference, nor did it make recommendations as regards the co-ordination of the scheme.

with higher education. To examine these questions of finance and co-ordination and certain other matters arising out of the Wardha Scheme, the Board appointed another Sub-Committee, with the Hon'ble Mr. B.G.Kher, Premier of Bombay, as Chairman.

Adult Education.- On the problem of adult education and illiteracy, it was explained that some provinces were now beginning to make serious attempts towards the removal of adult illiteracy. The Board felt that this was one of the most important problems to be examined on an all-India basis. It therefore appointed a Sub-Committee with the Hon'ble Dr. Syed Mahmud, Minister of Education, Bihar, as Chairman, with power to co-opt.

After these two Sub-Committees have reported, the Board will consider what action should be taken *on these subjects.*

Educational Broadcasting.- The Board felt that there should be ~~closer co-operation between the radio authorities and the educational authorities about educational programmes.~~ closer co-operation between the radio authorities and the educational authorities about educational programmes. It was suggested that a strong committee on which the educational authorities should be adequately represented should be appointed for the All-India Radio station, Delhi, which should be used as an experimental station for educational broadcasting to try various experiments which might be extended to other stations if successful.

Primary Education.- At its second annual meeting held in 1936 (~~vide pages 62-64 of our January 1937 report~~) the Board referred the question of administration and control of primary education to its Vernacular Education Committee. This Sub-Committee reported that ~~there was need for~~ more efficient administration and control of primary education, and made several valuable recommendations with a view to achieving this object. The Board noted with satisfaction that several provinces had taken action on the lines suggested in the report of this Sub-Committee, whilst others had appointed committees of their own to report on these questions.

(Summarised from "Indian Information Series",
New Delhi, dated 15-12-1938.)✓

Agriculture.Provincial Ministers' Conference on Agricultural Marketing, Delhi, 29-11-1938. ✓

On 29-11-1938 a Provincial Ministers' Conference on Agricultural Marketing was held at Delhi when important conclusions affecting the future planning of marketing surveys, grading and marketing stations, the value of standard contracts, standardisation of marketing practices, weights and measures, division of work between the central and provincial marketing staffs, the utility of the radio in the dissemination of marketing news, elimination of physical waste, co-ordination of efforts and co-ordination of agricultural production and marketing, were reached. 23 Ministers representing Madras, Bombay, the United Provinces, the Punjab, North-West Frontier, Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Sind, the Central Provinces and the States of Hyderabad, Baroda, Bhopal, Jodhpur, Patiala, Nawanagar, Gwalior, Travancore, and Peshawar attended the Conference. The Conference was presided over by Sir Jagdish Prasad, Member for Education, Health and Lands, and it was formally opened by His Highness the Viceroy.

Viceroy's Address: Review of Present Position.- In opening the Conference, the Viceroy pointed out that the Royal Commission on Agriculture in India reporting in 1928, stressed the importance of agricultural marketing and linked it with transportation. In 1934 the Provincial Economic Conference led to the initiation of the existing marketing scheme under which the Government of India provides a central staff now consisting of 20 officers, while the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research has provided Rs. 1 million spread over a period of five years to meet part of the cost of provincial marketing staffs. These grants were made in order that the all-India commodity surveys might be carried out on an uniform basis. In 1937 the Central Legislature passed the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marketing) Act. The position today is that six marketing reports are now complete, and that a further four are well advanced.

At a comparatively early stage of these surveys the necessity of certain lines of improvement became clear. The standardisation of weights and measures, a wider adoption of the system of regulated markets, which had already proved its value in some parts of India, ~~a fact emphasised by the Royal Commission on Agriculture,~~ are recommendations common to all the reports.

Future Developments.- After expressing satisfaction at the progress already made, His Excellency remarked that marketing organizations can do something beyond promoting the orderly and economic distribution and sale of primary produce. An efficient

marketing organisation should be the grower's intelligence bureau. The Marketing Officer, who knows the requirements of the ultimate markets and the prices ruling in those markets, is quite frequently in a position to advise the cultivator that he will increase his prospects of profit by growing some variety other than the one which seems to possess the highest agricultural advantage. Evidently this function of a marketing service may be of great value in conditions in which world markets, in terms of the relative demand for different kinds of primary produce, are — for one reason or another — in a state of change and uncertainty. Causes so different as the development of synthetic substitutes, or the economic aftermath of a war, may substantially promote the demand for one type of produce at the expense of some other.

Need for Inter-Provincial Co-operation.— The improvement of marketing, the Viceroy remarked, offers a fruitful field for co-operation between the Central Government, Provinces and States. The development of marketing, in the main, falls within the provincial sphere, but the main problems are of a wider character. Though the production of many commodities is localised, the areas of concentration being scattered throughout the country and not being confined to any particular Province, or State, the consumption of a product is generally spread over the whole country and many are of all-India importance both as regards internal and export trade.

Wider issues relating to the finance of the primary producer are also involved, since marketing reforms are essential before the commercial banks can fully develop a system of short-term produce advances. In the report of the Agricultural Credit Department of the Reserve Bank of India for 1936 it was stated that short-term advances for marketing produce should be regarded as one of the most important parts of banking business, but that the commercial banks have, hitherto, been unable to develop produce advances to the extent of their capacity owing to the extra-ordinary diversification and vagueness of market conditions throughout India and the manner in which produce contracts are drawn. In this connection, the Report stresses the importance of the following improvements in marketing, machinery and practice:

- (i) a reasonable standardisation of the staples and of the contracts relating to them;
- (ii) the provision, in properly regulated markets and elsewhere, of suitable storage under conditions which would permit of proper insurance; and
- (iii) the establishment where possible and advisable of properly-regulated forward markets permitting of "hedging" and thus the mitigation of violent market fluctuations.

His Excellency, therefore, noted with satisfaction, that an agreement had been reached with the principal trade associations for standard future contracts for wheat and linseed, and that discussions were well advanced in regard to standards for groundnuts and coffee. He also welcomed the progress now being made in several provinces with legislation for the setting up or improvement of regulated markets.

1.3. Sir Jagdish Prasad's Address.- Sir Jagdish Prasad pointed out that the problem which the Central and Provincial marketing staffs have to face are more intricate and of wider range than those of Western Europe and America by reason of the numbers involved, the indebtedness and ignorance of the producers, their lack of organization, the difficulties of rural finance, the comparatively primitive nature of rural communications, and rural transport, the chaotic condition of the markets with a multiplicity of weights and measures and a varied host of middlemen, some necessary, others superfluous, that enumber the road from the producer to the consumer. There is little doubt, he said, that enormous waste is going on between the price obtained by the producer and the price that the consumer has to pay. And agricultural statistics are notoriously deficient.

Conclusions: The following is a brief summary of the more important conclusions of the Conference:

(1) Marketing Surveys to be Continued: The importance of the marketing surveys was fully appreciated during the discussions as enabling an estimate to be made of the potential gain to the producer by an improvement of marketing methods and as giving a cross-section of the country's economic activities, thereby enabling agricultural production to be considered in relation to Indian trade and industry. It was unanimously agreed that the commodity marketing surveys should be continued to be planned and compiled on an all-India basis. It was agreed by all the Provinces and States that they would also be ready to help in the completion of such surveys.

(2) Standard Contracts.- Standard contracts constitute a form of agreement between the various trades associations to do business on a common basis. Their great value for the heavy staples like wheat, linseed, and groundnut, was emphasized. The conference thought that the question of giving statutory authority might be considered, if necessary.

(3) Regulated Markets.- Considering the question of regulated markets, the conference agreed as to the necessity for the standardization of market charges, reducing the number of payments in kind, licensing of persons entitled to levy charges, and the standardizing of market practices in regard to the weighing, sampling, grading, and sale of produce. There was complete agreement that the provinces should take up the question of the regulation of markets in regard to these matters and that provincial marketing acts should cover all agricultural and animal husbandry produce, both in the producing and the consuming centres.

The Ministers emphasized the importance and urgency of central legislation in the matter of standard weights. They were all agreed that immediately the central legislation was passed, the provinces and States should introduce complementary provincial legislation including that for the standardization of measures.

(4) Marketing Intelligence.- It was resolved that the central marketing staff should be responsible for the collection and dissemination of information regarding prices, supplies and stocks in the important markets for those commodities which figure prominently in the trade of India as a whole. The provincial and State marketing

staffs would be responsible for the collection and recording of commercial prices for their local commodities, particularly prices in the key markets, and for the dissemination of market news to smaller country markets and producers in rural areas.

(5) Elimination of Waste.— Dealing with the general question of elimination of physical waste, the conference reached the conclusion that every province and State should examine the possibility of more rapid assembling of perishable produce in the villages by the organization of collecting agencies which should operate on standard methods of grading and marketing.

(6) Adulteration.— With regard to the question of adulteration, the conference considered that there was need for a special examination of the provincial food laws and a greater need for administering them more thoroughly in the rural areas and mofassil towns.

(7) Co-ordination.— In the matter of co-ordination of effort between all the departments and agencies interested in the improvement of marketing in each province and State, everyone agreed that there was need for a Standing Agricultural Marketing Committee. Such Committees already exist in some provinces. The precise form of organisation should naturally be adapted to local requirements.

(Summarised from the Indian Information Series, New Delhi, dated 15-12-1938). ✓

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Migration.

Competition of Indian labour: Motion in State Council
to control immigration of Indians in Ceylon. ✓

On 14-12-1938, Mr. Goonesinghe, the labour representative in the Ceylon State Council, moved in the Council a resolution to the effect that "in view of the findings of the Immigration Commission not being in accord with the present situation, created by unrestricted immigration, the Board of Ministers do take definite steps by formulating legislation forthwith to safeguard the interests of the nationals of the country."

Referring to the influx of Indians, Mr. Goonesinghe said that Ceylonese were ousted from jobs, which Indians obtained by unfair means. He also contested the findings of ⁽ⁱⁿ ~~Mr.~~ Jackson ^{Commission}, which had declared that Ceylonese were not available in sufficient numbers or were reluctant to undertake work of a certain type. Mr. Jackson, it was argued, had completely ignored the fact that Indians undercut the Ceylonese in every way. The Commission's only concern was the development of industries, it did not matter to him what wages the labourers were paid or the condition in which they lived.

Mr. Goonesinghe's motion was accepted by the Ceylon State Council and referred to the Board of Ministers. The Hon. Mr. C.S. Corea, Minister, promised to place definite proposals as soon as possible.

(The Hindu 16-12-1938) ✓

Emigration of Indian Labour to Malaya: Malayan

Delegation to negotiate settlement. ✓

References were made on pages 7 to 8 and 3 to 4 of our August and September ¹⁹³⁸ reports respectively, to the adoption by the Government of India of the Indian Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1938, to prohibit the "unassisted" emigration of unskilled workers from India. This Act was the result of the worsening of the conditions of work of Indian labourers in Malayan plantations and in Ceylon,

Grant of Maternity Benefits to Indian Women Workers in
Ceylon Plantations. ✓

According to the Emigration Correspondent of the Statesman, an agreement has been entered into between the Department of Medical and Sanitary Services of the Government of Ceylon and the planting interests in the Island with regard to the payment of maternity benefits on estates. According to this agreement, a woman labourer will receive for one month after the birth of a child one ~~month~~ eighth of a bushel of rice and 75 cents in cash each week. A further cash bonus of Rs. 2 will be given to her at the end of the third month if the child is alive. This bonus is mainly intended for the maintenance of the child. The agreement further provides that women labourers will not be allowed to work for one month after confinement.

At least one maternity room will be provided for every 250 women labourers, but estates in close proximity to Government hospitals with provision for maternity cases need not provide such maternity rooms. When a woman labourer refuses to use a maternity room provided by the estate, the bonus of Rs. 2 need not be paid to her. It has been decided to station one midwife on every estate having more than 700 women labourers on the check roll of the estate. When the labour force is below 700, one midwife can be appointed for a group of adjoining estates.

(The Statesman 28-12-1938). ✓

Forthcoming Changes in the Viceroy's Executive Council. ✓

The following appointments have been made, with His Majesty's approval, to the Executive Council of the Governor-General of India to take effect from the retirement, on the expiry of their terms of office in May 1939, of the Hon'ble Sir N.N.Sircar, K.C.S.I., at present Law Member of the Government of India, and of the Hon'ble Sir P.J.Grigg, K.C.B., K.C.S., Finance Member.

To be Law Member: The Hon'ble Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan, K.C.S.I., at present Commerce and Labour Member.

To be Commerce and Labour Member, in succession to Sir Muhammad Zafrullah Khan: Dewan Bahadur ^{Sir} A.Ramaswami Mudaliar, at present Adviser to the Secretary of State for India.

To be Finance Member: Mr. A.J.Raisman, C.S.I., C.I.E., I.C.S., at present Finance Secretary, Government of India.

(The Statesman, 20-12-1938.) ✓

Meeting of Working Committee of Congress:

Industrial "Planning" and Currency Ratio Considered. ✓

A meeting of the Working Committee of the Indian National Congress was held at Wardha on 11 to 16-12-1938, which was attended by Mahatma Gandhi. The main subjects which came up for discussion were (1) industrial planning, (2) the currency ratio, and (3) the Congress policy regarding political movements in Indian States.

Planning.- The proposals for industrial planning and development of large-scale industries in India, sponsored by Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose, Congress President, evoked an animated discussion. A few members who are staunch believers in rural uplift and opponents of machine production viewed the venture with suspicion and thought that it would affect adversely the work of the All India Village Industries Association. Supporters of the planning scheme contended on the other hand that far from aiming at the destruction of rural effort, it supplemented the village drive. It was argued that the concentration on a village unit should not blind one to the need for exploiting the country's natural resources and building up its national, economic and industrial strength. The Committee did not arrive at any definite decisions, and it is understood that the subject will be referred to Mahatma Gandhi for his decision.

Rupee-Sterling Ratio.- A resolution was passed by the Committee criticising the present ratio of 1s. 6d. to the rupee as having adversely affected agriculturists, declaring that "the best interests of the country demand that efforts to maintain the present exchange level should henceforth cease", and urging upon the Governor-General in Council the necessity of taking immediate steps to lower the rate to 1s. 4d. to the rupee."

Congress and Indian States.- The Working Committee supplemented the resolution adopted at the Haripura session of the Congress (1938) laying down the Congress policy of non-intervention in regard to Indian States by a resolution which, while deploring the efforts of Indian rulers to suppress popular movements in the States, asserts "the right of the Congress to protect the people against the unwarranted use of military or police forces lent by the British authorities for the suppression of legitimate movements of the people for responsible government within the States."

(The Times of India, 13 to 17-12-1938)

(Vide pages 30 to 31 of this report for a review of the first meeting of the All India National Planning Committee held at Bombay on 17 to 21-12-1938.)

Publications received in this Office during December 1938. ✓

National Labour Legislation.-

The Indian Emigration (Amendment) Act, 1938 (Act No. XXI of 1938).

Conditions of Labour.-

Report showing further action taken or remarks made by the Central and Provincial Governments on the recommendations made by the Royal Commission on Labour in India, 1937.

Enforcement of Conventions.-

Annual Factory Report, Bombay Province, 1937 (including a Note on the Administration of the Bombay Maternity Benefit Act and the Payment of Wages Act).

Economic Conditions.-

- (1) Administration Report of the Department of Industries and Commerce, U.P., for the year ending 31-3-1938.
- (2) Statistical Research Branch, India: Review of the Trade of India in 1937-38.
- (3) Bureau of Economic Intelligence, U.P.: "The Cawnpore Wholesale Clothing Trade" By Prof. C. Ackroyd and Devraj (Bulletin No. 1).
- (4) Annual Report of the Department of Statistics, Baroda State, for the year ending 31-7-1937.

Social Conditions.-

Annual Report on the Administration of Criminal Tribes in the Punjab for the year ending December 1937.

Public Health.-

1938:
"Indian Medical Review" by Major General E.W.C. Bradfield, C.I.E., O.B.E., K.H.S., I.M.S., Director General, Indian Medical Service, 1938.

Migration.-

Report of the Agent-General for India in the Union of South Africa for the years 1936 and 1937.

Miscellaneous.-

- (1) The Bombay Government and its Work - Review of the Second Half-Year, ending ~~July 1938~~ 1938.

Miscellaneous (continued).-

- (2) The Central Provinces and Berar Government at Work. From 15-~~3~~-1938 to 15-7-1938 (Vol.I, No. 2)
- (3) The Central Provinces and Berar Government at Work. From 15-7-1938 to 15-10-1938 (Vol. I, No. 3)
- (4) Report on the Work of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department, 1937-38. ✓