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INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

Indian Branch

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Pages.

1.	<u>General.</u>	...	...	1 - 10
2.	<u>References to the I.L.O.</u>	...	...	11 - 16
3.	<u>National Labour Legislation.</u>			
	New Rules under the Indian Mines Act, 1923, Bombay Exemptions from the Provisions of the Indian Mines Act, 1923.	...	...	17 - 18
	Amendment of Regulation No. 11 of Bombay Trade Unions Regulations, 1927	...	...	18 - 21
	Hyderabad Factories Act.	...	...	22 - 23
4.	<u>Conditions of Labour.</u>			
	Shipping Coolies' Strike, Rangoon	...	...	24 - 25
	Conditions of work in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department 1928-29	...	...	26 - 29
	Conditions of Mining Labour in the Central Provinces and Berar, 1929	...	...	30 - 32
	Labour Conditions in Bangalore	...	...	33 - 35
	Report of Special Officer on Calcutta Carters' Grievances.	...	...	36 - 37
	Shippers' Strike, Tuticorin	...	...	37 - 38
	Strike News in Brief : End of Choolai Mills Strike, Madras; Amritsar Carters' Union; Scavengers' Strike, Vizagapatam; Strike in National Jute Mill, Howrah; Strike in Delhi Cloth Mills, Delhi; Trouble in Lillooah Railway Workshops	...	...	39 - 40
5.	<u>Industrial Organisation.</u>			
	<u>Employers' Organisations:</u>			
	Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.	...	...	41 - 44
	Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay	...	...	44 - 46
	Other Employers' Organisations and the Political situation	...	...	47
	<u>Workers' Organisations:</u>			
	All-India Railwaymen's Federation's meeting with Railway Board	...	...	48 - 49
6.	<u>Intellectual Workers.</u>			
	Pay and Status of Vakils' Clerks	...	...	50
7.	<u>Economic Conditions.</u>			
	The Boycott movement and its economic consequences			51 - 53
	Cottage Industries Committee Report, Madras.			54 - 55

8.	<u>Unemployment.</u>			
	Unemployment in the Punjab: Remedial Measures.			56 - 60
9.	<u>Public Health.</u>			
	Slum clearing schemes in Hyderabad, Deccan.			61 - 63
10.	<u>Co-operation.</u>			
	Co-operation in Madras, 1928-29.	...	...	64 - 67
11.	<u>Agriculture.</u>			
	Progress of Agricultural Research: Advisory Board's Plans	...	...	68 - 69
12.	<u>Migration.</u>			
	Indian Labour in Mauritius.	...	...	70 - 71

VDS.

General.

The month under review has been crowded with political happenings of the first magnitude. The one dominant feature of the situation is a visible stiffening of the determination of the Indian people to achieve swaraj. This intense desire has been translated into direct action in the various spheres of political activity - the political, the commercial and industrial, the social and other fields. Consequently, there has been a simultaneous development of the national movements in all these fields, and it has become increasingly difficult to compress into the compass a brief introductory account, a history of the multitudi<sup>n</sup>ous happenings that have been taking place in the country.

First in importance as well as in chronological sequence among these happenings is the arrest of Gandhi which took place at dead of night on 5-5-1930 in his camp at Karadi. Since the inception of the salt satyagraha campaign initiated by Gandhi, the Government had adopted a policy of "wait and see" in the hope that his movement would die out of inanition, but the phenomenal developments of the movement and its growing appeal to the masses, falsified the hopes of the Government, and ~~an~~ accordingly, under orders of the Government of Bombay, Gandhi was arrested under section XXV of 1827 and placed under restraint in Yervada Central Prison. In a communiqué issued by the Bombay Government after Gandhi's arrest, the Government stated that the utmost toleration had been extended to Gandhi and that his arrest had been forced upon the Government as, in spite of the professed non-violence of Gandhi's movement, it has really been productive of grave violence. Whatever might be the justification for Gandhi's arrest, the growing hold of non-violent principles on the Indian people has been demonstrated by the fact that, despite grave apprehensions to the contrary, there

-2-

were no violent outbreaks of a general character consequent on Gandhi's arrest, and that, with the exception of a few isolated "incidents", peaceful conditions prevailed in the country as a whole. In the peaceful demonstrations that followed Gandhi's arrest, the fact that workers all over the country took a conspicuous part deserves special mention. In Bombay, 50 out of the City's 80 mills had to be closed, as nearly 50,000 workers had come out to express their resentment at the nation's leader being arrested. Labour in other centres also fully participated in the demonstrations.

Gandhi's arrest was followed by a string of resignations from the Assembly and the provincial Councils, by politicians who, till then were ~~inclined~~ inclined to sit on the fence and were not disposed to take any decided action. Prominent among such resignations may be mentioned those of Seth Balubhai, R. Ratanchand, and J.C. Swaminarayan (Bombay Council), Dr. Mrs. Muthulakshmi Reddi and Messrs. Tulsiram and C.S. Govindaraja Mudaliar (Madras Council), Mr. Sheik Muhammad Sadiq (Punjab Council), Pt. Tiwari (U.P. Council), Mr. D.P. Sinha (B. & M. Council), Mr. Ratonsi D. Morajji (Council of State), and Pandit Hirdayanath Kunzru and Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas (Legislative Assembly). These and other resignations, as well as further accretions to the non-co-operation party of groups like the Maharashtrians under Mr. N.C. Kelkar, who were up to the time of Gandhi's arrest holding themselves aloof from Gandhi's campaign, show that if the authorities thought that following on Gandhi's arrest, as happened in 1922, the non-co-operation movement would collapse, they were utterly mistaken. What has happened is an

all-round stiffening of the campaign. The civil disobedience volunteers are showing greater determination and even the Moderates are putting up their demands a notch or two higher. On Gandhi's arrest, Mr. Tayabji, the octogenarian ex-judge of the Baroda High Court, took charge of Gandhi's volunteers at Dharasana, and he was arrested on 12-5-30. Mrs. Sarojini Naidu succeeded Mr. Tayabji, and caused the authorities considerable embarrassment because of her sex, but she also was arrested on 23-5-30. The Dharasana situation continued unchanged to the end of the month under review, a succession <sup>of</sup> nominated leaders taking the places of arrested ones.

While on the main battle-front at Dharasana a state of stalemate had thus been maintained, the campaign of salt-law breaking was taken up during the month, ~~in~~ at least ~~in~~ 20 different centres elsewhere, at all of which places the drama of ostentatious disobedience and arrests, followed by varying terms of imprisonment continues. The biggest demonstration of this sort was being conducted by the City Congress Committee, Bombay, where raids on a huge scale have been conducted on the salt depot at Wadala.

The Working Committee of the Congress met at Allahabad on the 15th May and passed several resolutions laying down plans for an intensification of the campaign. It has resolved to carry on the struggle during the incarceration of Gandhiji with redoubled vigor, and calls upon the entire Nation to make a supreme effort to achieve the goal. It expresses the opinion that the boycott of foreign cloth should be carried out without delay, and all Congress bodies are expected to organize propoganda and picketing of

foreign cloth shops on a more extensive scale. Not only British cloth, but also British banking, insurance and other business are to be boycotted. The Committee expresses the view that the time has arrived for the inauguration of a no-tax campaign by non-payment of specified taxes in certain provinces, and that a beginning should be made with the non-payment of the land tax in Provinces where the raiayatwari system prevails, and the non-payment of the chowkidari tax in Bengal and Bihar. The Committee has delegated all its powers ~~to~~ and functions to Pandit Motilal Nehru, the acting President, owing to the increasing difficulty of holding meetings. The Congress Working Committee has also decided to make the raid on the Dharsana Salt Works an All-India question.

The intensification of the campaign of civil disobedience, consequent on Gandhi's arrest, is taxing the resources of the Government to the utmost. On the 12th May, Lord Irwin issued an important statement reviewing the political situation. The statement recapitulates briefly the important events leading up to the present situation - the Viceroy's statement on 1-11-1929 regarding Dominion Status and the Round Table Conference, his interview on 23-12-1929 with Gandhi and Pandit Motilal Nehru, Gandhi's letter of 2-3-1930 announcing the start of the civil disobedience campaign on 11-3-1930, and his (the Viceroy's) letter regretting the adoption of such a course, and the disturbances at places so far apart as Peshawar and Madras, Bombay and Calcutta, Chittagong and Karachi and Delhi and Sholapur which finally necessitated Gandhi's incarceration. While reiterating Government's <sup>is</sup> inflexible determination to maintain law and order, Lord Irwin announced that the Round Table Conference will be held in London on ~~at~~ or about the 20th October next, the actual date being determined by the date of closing of the Imperial Conference, and appealed for co-operation ~~from~~ from all those who would desire to uphold law and order.

The Viceroy's efforts to rally the Moderates did not, however meet with much success. The delay that has occurred in the publication of the Simon Report had already sorely tried the patience of the Liberals. The Council of the National Liberal Federation met at the Taj Mahal Hotel, Bombay, on the 14th May and issued a statement reviewing the political situation. The statement, while deploring the civil disobedience campaign and condemning the no-tax movement, declared that the Government had used excessive force in its efforts to maintain law and order, urged the institution of an independent inquiry into the disturbances at Sholapur, Peshawar and other places, strongly supported the efforts to encourage use and production of swadeshi goods without having resort to picketing, and condemned the Press Ordinance. Regarding the Round Table Conference, the statement insisted that no time should be lost in publishing the terms of reference, making it plain that the object of the Conference was the establishment of Dominion Status, subject to such necessary safeguards for a period of transition as may be agreed upon and urged that pending the holding of the conference, Congress should suspend the civil disobedience movement and that the Viceroy should consent to receive a deputation of representative Indian leaders.

The Committee appointed by the All-Parties' Conference at Delhi in February last to explore avenues for settling the communal problem met at Bombay on 14th, 15th and 16th May and after discussing the problem in a general way appointed a sub-committee to go into the problem in detail and to submit a report to the Conference by the end of June 1930. The Committee of which much was expected thus ended in a futile way, the reason being that the wind was taken out of its sails by the bigger appeal of the civil disobedience movement. Even Pandit Malaviya and

Dr. Moonje of the Hindu Mahasabha had wired in advance, urging the postponement of the Conference, in view of the country's preoccupation with the civil disobedience and boycott movements.

Even more conclusive evidence of the decided swing of public opinion in favour of Gandhi's movement is supplied by the open adhesion of important commercial and ~~ing~~ industrial groups to Gandhi's programme. The Executive Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry met at Bombay on the 17th May and passed important resolutions urging all Indian commercial bodies to adopt swadeshi and boycott British goods and foreign cloth. A meeting of the representatives of all the commercial associations in Bombay was held on 16-5-30, at the invitation of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay. A majority of the representatives expressed themselves as opposed to participation in the Round Table Conference under the present circumstances. A Detailed account of the proceedings ~~at~~ at these meetings is given in the section of this report dealing with Employers' Organisations.

Mr. Slocombe, the special correspondent <sup>in India</sup> of the Daily Herald, ~~in~~ India, had an interview with Mr. Gandhi at Yeravada Jail on 20-5-1930. According to press reports of the interview, Gandhi is reported to be prepared to recommend to the Congress the suspension of the civil disobedience movement and co-operation with the Round Table Conference on the following terms:- (1) The terms of reference to the Round Table Conference to include the framing of a constitution giving India the substance of independence; (2) satisfaction to be granted to Mr. Gandhi's demands for repeal of the salt tax, prohibition of liquor and ban on foreign cloth; (3) amnesty of prisoners convicted of political offences to coincide with the end of civil disobedience campaign, and ~~(2)~~ (4) the remaining seven points raised in Mr. Gandhi's letter to



the Viceroy to be left for future discussion.

These terms have been hailed with enthusiasm in all quarters as furnishing evidence of Gandhi's willingness to explore all possible avenues of peace before plunging the country into a desperate struggle with the authorities.

The decision of the Working Committee of the Congress to start an intensified campaign of civil disobedience, to which reference has been made earlier has been met by the Government by the promulgation on 30-5-1930 of two new Ordinances by the Governor General.

The first - "Unlawful Instigation Ordinance, 1930" provides against instigation to refusal of payment of liabilities to government. In a statement explaining the necessity for issuing the Ordinance, the Government refers to the Congress Working Committee's recent decision to the effect that the time had come for the inauguration of a no-tax campaign by non-payment of specified taxes in certain provinces, and says that the contemplated extension on a wider scale of the civil disobedience campaign leaves no resource to government but that of meeting the grave situation by the promulgation of the new Ordinances. The ordinary law gives powers to proceed against persons who refuse to discharge their public liabilities, but does not include provisions by which effective action can be taken against those who, for political reasons, instigate others to withhold payment of lawful dues. The Ordinance empowers local governments to punish persons guilty of such instigation with imprisonment which may extend to six months or with fine, or with both.

The second Ordinance - "Prevention of Intimidation Ordinance, 1930" provides against certain forms of intimidation. The explanatory statement issued by the Viceroy in support of the Ordinance refers to the recent decision of the Congress Working Committee to ~~resort~~ resort

to picketing of foreign cloth shops and liquor shops on more intensive lines, and affirms that such action would amount to unwarranted interference with the public's liberty in many directions. The government, the statement says, is not against any legitimate action taken by the Congress to ensure the promotion of indigenous industries, but it would not allow Congress to pursue the desired end by means amounting in effect to intimidation of individuals and by endeavouring to force ~~ix~~ its views on others, not by arguments, but by coercive effect of fear. Reference is also made in the statement to the attempts of the adherents of the Congress to bring about the social boycott of government servants. In normal circumstances, when intimidation is a comparatively rare offence, the ordinary law suffices; but when ~~ix~~ intimidation in its various forms is carefully organised, it is necessary that government should arm itself with powers adequate to deal rapidly and effectively with the menace - such in brief is the Viceroy's statement. The statement particularly points out that the Ordinance will not be made to apply in cases of genuine labour disputes unconnected with political objects. The punishment provided by the Ordinance for both picketing and social boycott of government is imprisonment which may extend to six months, or fine or both.

The promulgation of the Ordinances has had no chastening effect on Congress organisations; on the contrary, the Ordinances have, if anything, only given an impetus to the civil disobedience movement. For instance, in Bombay Presidency, where it is notified that both these Ordinances are to ~~ix~~ be applied immediately, the "War Council" of the Congress has welcomed the new action of the Government as supplying it with ready material for a militant programme. It may be mentioned here, that the onset of the rains has caused a temporary suspension of the salt law satyagraha campaign. Congress organisations all over the

country are now turning their attention to defying the new Ordinances. At Bombay, the Desh Sevaka Sangha is making huge efforts to picket foreign cloth shops, and large numbers of women volunteers have been enrolled as picketers. In Delhi, as a result of Pandit Motilal Nehru's recent discussions with the Delhi Mercantile Association, it has been decided on 30-5-1930 to picket all foreign cloth shops in spite of the agreement arrived at with Pandit Malaviya that foreign cloth shops ~~shall~~ should be allowed to sell out existing stocks of foreign cloth. The Press Ordinance and the <sup>(Q)</sup> new Ordinances seem to indicate that the country is in for a regime of repression, but the nationalists are meeting the challenge in determined fashion.

Meanwhile, even moderate opinion is dissociating itself to an increasing degree from Government's policy. In a statement issued to the press on 28-5-1930, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad, referring to Mr. Wedgwood Benn's pronouncement in Parliament about the Indian situation, says: "The statement of Mr. Benn has left me cold. No body is now inspired by the reiteration of the goal of Dominion Status for India. .... India wants an independent status like that of ~~Canada~~ Canada and Australia now, and is not prepared to accept instalments and stages and examination of her fitness". Mr. Jinnah in a statement issued to the press on 30-5-1930 endorsed Gandhi's demand for "the substance of independence" and said that no Indian worth his salt who attends the Round Table Conference would agree to anything but a substantial transfer of power.

There has been considerable speculation about the Simla session of the Assembly, as it was thought in some circles that there was insufficient business to justify the expense and inconvenience involved in holding a routine session. But in view of the fact that the life

of the Assembly has been extended for one year and that bye-elections have been held in all constituencies where sitting members have resigned in obedience to the Congress mandate, it is understood that government has decided to hold a brief summer session of the Assembly which is to be on the 7th July. The Viceroy is likely to deliver an inaugural address to both houses of the legislature reviewing the political situation in the country and the Simon Report. It is also ~~xxx~~ likely that the Viceroy will utilise the occasion to announce the personnel and terms of reference of the Round Table Conference.

The decision to hold a summer session of the Assembly has, it is rumoured, caused a change in the Indian Delegation to the League Assembly. Originally, Sir Fazli Hussain has been designated for membership of the Delegation, but in view of the political situation demanding his presence in the Assembly, he has decided not to proceed to Geneva. It is likely that Sir Mahomed Habibullah will be nominated as his successor the more so as the Habibullah Report has laid special emphasis on maintaining continuity of representation in Geneva Delegations. Mr. G.S. Bajpai, who was secretary of the last delegation, will occupy the same post this year also.

References to the I.L.O.

The Times of India of 29-4-1930, the Pioneer of 1-5-1930 and all prominent papers give publicity to the protests against "the constant growth of the budget of the I.L.O." made by Mr. ~~Forbes~~ Forbes Watson, British employers' delegate at a meeting of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office. The news item has, however, provoked no adverse editorial comments in any of the papers.

...                      ...                      ...                      ...                      ...

The Pioneer of 1-5-1930 publishes a Reuters telegram from Paris to the effect that at the meeting of the Council of the I.L.O. which discussed labour conditions in the mercantile marine, Miss Margaret Bondfield, Sir Atul Chatterjee and Lord Riddell protested against the frequency of international conferences. Sir A. C. Chatterjee is reported to have said that there was no necessity to hold a preparatory conference to the maritime conference.

...                      ...                      ...                      ...                      ...

Considerable publicity has been given in all papers to the personnel of the Indian Delegation to the 14th session of the I.L. Conference. The Gazette of India dated 3-5-1930 (No.21) publishes in full the names of the delegates. The delegation consists of:-

To represent the Government of India. Delegates.- Sir Atul Chatterjee, K.C.I.E., High Commissioner for India; Dr. R.P. Paranjpye, Member of the India Council. Substitute Delegate and Adviser.- Mr. A. Latifi, O.B.E., LL.D., Barrister-at Law, I.C.S. Advisers.- Mr. G.G. Dixon, India Office, London; Mr. J.H. Lang, Inspector of Mines in India.

To represent the employers. Delegate.- Mr. Amritlal Ojha, M.L.C.

Chairman, Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta. Advisers.- Mr.P. Mukerjee, President, Punjab Chamber of Commerce, Delhi; Mr. Ramjidas Vaishya, of the Gwalior Chamber of Commerce, Lashkar, Gwalior; and Mr. J.K. Mehta, of the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.

To represent the Workers. Delegate.- Mr. S.C. Joshi, President Great Indian Peninsula Railway Staff Union, Bombay. Advisers.- Mr. B. Shiva Rao, President, Madras Labour Union, Madras; Mr. K.C.Roy Chowdhury, M.L.C., President, Kankinarah Labour Union, Kankinarah (Bengal); and Mr. Mohamed Umar Rajab, Vice President, Bombay Textile Labour Union, Bombay.

... ..

The Hindu of 2-5-1930 and all papers publish in full the personnel of the Delegation. The May issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay, (Vol. IX, No.9), the Planters' Chronicle of 24-5-1930 (Vol. XXV, No.13), and the Indian Trade Journal, Calcutta of 8-5-1930 (Vol.XCVII, No. 1246) also publish the list of delegates.

... ..

The Times of India of 16-5-1930 publishes the account of a farewell party given by the labourers of Bombay to give a send off to Messrs. S.C. Joshi and Mohamed Umar Rajab, of the workers' delegation to the 14th session of the International Labour Conference.

... ..

A fairly long communique issued by this Office on the Grey-Blue Report on Hours of Work in Coal Mines is published in the Statesman of 4-5-1930 and in all the leading papers.

... ..

The Gazette of India dated 24-5-1930 (No. 21) publishes in full at pages 429 to 531 the Final Report of the Indian Delegation to the Tenth Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations. Among the appendices to the Report, the Report of the Fourth Committee on the Organisation of the Secretariat, the International Labour Office and the Permanent Court of International Justice is published at pages 504-505. As a fairly full summary of the Interim Report of the Delegation is given at pages 8 to 11 of the Report of this Office for March 1930, the Final Report, which is only an amplification of the Interim Report, is not summarised here.

The Final Report has been editorially commented upon by several papers, most of which endorse the recommendations made in the report. The Statesman of 16-5-1930, the Pioneer of 21-5-1930 and the Times of India of 26-5-1930 publish leading articles on the Report. The Statesman of 30-5-1930 publishes extracts from a leading article appearing in the Times (London) under the caption "India and the League of Nations", in the course of which the paper criticises India's demand for a seat on the League Council on the ground that "the anarchy which some leaders of Indian opinion are actively fomenting, could hardly present India to foreign nations as an ideal choice out of the many for a place on a body which is supposed to represent the collective political wisdom of the world".

... ..

Letters from the Geneva correspondent of the Hindu are published in the Hindu's issues dated 10th, 16th and 31st May 1930.

The Times of India of 26-5-1930 publishes a small editorial note on the setting up of ~~the~~ Wireless station at Geneva for the use of the League and the I.L.O. and points out that the value of such a service during times of international crisis cannot be a matter of doubt.

... ..

The Statesman of 29-5-1930 and all Indian papers publish Mr. Wedgwood Benn's statement in Parliament re; the Indian situation, in the course of which Mr. Benn says that in regard to industrial legislation the reputation of India stands very high at the International Labour Office at Geneva. Mr. Benn utilised the occasion to pay a tribute to Sir Atul Chatterjee's work for India at the International Labour Conferences.

... ..

The Hindu of 31-5-1930 referring to Sir Fazli Hussain's rumoured resignation from membership of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations states that if Sir Fazli Hussain cannot proceed to Geneva, Sir Mahomed Habibullah should be invited to take his place and thus ensure for the Delegation some measure of continuity of touch.

... ..

Favourable reviews of the I.L.O. Souvenir Album has appeared in most of the Indian papers during the period under review. The only unfavourable review that has appeared hitherto was published in the Statesman of 18-5-1930 (a copy of this cutting was sent to Geneva with this office's minute M.la/869/30 of 4-6-1930). The following is a list of the publications in which reviews of the I.L.O. Souvenir Album have been published:-



Servant of India, Poona, dated 24-4-1930 (Vol. XIII, No.17) and New India, Madras, dated 24-4-1930, (Vol.IV, New Series No.4) (copies of these cuttings were sent along with this office's minute No. M.la/643/30 of 15-5-1930); Indian Labour Review, Coimbatore, April-May issue, (Vol. III, No. 3, pages 43-45) (copies sent along with this office's minute M.la/754/30 of 22-5-1930); and Times of India, Bombay, dated 16-5-1930 (copy sent along with this office's minute M.la/847/30 of 29-5-1930).

The above list does not cover all the reviews of the Album appearing in the Indian press, but represents only those appearing in the journals copies of which are subscribed to by <sup>this office</sup> or supplied gratis to it.

... ..

New India of 8-5-1930 (Vol. IV, New Series No.6) publishes an editorial note on the reply sent by the Government of India to the questionnaire issued by the I.L.O. on the subject of Forced Labour, in the course of which the Government's attitude on the subject is severely criticised. The journal characterises Government's desire to "limit and regulate" forced labour instead of abolishing it altogether and its view that "village services of a kind which have been traditional and customary" should be exempted from any Convention that may be adopted as absurd. The paper says that the Government's plea that it is ~~was~~ unable to limit the categories of authorities entitled to ~~exercise~~ exact labour, as "some of the legislation is a matter for provincial governments over which the Government of India has no control" is not straightforward and points out that the Indian Constitution is not like that of the United States or the Australian Commonwealth, although it may show the outlines of a federal framework. The paper, therefore, argues that the Government of India can, if it so desires, exercise control in this matter and regulate the incidence of forced labour in the Provinces.

... ..

The abstract of proceedings (No. 318) for the month of April 1930 of the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, states that the Chamber has recommended to the Government of India not to ratify the Draft Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading and unloading ships adopted by the 12th I.L. Conference as in its opinion the Draft Convention as a whole is based on conditions which exist in European countries, and <sup>is</sup> therefore not suited to Indian conditions. The Chamber has expressed the view that under the circumstances it is better to accept the Recommendation and refuse to ratify the Convention.

The same publication of the Chamber contains a reference to the agenda of the ~~12~~ 14th I.L. Conference. As the Chamber is ~~not~~ vitally concerned with the problem of forced labour, it has no comments to offer on this item. Regarding Hours of Work of Salaried Employees, the Chamber expresses entire agreement with the following resolution passed by the General meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce of India and Ceylon in December 1929:-

"This Association recommends to Government to oppose the proposal of the International Labour Conference for a Convention or Recommendation on the subject of the regulation of hours of work of salaried employees as such Convention or Recommendation will be difficult, if not impossible, of application in this country".

Regarding the subject of Hours of Work in Coal Mines, the Chamber is inclined to the view that no immediate action on this subject is necessary in India.

... ..

VDS.

National Labour Legislation. H. 17

New Rules under the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

Section 21(1) of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, empowers the Local Government to appoint a Court of Inquiry in cases of accidents occurring in or about any mine. In May 1929 the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour addressed all Local Governments and Administrations suggesting that parties directly interested in accidents in mines in India should be given the opportunity of participating in investigations made by Courts of Inquiry appointed under section 21 of the Indian Mines Act, especially as in India such Courts are ordinarily the only formal tribunals which enter into the question of the precise cause of the deaths. The Government of India were of the opinion that the assistance given by labour and other representatives would often prove useful to the Courts and that the representation of interested persons before the Courts would ~~be~~ <sup>tend</sup> to inspire greater confidence in the findings of the Court and that these advantages would more than compensate for the possible protraction of proceedings. They also forwarded for the consideration of the Local Governments and Administrations a draft rule under section 30(b) of the Indian Mines Act designed to give effect to the views expressed above.

The following notification by the Government of Bombay, Revenue Department, embodies the new rule framed by the Governor in Council under section 30(b) of the Indian Mines Act, 1923:-

"No. 2822/28, dated Bombay Castle, the 10th April 1930.

"In exercise of the powers conferred by section 30(b) of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923), the Governor in Council is please further to amend the rules published in Government Notification in the Revenue Department, No. 10029, dated the 6th September 1924, as follows:-

After rule 1 of the said rules the following shall be inserted, namely:-

"1-A. A Court of Inquiry appointed under section 21 of the Act shall, subject to the power of such Representation of interests before Court of Inquiry. Court to disallow any question which, in its opinion, is not relevant or is otherwise not a proper question, permit the following persons to attend and examine any witness, either in person or by counsel, solicitor, pleader or agent, namely:-

- (i) a relative of any person whose death may have been caused by an accident with respect to which an inquiry is being held,
- (ii) the owner, agent or manager of the mine in which the accident occurred,
- (iii) any person appointed by an order in writing of the majority of the workmen employed at the said mine, and
- (iv) any person appointed in writing by an association of workmen to which the deceased at the time of his death belonged, or by any association of employers of which the owner is a member, or by any association to which any official of, or workman employed in, the said mine belongs".

(The Bombay Government Gazette, 17-4-1930, Part I, page 729).

Exemptions from the Provisions of the Indian Mines Act, 1923.

Sub-section (1) of section 46 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, empowers the Governor General in Council to exempt, by notification in the Gazette of India, any local area or any mine or group or class of mines or any part of a mine or any class of persons from the operation of all or any specified provisions of the Act, subject to the proviso that no local area or mine or group or class of mines shall be exempted from the provisions of section 26 (which reads "No child shall be employed in a mine, or be allowed to be present in any part of a mine which is below ground") unless it is also exempted from the

operation of all the other provisions of the Act.

The following Notification by the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, has been issued under sub-section (1) of section 46 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923:-

"No. M.-665, dated Simla, the 16th April 1930.

In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of section 46 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923) as amended by the Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1928 (XIII of 1928) and in supersession of the notification of the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, No. M.-1051, dated the 23rd December 1926, as subsequently amended by notifications No. M.-1051, dated the 23rd November 1927, and No.M.-1051, dated the 1st March 1928, the Governor-General in Council is pleased to exempt the mines, groups of mines, classes of mines, parts of mines and classes of persons specified in the first column of the annexed schedule from the operation of such provisions of the said Act as are specified in the corresponding entry in the second column thereof.

Schedule.

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 1. Mines of <u>kankar</u> , <u>murum</u> , laterite, gravel, sand, clay (not including kaolin, china clay or white clay), fire-clay, ochre, stone, earth, fuller's earth, barytes, bauxite, slate and line-stone. | All |
|---|-----|

Provided that the depth of the excavation measured from the level of the adjacent ~~f~~ ground nowhere exceeds 20 feet and that not more than 50 ~~men~~ persons are employed at any one time in or about the mine; Provided further that this exemption shall not apply to -

- (a) Slate mines in the Province of the Punjab and in the Monghyr district of the Province of Bihar and Orissa.
- (b) Lime-stone mines in the districts of Shahabad and Jubbulpore.
- (c) The Danapahari fire-clay mine situate in Bonjamuri village in the Asansol sub-division of the Burdwan district.

2. Borings and oil wells. ... All.
3. Mines or parts of mines in which excavation is being carried out for prospection purposes only and not for the purpose of obtaining minerals for use or sale.

Provided that -

- (i) not more than 20 persons are ~~not~~ employed in or about such excavation;
- (ii) no part of the excavation extends beneath the superjacent ground; and
- (iii) the depth of the excavation measured from the level of the adjacent ground nowhere exceeds 20 feet or, in the case of an excavation for coal, 50 feet.
4. Iron-ore-mines worked without mechanical power, the whole of the ore from which is supplied locally to village smelters and blacksmiths. ... All.
5. The following mines in the North-West Frontier Province, namely:-
- (i) Salt mines in the Kohat district All.
- (ii) Carbonaceous clay pits in the Hazara district. All.
6. The following mines in the Province of Burma, namely:-
- (i) Steatite mines in the Kyaukpyu, Chin Hills and Minbu districts and the Pakokku Hill Tracts and native precious stone mines in the Katha District. All.
- (ii) Other precious stone mines in the Katha District. The provisions contained in sections 23, 23A, 23B and 28.
- (iii) All mines in the Federated Shan States.
- (iv) The ore dressing plant of the Burma Corporation, Limited, at Namtu, Northern Shan States. All.
7. The following mines in the Province of Bihar and Orissa, namely:-
- (i) The coke factory of the Burrakur Coal Co., Ltd., at Loyabad in the Manbhum district. All
- (ii) The coke factory of the Barari Coke Co., Ltd., at Kendwadih in the Manbhum district. All
- (iii) The coke factory of the Eastern Coal Co., Ltd., at Bhowra in the Manbhum district. All

- (iv) The coke factory of the Lodna Colliery Co., Ltd., at Lodna in the Manbhum district. All
- (v) The coke factory of the East Indian Railway Company at Giridih in the Hazaribagh district. All
- (vi) Open excavation for coal in the Rajmahal coalfields in the district of the Santhal Parganas, provided that not more than 20 persons are employed in or about the mine at any one time. All
8. The following mines in the United Provinces, namely:-
- (i) Stone quarry hill Tendua Nos. 37/1, 38/1, 38/4, 38/3, 29/3 and 32/1 at village Bargeh in the Mirzapore district. All
- (ii) Stone quarry hill Darhia Nos. 343/3, 30, 181 and 182 at village Baragaun in the Mirzapur district. All
9. The following mines in the Presidency of Bombay, namely:-
- (i) Kharkhada stone quarry in the Kaira District. All
10. Persons employed in the loading of waggons on the tribute system in tin and Wolfram mines in the Province of Burma. The provisions contained in sections 23, 23A, 23B and 28.
11. Persons employed in the loading of wagons, tubs or carts on the surface and cartmen on the surface. The provisions contained in sections 23A, 23B and 28(2).
12. Firemen, winding enginemen, pumpmen and horsekeepers. The provisions of section 23(1)(a).
13. Convicts employed in the Public Works Department mines in Burma. The provisions contained in section 28".

(The Gazette of India, Part I, p.337-338, 19-4-1930, Simla).

~~Amendment of Regulation No. 11 of Bombay Trade Unions Regulations, 1927.~~

Amendment of Regulation No. 11 of Bombay Trade Unions Regulations, 1927.

The following notification by the Government of Bombay, Political Department, amending Regulation No. 11 of the Bombay Trade Unions Regulations, 1927, is reproduced below:-

"No. 7223, dated Bombay Castle, the 10th April 1930.

In exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926), the Governor in Council is pleased to amend the Bombay Trade Unions Regulations, 1927, published in Government Notification in the General Department, No. 6377 dated the 21st May 1927, as follows, namely:-

To regulation 11 of the said regulations the following shall be added:-

" Provided that, if the name of the Trade Union, the Head Office of which has changed to any town or city in the Bombay Presidency, is identical with that by which any other existing Trade Union has been registered or, in the opinion of the Registrar, so nearly resembles such name as to be likely to deceive the public or the members of either Trade Union, the Registrar shall require the Trade Union applying for the transfer of its registration to alter its name, and shall refuse to register the transfer until such alteration has been made".

(The Bombay Government Gazette, Part I,  
page 716, 17-4-1930, Bombay).



Hyderabad Factories Act.

The Industry and Commerce Department of the Nizam's Government has issued a press note announcing that the Government propose to enforce the Hyderabad Factories Act which became law in 1337 Fasli (1927-28) with effect from June 6, 1930. The Note states it had not been possible to enforce the Act up till now because it was incomplete until the rules, notifications and orders necessary under it had been approved and finally published by the Government. The Note points out that such factories as are in existence in Hyderabad have to compete with factories in British India and they have the advantage of the State import duty. There can, therefore, be nothing unfair or unreasonable in making them conform to the same laws and rules as are in force in British India itself.

It is also pointed out that when the law was changed in British India in 1921 a special provision was included in the Act that the embargo against employing children under 12 did not apply to any child lawfully employed in the factory on or before July 1, 1921. No such provision was included in the Hyderabad Act, but the Government propose to assist employers of labour in the introduction of the Act by instructing their Inspectors not to prosecute any factory owner or manager for employing, within the hours permitted by the Act, any child which was working in the factory on January 1, 1930 provided the child was ten years of age on that date. The Act lays down that no child under 12 may work in a factory and no such child may be allowed to work more than six hours any one day and not more than 5½ hours without rest.

(Times of India.- 31-5-30.)

Conditions of Labour.Shipping Coolies' Strike, Rangoon.

A strike was declared on 10-5-1930 by the shipping coolies, mostly Indians from the Andhra districts of the Madras Presidency, working in Rangoon Harbour. The cause of the strike is obscure. Some coolies had asked for an increase of pay, but most of them struck work without giving any reason (Pioneer, 10-5-1930). Owing to the strike, ships in the port had to lie idle, but by 15-5-1930, as it was found <sup>that</sup> the strikers were unyielding in their attitude, the shipping companies began to employ unemployed Anglo-Indians and Burmans for carrying on the work of loading and unloading ships (Statesman, 17-5-1930). The Indian coolies then began to picket the harbour but by 19-5-1930, sufficient Burmese labour had been recruited to replace ~~the~~ the Indian strikers and there were more men than jobs (Statesman, 20-5-1930). Nevertheless, as the new labour was mostly unaccustomed to the work, congestion in the harbour resulted and there were 63 ships in Rangoon harbour on 22-5-1930. To meet the situation an enterprising Chinese stevedore ~~firm~~ firm began to import Chinese labour also into Rangoon (Statesman, 25-5-1930).

On 25-5-1930 the strike was settled consequent on the decision of some of the employers to re-employ the Indian strikers, giving them enhanced wages. This necessitated the dismissal of the Burmese coolies recruited for temporary work. When the Indian coolies resumed work they began to jeer at and insult the Burmans. These insults coupled with resentment at their summary dismissal made the Burmese on 26-5-1930 attack the Indian coolies and soon the situation developed into a serious racial riot (Pioneer, 30-5-1930). The figures of hospital casualties up to May 29, are: Indoor patients, 382; Outdoor

patients, 390; Dead (mortuary), 81. Classification:- Hindus (mostly Andhras), 657; Moslems, 29; Burmans, 68; Europeans and Anglo-Indians 5. (Pioneer, 31-5-1930). The riots were of a most fierce character and in some places whole families were massacred alike by Burmese and Indian rioters. Police and troops had to intervene and firing had to be resorted to. As a precautionary measure, 4,000 Indians, including their wives and families, were removed from Rangoon under military protection. Besides these large numbers of Indian coolies left Rangoon for India by ship.

On 28-5-1930, a meeting of prominent Indian and Burmese citizens was held to effect a settlement and agreed that the fighting should be stopped and that no employment should be accepted from the shipping companies by either Indian or Burmese labourers except coal labour, until Burmese labour received fair treatment.

On 30-5-1930 the Burma Government appointed a Conciliation Board to settle the differences between the Indian and Burmese dock labourers. The general feeling is that there can be no proper settlement which does not provide for a continuance of Burmese labour among the dock workers. A concrete suggestion made is that a definite proportion of ships should be allotted to Burmese labour, if that labour is available, and the rest should be assigned to Indians. It is understood that as soon as the trouble is ended and tranquility is restored, Government will institute an enquiry presided over by a High Court Judge, to enquire into the origin of the disturbances and the measures employed in suppressing them. (Statesman, 30-5-1930).

Conditions of work in the Indian Posts and Telegraphs  
Department,\* 1928-29.

The Annual Report on the working of the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for the year 1928-29, issued by the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs in India, contains a mass of information about scales of pay, rules governing increments and promotion, hours of work and other conditions of work of postal and telegraph employees in India. The posts and telegraphs ~~employers~~ department of India is one of the biggest employers of labour in India. According to the statistics published in the Report under review, the Department employs altogether a staff of 129,902 workers. Besides the superior directional staff at headquarters and in the provinces, and the menial staff occupying the bottom of the scale, the department employs 28,251 sub-postmasters and clerks in the time-scale, 22,094 urban postmen and 9003 village postmen, 1,521 branch postmasters (Departmental) and 16,446 branch postmasters (extra-departmental), 15,322 runners and 13,367 inferior servants in the superior grades.

Work accomplished.- Some idea of the magnitude of the work done by the postal department may be obtained from the following figures:- At the close of 1928-29 there were 112,724 postal officials, 22,820 post offices, and 166,941 miles of mail lines. During the year 1,386 million articles, including 54 million registered articles, were posted; stamps worth Rs. 62.5 millions were sold for postal purposes; over 40 million money orders of the total value of about 933 millions of rupees were issued; a sum of Rs. 286 millions was

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\* Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department. Annual Report for the year 1928-29. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1930. Price Rs.2 As.4 or 4s. pp. iv + 95.

collected for tradesmen and others on value-payable articles; about 5.7 million insured articles valued at 1,658 millions of rupees were handled. Customs duty aggregating over 8.4 million rupees was realised on parcels and letters from abroad; pensions amounting to Rs. 15.6 millions were paid to Indian Military pensioners and 13,715 lbs. of quinine were sold to the public. On the 31st March 1929, there were 2,020,832 savings bank accounts with a total balance of Rs. 345 millions and 64,474 Postal Life Insurance policies with an aggregate assurance of Rs. 124.8 millions.

During the year 52 steamers left London with the mails for India and the same number of steamers left Bombay with the mails from India. The average time occupied in the transit of those mails by the overland route, London-Marseilles, was 14 days 9 hours from London to Bombay and 14 days and 8 hours from Bombay to London, compared with 14 days 10 ~~hrs~~ hours and 14 days 3 hours, respectively, during the preceding year.

Operation of Savings Bank.- The facilities afforded by the postal department for opening savings bank accounts has proved one of the greatest incentives for thrift to the Indian population. The number of active accounts during 1928-29 was 2,020,832 representing a decrease of 22.45 per cent. This apparent decrease is not due to an actual falling off of the number of depositors but to a new classification, under which accounts on which no transactions have taken place for four complete years are now treated as "dead". The total balance at the credit of depositors rose from a little over 325 millions to about 345 millions, representing an increase of 5.57 per cent. The average balance at the credit of a single depositor was Rs. 170.67 as compared with Rs. 125.34 in 1927-28. The steady increase in the average balance is interesting. At the end of 1882-83, the first

year of its working by the Post Office, the average balance was only Rs. 71.49.

Revision of pay.- The scales of <sup>pay of</sup> departmental branch postmasters, overseers, <sup>overseer</sup> postmen, sorting postmen and head postmen stationed at certain expensive places, which had been revised with effect from the 1st May, 1927, were further improved with effect from the 1st May 1928 by ~~amplified~~ doubling the rates of increment. With effect from the latter date a revision was also effected in the pay of this class employed in other places in India and Burma.

With effect from the same date a general revision of pay of the following classes of officials was also sanctioned:- (1) Postmen and mail guards, not covered by the revision of May 1927. (2) Linemen. (3) Stamp-vendors (Departmental). (4) Bill sarkars, shroffs, Munshi clerks, timekeepers and allied classes. (5) Dufftries and allied classes. (6) Jamadars and allied classes. (7) Runners. (8) Boy peons and boy messengers. (9) Packers, porters, office peons, telegraph delivery peons and other labourers of various classes. (10) Mechanics and artificers.

The time-scales of pay of station-service telegraphists at certain stations were revised with effect from the 1st April 1928. The scales of pay of the clerks and inferior servants of the Postal Workshop at Aligarh were revised with effect from the 1st May 1928. A revision in the rates of special pay granted to stenographer-camp-clerks employed in Circle offices was sanctioned with effect from the 1st June 1928. With effect from the 1st May 1928 <sup>of peons in departmental telegraph offices, Telephone Inspectors</sup> Inspectors and Telephone operators, class I, were graded for purposes of pay and allowances with postal clerks on the ordinary time-scales of pay; Telephone operators, class II, were graded with the Lower Division of clerks. With effect from the same date the rates of pay of Line Inspectors and Sub-Inspector

were revised, and the time-scales of pay of the clerks and sorters stationed in Madras city, which were revised in 1926 in some cases, and in 1927 in others, underwent a further improvement.

These improvements in pay affected 66,659 officials of the Department and involve an additional recurring cost of Rs. 15,10,700 approximately per annum.

The Department consists of three branches, the postal, the telegraph and the ~~xxx~~ telephone branches. The financial result of the working of the Department as a whole is summarised below:-

	Postal Branch.	Telegraph Branch.	Telephone Branch.	Total.
Receipts	75,418,477	29,690,693 <del>27,551,138</del>	5,256,138	110,365,308
Expenditure	77,959,275	32,645,560	5,144,102	115,748,937
Surplus (+) or Deficit (-).	-2,540,798	-2,954,867	+ 112,036	-5,383,629

The net result for the Department as a whole exhibited in the accounts for the year 1927-28 was a loss of Rs. 2,615,138. The net loss of Rs. 5,383,629 during 1928-29 is mainly due to an increase in working expenses resulting from payment of heavy arrear claims to a large number of officials of the Department whose pay was revised in consequence of the general scheme introduced for improvement of the scales of pay and allowances of the staff in previous years, as well as to the fact that on account of a depression in trade the revenues did not exhibit their usual growth.

Conditions of Mining Labour in the Central Provinces  
and Berar,\* 1929.

The following facts about conditions of labour in the mines of the Central Provinces and Berar, are taken from the review for the year ending 31st December 1929, on the working of the Indian Mines Act, 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar, issued by the local government. (A summary of the annual Review of the working of the Indian Mines Act in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1928 is given at pages 30-32 of the report of this office for July 1929. Attention is also directed to a summary of the Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India for the year 1928 given at pages 25-32 of the report of this office for December 1929).

Supply of labour.- The year 1929 was far from prosperous for the mining industry of the province. The slump in the coal and manganese markets lasted throughout the year and was reflected in a further reduction of coal mines by 3 and manganese mines by 43 as well as in the discharge of a large proportion of labourers from the manganese mines of the province which were still working. For instance, the Central India Mining Company was obliged to dispense with 45 per cent. of its labourers. In the Jubbulpore district, where scarcity conditions prevailed, an unusual number of labourers sought employment in the Cement and Pottery Works during the months of March to May, and were prepared to accept low wages. Generally speaking, the supply of labour was in excess of the demand except in some of the coal mining areas in Chanda and Chhindwara districts.

The total prohibition of female labour from under-ground working in manganese mines with effect from the 1st July 1929 is reported to have caused a shortage of underground workers and a slight disturbance at the Bharweli mine of the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company, but the difficulty was soon overcome.

Wages, -and Relations with Employers.- In spite of the labour surplus, wages remained practically stationary except in the Jubbulpore district. The average earnings of male labourers employed in coal

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\* **Annual Review on the District Reports on the working of the Indian Mines Act, IV of 1923, in the Central Provinces and Berar, for the year ending the 31st December 1929.** Nagpur: Printed at the Government Press, 1930. Price - Five Annas. pp.8.



mines remained at Re. 0-6-6 to Re. 0-10-0 per day for underground work and Re. 0-6-0 to Re. 1-0-0 ~~for~~ surface work. The income of female labourers ranged between Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-8-0 per head both for underground and surface work. In the manganese and other mines the daily earnings of an unskilled labourer varied from Re. 0-4-0 to Re. 0-9-0 per day for a male and Re. 0-3-0 to Re. 0-6-0 per day for a female. The earnings of skilled labourers were from Re. 0-9-6 to Re. 1-4-6 per day.

The relations between employers and employees continued to be satisfactory. There were no strikes, disputes or indication of dissatisfaction in any mining centre. The labour in mines is, however, still unorganized and is frequently employed part-time on agricultural work.

General health of labourers.- Small-pox, influenza and cholera broke out at several labour camps during the year under review. Small-pox was responsible for 101 attacks and 13 deaths of which 54 attacks and five deaths occurred at the coal mines of the Chhindwara district, 24 attacks and three deaths at the Deosari and Mehgaon limestone quarries in the Jubbulpore district, 12 attacks and five deaths at the Mahakali coal mine in the Chanda district and 11 attacks with no casualty at the Kandri and Mansar mines in the Nagpur district. On the whole the year was not an unhealthy one and adequate medical relief was provided by the larger concerns.

Sanitation and housing accommodation.- The sanitation of labour camps continued to receive adequate attention, sweepers being employed in big camps both underground and on the surface. The water-supply was ample and was drawn from clean springs adjoining the labour colonies and wells provided by mine owners. The Amalgamated Coalfields Limited constructed during the year under review a number of quarters according to the specification laid down by the Board of Health for the Bengal Coalfield for housing their labour force in the Chhindwara district. The Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company are engaged in acquiring land at Hirapur in the Balaghat district with a view to provide houses for their labourers at Bharweli. Housing arrangements at the Majri mine of the Netra Manganese Company are, however, reported to be unsatisfactory. In the Jubbulpore district also the question of housing failed to receive sufficient attention, and conditions in the case of the smaller limestone quarries are most unsatisfactory.

Prices of foodstuffs and clothing.- Except in the Jubbulpore district, where prices of foodstuffs were slightly higher owing to scarcity, there were no appreciable fluctuations in the prices of either foodstuffs or cloth. Regular weekly markets are held at some of the well established mining camps of the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company's mines but usually supplies are drawn from the neighbouring markets and village bazars.

Education.- In the Nagpur district the Central Provinces Manganese Ore Company and the Central India Mining Company maintain special schools in some of their labour camps where education is provided free and encouragement given by distribution of prizes and clothes. The Indian Manganese Company has also undertaken the construction of a school building at Kodegaon which is nearing completion. In most places the children of labourers attend schools managed by district councils and local bodies in the vicinity of the mining camps. Government, however, notes with regret that full advantage is not taken of the existing institutions even by well paid mine operatives in the education of their children and trusts that the benefits of literacy will be brought home to them by the mine managements and local officials.

Crime and moral conditions.- The average mine labourer is handicapped to some extent by his freedom from the social restraints which operate so powerfully in the older village communities. It is satisfactory to note, however, that, with the exception of a few cases of theft, house-breaking and simple hurt, there was no serious outbreak of crime in any ~~mine~~ mining camp in the province. A number of burglaries were committed in the Chhindwara district by a gang of Parsis, Lodhis and Gonds, residing in certain colliery areas, and seven members of this gang are now undergoing prosecution. The Chhindwara mining tract has now been divided into beats and a system of registering suspicious newcomers introduced.

Accidents.- There were 99 accidents during the year under review against 95 in the previous year. Out of these 21 were fatal and 78 serious involving injury to 86 persons. With the exception of 11, which were specifically due to misadventure, neglect of safety precautions was responsible for almost all the accidents. The increase in the number of accidents from year to year is disquieting and the avoidable loss of human life deplorable and Government hopes that rigid observance of the "safety provisions" by workers will command the first attention of mine authorities in future.

Prosecutions for offences.- There were only three prosecutions during the year under review, one in Chhindwara and two in Jubbulpore. The prosecution in the Chhindwara district involved a sirdar and a shot firer of the Newton Chikli Colliery for violation of the Indian Coal Mines Regulations 109 and 110 and the special rules and ended in the conviction and fine of both the accused. In Jubbulpore, both the prosecutions were against the same lessee, one for employment of two children under 13 years of age and the other for dangerous working. The offender was convicted on both the counts and fined Rs.50 and Rs.60 respectively.

Hours and limitation of employment and employment of women and children in mines.- The hours of employment in surface working varied between 6 and 10 per day and those for underground work from 6 to 8 hours per day.

As a result of the introduction of the Regulations prohibiting the employment of women underground in mines, 174 females were relieved of underground work at the Bharweli manganese mines. In the exempted (coal) mines of the province, women contributed about 20 per cent of the total labour force and their gradual elimination from underground work will be watched with interest. No children were employed in any mines).

Receipts from mines.- Owing to the unfavourable conditions of the market, the receipts from mines fell from Rs. 403,643 to Rs. 393,025, the whole of the decrease being contributed by manganese mines. Of the total revenue, Rs. 242,169 was contributed by manganese mines, Rs. 115,001 by coal mines and Rs. 35,855 by other mines.

Labour conditions in Bangalore.

The following account of labour conditions in the textile mills of Bangalore, Mysore State, is summarised from an article on the *Subject* contributed ~~to the subject~~ to New India dated 8-5-30 .

Sources of labour supply .- There are several textile mills in Bangalore and the workmen employed in these mills come from the districts of North Arcot, South Arcot, and Chingleput in the Madras Presidency and the district of Mysore within the State of Mysore itself. Most of them come with their families; but a few come alone and go back to their homes once a year on short leave. Till about five years ago, contractors were being employed to assist recruitment but not now. To-day, however, the workman who seeks a job has to pay the jobber in the mill a heavy sum in order to succeed - a hard feat which he manages to perform with the aid of the money-lender. There are labourers found in the mills who have worked for 20 years sometimes, but generally the turn-over may be said to be complete once in 10 years. Absenteeism is negligible on account of the heavy punishment following it. The employer too often gets rid of men with long service and thus saves for himself their bonus and gratuity. The workers have no right to either but can get them on "good behavior" only, according to the judgment of the capitalist. Thus undoubtedly, though not ostensibly, for their Union activities, an important Mill sent out on 23-7-29 no less than 300 of their workmen without bonus or gratuity.

Relations between employers and workers .- Relations between the employers and the employed are far from satisfactory. Allegations of corruption are freely made by the workers against the head-maistries, and maistries who have a Union of their own, patronized and encouraged by the mill authorities. As against the genuine Labor Union of the employees, known as the Bangalore Textile Labor Union, the employers have started what are called welfare committees of which a few labourers are members. It is generally believed that these committees are meant only to cripple the Labor Union, and their general effect has been only to widen the gulf between the authorities and the workmen. About half the workmen are engaged on piece-work and the other half on a time-scale system of remuneration.

Housing and Sanitary conditions .- There is no housing provided by the employers or by the Government. The workmen live in rented houses paying on the average from 3 to 5 rupees a month, all of them being situated within a mile or a mile and a half from the mill. Living in dingy and overcrowded houses, with scarcely any privacy and often in company with their poultry and their goats, it is no wonder that mortality is very high among them. The mill authorities provide a hospital but it has only 5 beds in it, and is open only during working hours. It is made full use of by the workmen. A medical visitor also puts in his appearance twice a week to enquire for any comparatively serious cases. But no midwives are provided . As for sanitary arrangements, they exist but are insufficient. 5,000 workers are employed in one Mill but forty latrines alone are provided. There is provision for good drinking water inside the mill

premises. There are no Factory Inspectors, but Health Inspectors visit now and then. During periods of ill-health, half pay is given on leave days, but no maternity benefits are allowed. In addition to the welfare committees mentioned above, there is also a Co-operative Society run in this Mill. The cost and the quality of the articles sold there is the same as outside and about 30 per cent of the workers go to it. The management of the Mill runs a day school and a night school, the former for half-timers and the latter for adults. There are three classes in the day school and about 100 boys. Only the vernacular is taught. But at night, for the adults, English also is taught. The strength of the night school is about 30 and there are, on the whole, five teachers employed.

Hours of Work .- The hours of work in the Mill are from 6.30 a.m. to 11.30 and again from 12.30 to 5.30 p.m. Work is done only on five days in the week fully, for Saturday is a half-holiday with only 4 hours' work. Sometimes a few persons are asked to work on Sundays also, and no overtime wage is given for it. But some week day in the following week is excused for them so that they might not work for more than 10 days at a stretch. During the whole of the year, the number of holidays granted for festivals is about 10. No limitation of age obviously operates, for even children of five can be observed at work as half-timers.

Minor accidents are common; on the average they occur twice a week, but major ones may generally be said to arise once a month. No doubt a notice is put up which forbids cleaning the machinery while it is at work, but the complaint is loud that pressure is exerted on the labourers to clean the operating machine so that time may be saved thereby.

Wages and Bonus .- As to wages, a fresh hand is entertained at Rs.0-9-3 per day with an annual increment of Re.0-0-3; weavers get Rs.25 to 30 a month. and in the spinning department, half-timers (boys) get Rs.4-8-0 a month and full-timers (women) about Rs.9 or 10. In the mechanical section, fitters, turners, carpenters, moulders and blacksmiths get from 14 annas to Re.1-8-0 a day. In no way can women make more than Rs.15 a month. Payment is made direct and not through any intermediaries; overtime is calculated at 1 $\frac{1}{2}$  times the usual rate. Being late by five minutes is visited with a fine of Re.0-0-3 but if by more than that, the person is reckoned absent. The fines thus collected do not go to any fund for the benefit of the workmen but to the company itself. Wages are paid by the month and generally on the Saturday between the 9th and the 14th of a month. Workmen do not care for weekly wages. Unclaimed wages go to the mill. The workers are all indebted to professional money-lenders and not unoften borrow at 24 per cent. A bonus of 10 per cent of six months' wages is given to the worker. But seven days' absence without leave in a month means discharge without wages. Three days' leave without pay is granted in a month, but the worker has great difficulty in getting leave just when he wants.

Government's attitude and labour demands .- The relations

between the labourers and the employers on the one hand and the laborers and the Mysore Government on the other, are not satisfactory. Reference has been made above to the welfare committees and their objects. The mill authorities do not ~~clearly~~ like the Labor Union and are doing their worst to break it. But their efforts have so far proved futile. Difficulties are placed in the way of holding meetings and of collecting subscriptions. The industrial spy has been brought into existence and loyal Labor Union men are subjected to hardships in all possible ways. While however the Bangalore Mills are in no way peculiar in their anti-trade-Union activities, the attitude that the Mysore Government has adopted is highly deplorable. Whatever the intention may be, the recent prosecutions against Labor leaders in Bangalore, the police harassment which Union officials ~~ex~~ experience in collecting subscriptions for instance, and various other pinpricks, all lend color to the view widely held that the Mysore State is opposed to Labor. But even if it is contended that it is not so opposed, the fact remains that Labor legislation is hopelessly backward and is in urgent need of being brought up to date. Piece-meal reform is not of much use. The problem has to be viewed in all its aspects. The Whitley Commission has toured round British India investigating Labour conditions; the writer suggests that the Mysore Government should consider the appointment of a similar body to inquire into Mysore Labor conditions and Labour legislation.

(New India .- 8-5-30  
Vol. IV. New Series No. 6).

Report of Special Officer on Calcutta Carters' Grievances.

At pages 13 to 15 of the report of this office for April 1930, was given an account of the Calcutta Carters' strike. As the result of representations made by the strikers, the Government of Bengal appointed Mr. W.S. Hopkyns, I.C.S., as ~~the~~ Special Officer to enquire into the grievances of the carters and to submit a report and recommendations to Government. The decisions of the Government based on the report are summarised below:-

In the course of the inquiry it has been found that there is considerable difference of opinion among veterinary experts regarding the amount of cruelty involved in working buffaloes as draught ~~animals~~ and the load which can be properly regarded as excessive. After careful consideration the Government of Bengal have decided that their previous decisions were based on incorrect data and have issued the following revised rules:-

(1) That the maximum weight of the load to be carried in a two-wheeled cart drawn by two buffaloes shall be 60 maunds and in similar carts drawn by one buffalo 25 maunds, (2) that the prohibited period for the employment of buffaloes as draught animals will be between the hours of 12 noon and 3 p.m. during the months of April and May and in June until the rains break. The date on which this prohibition will cease to be in force will be announced each year by a notification. To avoid uncertainty as far as possible they have decided not to make any provision for a period of stoppage during excessive heat in September.

The Special Officer has also recommended that a committee shall be appointed to investigate the following questions:- (1) whether the arrangements for resting and parking places for buffaloes and carts

during the midday stoppage are adequate and consistent with the convenience of traffic, and if not, what action should be taken? (2) is adequate accommodation provided for carts at the principal places where carts get their loads and if not, what improvements are required? (3) is it possible to secure the earlier delivery of goods at the jetties railway goods sheds and similar places, with special reference to the difficulty caused by the late attendance of sarcars and other agents?

This recommendation has been accepted by Government, but they have decided to postpone the appointment of the committee until later in the year. A separate resolution will be issued at a later date announcing the personnel of the committee and the terms of reference.

(Summarised from Police Department Notification No. 2082 Pl., dated 31-5-1930, published in the Calcutta Gazette, dated June 5, 1930, pages 871-872).

#### Shippers' Strike, Tuticorin.

Since 16-4-1930 there has been no shipment of goats and sheep from Tuticorin to Colombo as a protest against the Colonial Sanitation Committee's new order that on and after 16th April all sheep and goats imported from India and other ports must be detained at the Quarantine Station for at least four days, before they were released for slaughter at the Colombo Slaughter House. Negotiations to make the authorities suspend the operation of the new ordinance for a period of six months having failed, the constituents met and decided to stop all shipment to Colombo until the new restriction upon goats and sheep was abrogated. It was also resolved to impose a penalty of Rs. 1,000 for breach of the terms of the agreement they entered into.

It is contended by the dealers that the existing ordinance is more than sufficient to prevent the import of animals affected by anthrax and that the new rule introduced in the ordinance will besides paralysing their trade involve them into serious financial loss and place the trade intermediaries in a position of vantage.

The Colombo authorities maintain that the prevalence of rinderpest in and around Tuticorin having not been disputed by the strikers they see no reason to revise their decision in the matter. ~~The xxxxxx~~ Their strong ground seems to be that the exception ~~is~~ provided in the ordinance that animals required for slaughter in Colombo can be removed direct to the slaughter house before the expiry of 15 days has been abused by the local dealers there, to the detriment of the sanitation interests of the Island.

It must be remembered, in this connection, that the number of goats imported yearly amount to about 125,000 at a cost of Rs. 25/- each. The Colombo authorities are taking definite steps to relieve the consequential scarcity of mutton in their island irrespective of the strike.

(Hindu, 8-5-1930).



KLB.

39

Strike News in Brief.

End of Choolai Mills strike, Madras.- At pages 21-22 of the report of this office for April 1930 reference had been made to a strike at the Choolai Mills, Madras, which began on 14-4-30. The strike was settled on 1-5-30 and the men have returned to work. The management before opening the mills insisted that the ring-leaders should give an undertaking that they would not resort to lighting strikes again without giving ~~gt~~ notice to the management previously and the undertaking was given by the ring-leaders.

(Times of India .- 3-5-30.)

Amritsar Carters' Union .- The Amritsar Carters' Union has applied to the Deputy Commissioner, Amritsar, to reduce the municipal wheel tax from Rs.24 to Rs.12 per annum, failing which they have threatened to go on strike. Till the Deputy Commissioner decides the carters have decided to ply their carts without license.

(Pioneer .- 7-5-30.)

Scavengers' strike, Vizagapatam .- All the scavengers of the Vizagapatam municipality, numbering about 400, struck work on 6-5-30 on the ground that no increase of pay was given to them, while most of the officers, clerks, and other employees of the municipality received increments as from 1-4-30. It was pointed out to the strikers that the declaration of a strike without due notice by workers in a public utility service was illegal and that they should resume work pending the redress of their grievances. The strikers resumed work on 8-5-30 after giving notice to the authorities that if their wages were not enhanced by Rs.2/ per mensem within a month the strike would be resumed.

(Hindu .- 8 & 9-5-30).

Strike in National Jute Mill, Howrah .- 5,000 operatives of

KLB.

40

the National Jute Mill, Howrah, downed tools on 17-5-30 as a result of certain grievances against the head-clerk of the mill.

(Hindu .- 19-5-30).

Strike in Delhi Cloth Mills, Delhi .- At page 18 of the report of this Office for April 1930 reference has been made to a lighting strike in the Delhi Cloth Mills on 23-4-30 and of its speedy termination. The strike began on 19-5-30 and ended on 30-5-30. The cause of the strike was the men's demand that the same conditions should be accorded to them as those obtaining in the local Birla Mills. The strike ended as the result of a compromise effected on 30-5-30 (Hindu - 25-5-30 and 31-5-30.)

Trouble in Lillooah Railway Workshops .- A serious disturbance broke out on 29-5-30 in the railway workshops at Lillooah, during which the police had to open fire before the workmen could be brought under control. The disturbance arose over the monthly wage system which the Railway Board has recently introduced at Lillooah. It is stated that most of the workers refused to accept the system, and that the first outbreaks of violence were directed against the minority who have agreed to receive their wages under the new conditions. The ~~trouble~~ trouble was brought under control the same day, but not before the police whose aid was requisitioned had resorted to firing.

(Statesman .- 30-5-30.)

Industrial Organisation.Employers' Organisations.Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

There was great activity during the month under review on the part of Indian employers' organisations, particularly among the various Chambers of Commerce. These activities were mainly directed to reviewing the present political situation in the country, analysing its repercussions on the economic, industrial and labour situation, registering strong protests against the repressive policy of the Government of India and the various provincial governments, and in formulating a series ~~and~~ of demands representing the irreducible minimum of the claims advocated by the Indian mercantile and industrial community. The political agitation has assumed the greatest intensity in the Bombay Presidency and, therefore, it was perhaps natural that the commercial community of Bombay took the initiative in defining the position of the employing classes in respect of the political situation in the country. The Government hitherto had relied on the employing classes, as people with a & "stake" in the country, to range themselves on the side of the Government, but the volume of protests that has been raised and the new orientation given to the employers' attitude as the result of the resolutions passed at meetings of the various organisations of the employers, demonstrate that even these "stable" interests have definitely allied themselves with the nationalists. Brief notices are given below of the more important of the meetings of the Indian employers' organisations held during the month.

The Executive of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry met in Bombay on 17-5-1930 and passed the following resolutions:-

"The Committee urges all Indian commercial bodies to adopt Swadeshi and boycott British goods and foreign cloth. The Committee is in favour of starting depots and licensing the existing firms to sell Swadeshi clothes. A sub-committee consisting of six members, Messrs. Chunilal Mehta, G.D. Birla, Lalji Naranji, Ambalal Sarabhai, Kasturbhai Lalbhai and Lala Sriram, was appointed to control prices and fix uniform prices, <sup>and</sup> allow a reasonable margin of profit to the manufacturers and stallholders. This sub-committee meets on Tuesday to draw out details.

"The Federation's executive resolved that commercial bodies must transact business only with Indian banks, Indian insurance companies and Indian shipping companies. With regard to other commodities, Indian made ones must be used and if they are not available, preference must be given to non-British goods. In any event, British goods should not be used as far as possible.

"The last important resolution was one regretting the internment of Gandhiji. In the Committee's opinion, a round-table conference without Gandhiji was bound to prove a colossal failure and the Federation would not participate in it if Gandhiji was not attending it. The executive opined that it was in favour of withdrawing representatives from the legislatures". (Hindu, 19-5-1930).

On 20-5-1930, the Executive of the Federation issued the following statement to the press:-

"The following resolutions were adopted by the Committee of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry at their meeting on May 20, at Bombay:-

"In the opinion of the Committee of the Federation, no Conference (of the nature of the Round Table Conference) convened for the purpose of discussing the problem of Indian constitutional advance, can come to a solution of the present political difficulty which will be acceptable to the country, unless such conference is attended by Mr. Gandhi as a free man or has at least his approval. For this reason the Committee feel it necessary to recommend to the various member bodies of the Federation not to nominate any representatives of Indian commercial interests to the Round Table Conference, unless Mr. Gandhi is a party to the said Conference. The Committee desires to suggest to the member-bodies to inform their individual members of the undesirability of attending such a Conference if any individual members of the member-bodies of the Federation be invited in their individual and private capacity to such a Conference.

"The Committee of the Federation have heard with alarm various reports of violent and unjustified assaults on Satyagrahi volunteers and others, including women and children by servants of the Crown. In spite of official denials of some of these charges, the Committee record their opinion that the Indian public are not likely to be satisfied with such denials and urge Government to institute independent ~~inquiries~~ inquiries into the trouble at various places. The Committee respectfully urge His Excellency the Viceroy to take immediate steps to stop the policy of terrorism which has lately been pursued on the part of Government in various places, and venture to warn His Excellency and the Government of India that terrorism can only increase disaffection on the part of the people towards Government.

"The Committee of the Federation record their disappointment at the latest announcement of H.E. the Viceroy as it does not say anything which can inspire confidence among the people in the Round Table Conference, ~~among~~ and does not say anything new. The Committee respectfully urge the British Cabinet, through His Excellency the Viceroy, and <sup>the</sup> Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for India to adopt a policy of bold and <sup>and</sup> far-sighted statesmanship to satisfy the legitimate aspirations of the country without further delay.

"The Committee of the Federation recommend their affiliated members and the Indian public to patronise only Indian goods to the maximum extent possible and to reduce the consumption, as far as possible, of such goods made in the country. With a view to promote the use of Swadeshi cloth in order that it may successfully replace the imports of foreign cloth, the Committee appoint a sub-committee consisting of the following gentlemen to submit at an early date, a report of ways and means to be adopted for the purpose, in a manner which will not permit of profiteering as a result of the Swadeshi movement, and safeguard the interests of the consumers, and at the same time promote the manufacture and distribution of Swadeshi goods:- Lala Shri Ram (President), Mr. G.D. Birla, Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, Kt., Sir Chunilal V. Mehta, K.C.S.I., Mr. Ambalal Sarabhai, Mr. Kasturbhai Lalbhai, and Mr. Lalji ~~Naranji~~ Naranji.

"The draft scheme as may be recommended by the sub-committee, together with the resolutions that the Sub-committee recommends to be passed, should be circulated to the affiliated bodies and their opinion be invited. The Sub-committee is authorised to consult such interests as it may think proper before submitting its report. The President is authorised to call a meeting of the Committee when he thinks it necessary to consider the question". (Times of India, 23-5-1930).

The Committee of the Federation after concluding their deliberations in Bombay, addressed a memorandum to the Viceroy in connection with the present political situation. The memorandum recapitulates the recent events and pronouncements which have led to the present situation and puts in an earnest plea for initiating a policy of conciliation, and urges that the only remedy would be for the British Government to make a definite statement regarding the attainment of Dominion Status, and to invite Mahatma Gandhi to the Round Table Conference, to prepare a constitution which would guarantee to India the independence enjoyed by Australia and Canada.

The memorandum is signed by Lala Shriram, the President of the Federation; Mr. Jamal Mohamed, the Vice-President; Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas; Mr. G.D. Birla; Sir Chunilal Mehta; Mr. Lalji Naranji; Mr. D.P. Khaitan; Mr. ~~Ambalal~~ Ambalal Sarabhai; Mr. B. Das; Mr. R.L. Nopany; Mr. N.R. Sarkar; Mr. Ranchordas Gandhi; Mr. Rameshwarprasad Bagla; and Mr. R.K. Shanmukham Chetty as members of the Executive

Committee and the presidents and vice-presidents of the following member-bodies of the Federation:- The South Indian Chamber of Commerce Madras; the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta; the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce; the Burma Indian Chamber of Commerce, Rangoon; the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association; the Marwari Chamber of Commerce, Bombay; the Bullion Exchange, Bombay; the South Indian Hides and Skins Merchants' Association, Madras; the Jute Dealers' Association, Calcutta; the Native Stock Share Brokers' Association, Bombay; the Indian Mining Federation, Calcutta; the Mysore Chamber of Commerce; the Bombay Shroff Association; the Telikanta Brokers' Association, Calcutta; the Seeds Traders Association, Calcutta; the Jute Balers' Association, Calcutta; the Indian Producers' Association, Calcutta; the Buyers and Shippers' Chamber, Karachi; the Indian Merchants' Association, Karachi; and the Indian Tea Planters' Association, Jalpaiguri; the East India Jute Association, Calcutta; the Baroda Mill-owners' Association, Baroda; and the Indian Insurance Companies' Association. (Hindu, 29-5-1930).

Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay.

The Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay held an important in camera meeting on 9-5-1930, Mr. Husseinbhoj Laljee presiding. The meeting was held as a result of the representation ~~on~~ of 14 important commercial bodies in the city suggesting to the Chamber to call upon its representatives in the legislatures to resign their seats. Sir Purshottamas Thakurdas (The Chamber's representative in the Assembly) and Mr. Laljee Naranjee (The Chamber's representative in the Bombay Legislative Council) were present at the meeting. The meeting considered the Viceroy's reply to the Chamber's telegram protesting against the Press Ordinance and also decided to send a telegram to the Viceroy protesting against Gandhi's detention. The question of the resignation of the Chamber's representatives from the legislatures was postponed. (Hindu, 10-5-1930).

The following telegram regarding Gandhi's arrest was addressed to the Viceroy by the Chamber on 10-5-1930:-

"The Committee of the Indian Merchants' Chamber regard with profound regret the arrest and internment of Mahatma Gandhi without trial and under an obsolete regulation. Mahatma Gandhi has proved, all throughout his public life, to be this country's strongest guarantee for non-violent agitation. He is rightly considered to be

the greatest living Indian if not the greatest living man, as an apostle of truth and non-violence and universally respected as such. The only crime of Mahatma Gandhi in his recent agitation can be his burning patriotism for the land of his birth. The fact that, for the last five weeks, he carried through his programme without violence, should have convinced the Government that his presence in the country, until the Government are prepared to meet the demands of the people, was essential for the purpose of law and order. The Committee view with great uneasiness the course of events hereafter, as the struggle started by Mahatma Gandhi appears, despite repression, sure to be continued for the freedom of India. The forced absence of Mahatmajji is regretted by Indians, but may be regretted more by the Government in the near future.

The Committee request His Excellency the Viceroy to be pleased to convey the above message to the Secretary of State for India also". (Hindu, 12-5-1930).

The Chamber also addressed a strongly worded letter to the Government of India on 10-5-1930 demanding a revision of the present policy of the Government. The letter reiterates condemnation of the working of the Press Ordinance and asserts that the ordinary law affords ample provision for <sup>The</sup> Government <sup>to take</sup> ~~taking~~ action against papers inciting people to violence. It also condemns the alleged use of violence by police on civil disobedience volunteers and the general policy of arrests and imprisonment and asserts that these will do incalculable harm to the present and future interests of the country. It declares that an announcement by the Viceroy that the Indians will be masters in their own house is overdue at this stage. After criticising the arrest of Mr. Gandhi, the letter sounds a note of warning that while Mr. Gandhi "may be behind iron bars, the Gandhi spirit has come to stay. That spirit cannot be dealt with by repression but only by conciliation and that too in good time". In conclusion the letter demands that the Viceroy should immediately convene a conference of stable interests in the country, or if that is not possible the Viceroy should consent to receive a deputation representing the Chamber and allied commercial interests in the City of Bombay. (Times of India, 15-5-1930).

In response to invitations issued by the Indian Merchants' Chamber, Bombay, a conference of the different commercial interests of the City was held on 16.5.1930 at the office of the Chamber to consider the political situation, with Mr. Husseinbhoj Laljee the President of the Chamber in the chair. Mr. Laljee in his opening speech stated that the object of the conference was to arm the Chamber with the views of the entire Indian commercial community of the City, which may authoritatively help in their further negotiations with the Government, and not to pass any resolutions. In the general discussion that followed it became clear that the sense of the meeting was that the Chamber's representatives in the legislatures should be recalled and that the Round Table Conference should be boycotted unless Gandhi was invited to attend it. Sir Purshottamdas Thakurdas and Mr. Laljee Naranjee expressed their willingness to resign from the Assembly and the Bombay Council respectively.

The conference was attended by representatives of the following Associations:-

The Bombay Bullion Exchange, Ltd.,; British India Colonial Merchants' Association; Butter Merchants' Association; The Commission Agents' Association; The Cotton Brokers' Association; Cotton Merchants and Muccadams Association; Cut Piecegoods Merchants' Association; Deccan Merchants' Association; The Diamond Merchants' Association; The East India Cotton Association; Electrical Contractors Association; Electric Traders Association; English Bleached and Printed Piecegoods Merchants' Association; The Glass Bangles Merchants Association; Glassware Merchants' Association; Grain Dealers' Association; Grain Merchants' Association; Gum Merchants' Association; The Hindustani Native Merchants' Association; Income-tax Consultants' Chamber; Indian National Steamship Owners' Association; Insurance Brokers' Association; Insurance Companies' Association; Iron Merchants' Association; Kariana Merchants Association; Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce; Japan and Shanghai Silk Merchants' Association; Marwari Chamber of Commerce; Memon Chamber of Commerce; The Millowners Association; Motor Merchants' Association; Multani Piecegoods Merchants' Association; Native Piecegoods Merchants' Association; Native Share and Stock Brokers' Association; Rice Merchants' Association; Seeds Traders Association; Bombay Shareholders' Association; Bombay Shroff Association; Sugar Merchants' Association; Swadeshi Life Assurance Companies' Association; Woollen Piecegoods Merchants' Association; Yarn, Copper and Brass Native Merchants' Association; Coloured and Printed Piecegoods Merchants' Association; and Sholapur Merchants' Association. (Times of India, 22-5-1930).



Other Employers' Organisations and the Political situation.

The following employers' organisations have also expressed condemnation of the Government's policy by memorials, letters, or telegrams addressed to the Viceroy:-

The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce, (Hindu, 1-5-1930); the Indian Chamber of Commerce, Calcutta, (Hindu, 3-5-1930); the Cocanada Chamber of Commerce, (Hindu, 14-5-1930); the Bengal National Chamber of Commerce, (Hindu, 13-5-1930); the Buyers' and Shippers' Chamber, the Indian Merchants' Association, the Piece-Goods Merchants' Combination; the Import Grain Merchants' Association; the Commission Agents' Association - all of Karachi, (Hindu, 27-5-1930), and the South Indian Chamber of Commerce, (Hindu, 22-5-1930).

Two conspicuous effects of this definite swing of employers' opinion in favour of the nationalists' programme are an intensified campaign for the boycott of foreign cloth and the repudiation of contracts for the import of foreign cloth by Indian piece-goods merchants. These aspects are separately dealt with in the section of this Report dealing with economic conditions.

Workers' Organisations.All-India Railwaymen's Federation meeting  
with Railway Board.

At pages 28-31 of the report of this office for February 1930, reference had been made to the settlement arrived between the deputationists of the All India Railwaymen's Federation consisting of Messrs. Chaman Lall, Giri and Joshi and the Railway Board on behalf of the Government of India, one of the conditions of which was that the Railway Board would meet twice a year a deputation of the Federation to discuss important general questions. (See page 30, February 1930 report). The Railway Board has fixed 16 and 17-6-1930 as dates for the first meeting at Simla and the Board has agreed to the following subjects which have been suggested by the Federation being placed on the agenda for the meeting:-

The reply of the Railway Board to the Federation's demand with specific reference to new leave rules, hours of work, new rules regulating discharge and dismissal of railway servants; the revision of wages of the staff; the relations between the Union and the Administrations and facilities for encouraging Trade Unionism; and the re-instatement of the G.I.P. Railway strikers.

The feeling among railway employees is that though the items for discussion are only four, every one of them is a problem of momentous importance, and that on their satisfactory solution will depend a great deal the future of peace on the railways in this country. According to the M.S.M. Railwayman of June 1930 (Vol. I, No. 12), the new draft rules governing leave, hours of work, discharge and dismissals of railway servants, instead of improving matters and ensuring security of service and decent working conditions for the employees, have only served to introduce further complications and confusions. It points out that the new leave rules are anything but progressive, and that in some respects they are positively reactionary and warns the Railway

Board that considering the prevailing atmosphere and the temper of the railway workers, the Board would be well advised to modify the rules in a liberal and sympathetic spirit. Complaint is also made that despite the much talked of enforcement of the Geneva and Washington Conventions re: hours of work, a close study of the application of the convention would show that on many of the railway systems the spirit of the Conventions has been broken by convenient interpretations of the words "intermittent" and "continuous", and that many grades of workers are still being exploited in respect of hours of work. With regard to item 2, revision of the wages of the staff, opinion is unequivocally expressed that the present rates of pay which gives only 8 annas a day to a gangman and Rs. 17/8 a month to a junior clerk should be drastically revised. Re: item 3, the relations between Unions and Administrations, the workers demand that the Unions should not be recognised only on paper, but that the implications of such recognition should characterise the daily dealings of the Administrations with the Unions and also that a clean burial should be given to the Staff and Welfare Committees designed to drive a wedge through the workers' united ranks. The last item for discussion is the demand for reinstatement of G.I.P. Railway strikers. It is regarded that the Railway Board's attitude on this question will furnish an acid test of its sincerity and that sympathetic action on this demand will mark a turning point in the relations between railway workers and the Board and would go a long way to cement feelings of good will and cordiality.

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Intellectual Workers.

Pay and Status of Vakils' Clerks.

50

The Madras Provincial Conference of the Vakils' Clerks took place at the Sethupathi High School, Madura, under the presidency of Mr. M. S. Sesa Iyengar, B.A., Advocate, on the 7th and 8th May 1930. About 200 clerks attended the Conference, including over 80 delegates from other parts of the Presidency. After the Chairman of the Reception Committee had read his welcome address, Mr. Sesa Iyengar made a short speech in the course of which he expressed his deep sympathy with the aspirations of Vakils' clerks in the presidency in the matter of improvement of their emoluments and general status. He also gave them <sup>Sound</sup> ~~sound~~ advice as to how they could make themselves more useful in their profession with proper equipment.

The Conference then discussed a number of subjects. Eleven resolutions were passed. Of these, one related to the increase in the scale of pay of the clerks and it was recommended that the minimum salary of a vakil's clerk should be Rs.25 per mensem. It was also resolved that the civil rules of practice should be so amended as to include the fees payable to clerks along with the vakils' fees and other charges. Another resolution made it obligatory on the part of all vakils' clerks to always wear khaddar (Swadeshi cloth). Other resolutions for the better discipline of the clerks and the general improvement of their status were also passed.

(Hindu.- 12-5-30)

Economic Conditions.The Boycott movement and its economic consequences.

The Swaraj movement in the political field has as its counterpart the boycott movement in the economic ~~field~~ field. As the political movement is gaining strength in the country, the boycott movement is also increasing in intensity. Though the boycott is mainly directed against foreign cloth in general and British cloth in particular, the movement has also spread to other commodities, and to other spheres than those of textile goods. All indications go to show that the boycott programme will be accentuated rather than relaxed in the months to come. The movement, as is inevitable, has dislocated trade and industrial conditions to a considerable extent and is bound to have serious repercussions on labour conditions in India.

On 12-5-30 the Delhi Hindusthan Mercantile Association sent the following cablegram to the Chambers of Commerce at Manchester, Bradford, London, Leeds, Zurich, Roubaix, Yokohama, Hamburg, Milan, Vienna, Brussels and Prague.

"Considering the political situation, the Association has resolved that no indent will be placed for foreign cloth. All indents hitherto placed will be considered as cancelled, excepting goods which have already passed the customs. None will buy the cancelled or rejected goods directly or indirectly. Members or non-Members acting contrary to this decision will be boycotted. Please inform all concerned. Accordingly the shipping of any goods is strictly inadvisable."

It will be interesting to note in this connection that the Piece-goods Association, a body largely composed of importers of foreign cloth, also cabled to the various Chambers abroad warning all shippers and manufacturers that any goods shipped hereafter will in all probability not only be refused, but will also be unsaleable. The Association, therefore, felt that the

greatest caution was necessary for the future and no shipments should be made unless in consultation with the buyers.

The attitude of the European chambers, so far as is ~~km~~ shown by the various cablegrams received here, has been to regard the cancellations as impossible owing to manufacture being too far advanced. They have been insisting on the sanctity of contracts. At the instance of the Associated Chambers of Commerce the whole question was also considered by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce ~~the~~ and the Punjab Chamber of Commerce (Delhi).

The Bengal Chamber of Commerce, after consulting a sub-committee of the Piecegoods' Association, informed the London Chamber of Commerce that, in the best interests of the piecegoods importers here, shippers should act with extreme caution, having regard to the present position and should consult their buyers before making Shipments.

The present situation was very carefully considered by the Punjab Chamber of Commerce, While the Chamber agreed with the warning given by the Delhi Piecegoods Association, the general feeling was that an unconditional reference to buyers under the present conditions would almost inevitably result in the immediate cancellation of contracts. The Chamber, on the other hand, felt that shippers might safely allow a little latitude with regard to the period of delivery in order to obviate wholesale cancellation. The Chamber suggested that special facilities should only be extended to the question of the period of delivery, as in other respects shippers should exercise whatever precautions they think necessary. The Chamber also held that there was a number of what were termed first-class importers who were willing and

financially able to respect their contracts, and great hardship might be occasioned to such firms should a market condition arise which precluded them from obtaining deliveries. (Pioneer-15-5-30).

The Bombay Native Piecegoods Association, the Lahore Cloth Merchants' Association, and several associations of piece-goods merchants in different parts of the country have sent ~~similar~~ cables to the various British and European Chambers of Commerce with whom they have dealings, warning them against the shipment of foreign cloth to India. The Indian section of the ~~Max~~ Manchester Chamber of Commerce has replied that the Chamber cannot interest itself in political matters, but will insist on observing the sanctity of contracts.

The movement for the boycott of other articles of British manufacture than cloth is also making considerable headway. A telegram of 9-5-30 to the Hindu from its Bombay correspondent says that many Bombay firms are giving to American firms orders for motor tyres hitherto placed with British firms. With regard to cigarettes and soaps also many Bombay firms are placing orders with American instead of British firms. On 8-5-30 at a meeting held in Bombay under the auspices of the Punjab Krishna Association, the Multani Piecegoods Merchants' Association and the Multani Commission Agents' Association, the following resolutions were passed :-

The above Associations express their regret at Lord Inchcape's anti-Indian propoganda ~~in~~ and whereas Lord Inchcape is connected with the British Indian Steam Navigation Company, Ltd., the above associations resolve to boycott that company and not to load their cargo in its ships hereafter for Karachi line. The above associations also resolve to boycott foreign insurance companies and to insure their goods, etc., in the Indian ~~insurance~~ insurance companies hereafter. (Hindu.- 10-5-30).

Cottage Industries Committee Report, Madras.

At page 51 of the Report of this office for September 1929, reference had been made to the appointment by the Government of Madras of a Cottage Industries Committee, to recommend the steps to be taken to stimulate private effort in the organisation and development of the cottage industries of the Presidency. The Committee has recently submitted its report and the following are the principal recommendations made:-

The Committee recommends the amendment of the State Aid to Industries Act so that the embargo placed on cottage industries might be removed and might help considerably towards the resuscitation of industries languishing for want of financial aid. The Committee favoured the opening of more industrial schools and their gradual expansion. The Committee particularly welcomes the proposal for the appointment of an assistant registrar of co-operative societies to be attached to the Industries Department. The Committee supports the proposal to establish an emporium which will serve the purpose of a museum, an information bureau, a samples depot and a wholesale agency. The Committee agrees that a mechanical engineer should be appointed to evolve improved methods of appliances to be used by the cottage workers.

In order to give a stimulus to the textile industry, the Committee favours the purchase of appliances through the co-operative societies on the hire-purchase system. The ~~Committee~~ Committee resolves that there should be an addition of two more weaving parties in the districts apart from the party at Madras. With regard to hand-spinning the Committee has no objection to the introduction of spinning as a compulsory subject in all elementary schools in cotton areas. ~~The~~



The Committee agrees that Government might be requested to obtain, as far as practicable, their requirement of cloth from cottage workers.

The Committee suggests various ways for improving hand-weaving, woollen cumbly weaving, cotton carpet weaving, silk weaving and suggests that steps be taken to start silk farming in places where it is possible to grow the mulberry. With regard to the hosiery industry, the Committee opines that Government should purchase knitting machines and sell it to workers on the hire purchase system. The same suggestion is put forward in the matter of dyeing and printing. In regard to the mat industry, the Committee resolves that steps should be taken to afford facilities to mat-makers to procure korai on a large scale. The Committee thinks it is highly necessary that the coir industry should be popularised and that experiments conducted at Topputural should be extended to other parts of the Presidency. The Committee resolves that facilities be given to the manufacture of country paper in obtaining waste paper from Government offices and that information and advice be given to them to improve the quality of paper. In conclusion the Committee recommends the formation of a non-official Advisory Board to assist the Director of Industries in the improvement and development of cottage industries.

(Times of India, 5.5.1930).

Unemployment.Unemployment in the Punjab: Remedial Measures.

A Committee to enquire into and report on unemployment in the Punjab was appointed in 1927, and this Committee submitted its report in June 1928. (A copy of this Report has been forwarded with this Office's minute A 6/215/29, dated the 21st February 1929). The Report has recently been examined by the various departments of the Punjab Government and the conclusions of the Governor-in-Council on the Report have been published in the form of a Resolution in the Punjab Gazette dated May 23rd, 1930 (No. 21, pages 673-678). The following is a summary of the main findings of the Governor-in-Council:-

Extent and Nature of Unemployment.- The problem of unemployment is present and is a serious question in many countries - even in countries where industry and trade are highly organized and where a larger proportion of the people is specially equipped by educational or technical training for participation in professions, trades or industries, than is the case in the Punjab. As regards the extent of unemployment in this province the committee found that there was no evidence of serious or widespread unemployment among the uneducated classes; that there was very extensive unemployment among those of the educated classes whose education had been purely literary and who had proceeded to higher education through the anglo-vernacular course; that the profession of law was greatly overcrowded and that there was much unemployment among medical graduates; that there was no unemployment among graduates in agriculture and veterinary science or, generally speaking, in the engineering profession, where indeed there is a great shortage of properly qualified candidates except possibly in the higher ranks of the service, and that there was no unemployment in the teaching profession but that, that profession was likely to provide less employment in future for intermediates and matriculates. With these conclusions the Governor-in-Council acting with his Ministers is on the whole in agreement. He believes that the manual labourer can find ready employment and that the main problem for solution is that of unemployment among those who have received anglo-vernacular higher education.

Casuses of Unemployment.- As regards the causes of unemployment the committee's conclusions were that unemployment was due to the extension of education to classes which did not previously aspire to Government service, to aversion from manual labour among certain classes which previously constituted the bulk of the educated classes and to defects in the system of education which produces men suited, generally speaking, only for clerical occupations, renders boys unfit for their ancestral occupations and is generally regarded merely as an avenue to Government service or the profession of law. While

agreeing that there is much truth in these conclusions, the Governor-in Council is unable to accept them without qualification. He doubts whether it can be ~~said~~ said that there are any considerable classes of the people in this province who are deterred by aversion from manual labour from taking advantage of existing avenues of employment though there are no doubt many individuals in all classes who dislike manual labour in any form. Moreover, he cannot agree that the entire system of education in the Punjab suffers from the defects attributed to it by the committee, though he is inclined to agree that the system of anglo-vernacular secondary education is defective in that it involves in the words of the committee, "an enormous waste of time, labour, and money." An analysis of the matriculation, intermediate and degree examination results made in the Ministry of Education, strikingly confirms this conclusion and indicates that above fifty per cent. of the pupils at each stage should not in their own interests have attempted the course.

Remedial Measures.- As regards possible cures for unemployment the recommendations of the committee may be divided into two classes:- (a) recommendations for the reorganization of the educational system so as to prevent wastage among those who proceed to higher anglo-vernacular education and at an early stage to divert to practical occupations or to vocational training in technical or craft institutions a considerable proportion of those who, under the present system, emerge from their educational careers unemployed and ~~unemployable~~ unemployable, and (b) recommendations with regard to particular forms of employment. As regards class (a) the main recommendation of the committee is that higher education (i.e., presumably higher anglo-vernacular school and university education) should be reorganized so as to ensure that only those who are capable of benefiting by it and who would be subsidized if necessary by the State or those who are able to pay for it in full should receive it, while at the same time steps should be taken to ensure that the youths of all classes should be given opportunities of such education and training as will enable them to find useful and reasonably lucrative employment in spheres other than those for which the high school and university education prepares men. To carry out the first part of this recommendation would mean a very great enhancement of the fees charged in educational institutions accompanied by a most careful selection of those to be considered deserving of state assistance owing to their ability on the one hand and their lack of means on the other. The idea is at first sight attractive, as in this way not only would much of the present waste be eliminated, but those who can afford to pay would no longer receive education, as at present, at a fraction of its cost; but in the opinion of the Governor in Council it is not at this time within the sphere of practical politics to make so revolutionary a change, and even if public opinion were prepared to accept it, it is doubtful whether it would be possible to work the system satisfactorily in existing conditions in this province. He therefore considers that for the present the aim of Government should be not to prevent any who wish to go in for high school and university education from doing so, but to provide boys with more attractive and profitable opportunities of bettering themselves. It should be left to public opinion to discourage youths of a mental equipment not really suited to attempt the higher flights of education from embarking on more advanced studies. This is indeed the second part of the committee's recommendation.

Encouraging Vernacular Education.- In order to achieve the end in view it is necessary on the one hand to retain a much larger number of boys in the vernacular course and on the other hand to divert boys at an earlier stage from the anglo-vernacular course to practical occupations or to vocational training in technical and craft institutions. In both these directions considerable efforts are now being made by Government. The Committee has remarked upon the large field of employment in the teaching profession open to those who complete the full vernacular course, and for some years past it has been one of the main objects of the Ministry of Education to improve this course and bring it into touch with the ordinary conditions of rural life. The number of full middle and lower middle vernacular schools is being rapidly increased, and the courses and methods of instruction both in the schools themselves and the training institutions are being attuned to rural requirements. At the same time Government cannot deny to the rural classes reasonable facilities for anglo-vernacular education and the demand for this will continue so long as parents believe that it offers a better opportunity than vernacular education ~~for~~ for remunerative employment and for entry into Government service. One of the recommendations of the committee tending to the retention of larger numbers in the vernacular course and elimination of waste in the anglo-vernacular course was that greater use should be made in Government offices of well-educated vernacular clerks. This suggestion is being further examined as likely to be of some effect in future in preventing a certain number of youths from wasting their time on the anglo-vernacular course, but the immediate adoption of the recommendation on any considerable scale would, for the time being, merely aggravate unemployment in the class which at the moment is suffering most severely.

Vocational training facilities.- The diversion of boys to vocational training in technical and craft institutions postulates of course the existence of institutions to which they may be diverted. The committee has recommended that greatly expanded facilities should be provided for technical and industrial education, and this recommendation is in accordance with the policy of the Ministry of Education. The industrial schools, formerly in the charge of local bodies, upon which the committee commented adversely, have now all been provincialized and put on a proper basis. A new scheme of studies has been introduced and up-to-date equipment is being provided. Two or three new industrial schools are being added every year, and if finances permitted, the Ministry would wish to accelerate the rate of expansion. For more advanced technical training four first-class institutions, the Institute of Dyeing and Calico Printing at Shahdara, the Hosiery Institute at Ludhiana and the Weaving Institutes at Lahore and Amritsar, are already maintained and a Wood-Workers' Institute and Metal-Workers' Institute are under construction at Jullundur and Sialkot respectively. The suggestion of the committee that various minor industries such as soap-making, button-making, etc., for which trained men are in demand, could profitably be started if trained men were available, is under examination, and the Director of Industries has been directed to submit concrete proposals for the consideration of Government in respect of such of these industries as could without very great expense be introduced almost immediately. The enlargement of the Government School of Engineering at Rasul and of the Maclagan Engineering College at Lahore recommended by the Committee has been under consideration in the Ministry of Agriculture. At the same time Government has been exploring other possible means of arranging for technical and practical

training in mechanical engineering and a number of firms with large up-to-date workshops have expressed their willingness to take apprentices for training.

Training of Architects.- One of the specific recommendations made by the committee was for the creation of an institute for the training of architects, together with provision for the training of architectural draftsmen. This suggestion has been examined in the Ministry of Agriculture and the conclusion arrived at is that the time has not yet come for such an institution in this province as there is unlikely to be a demand for considerable numbers of trained architects, but that efforts should be made to encourage more Punjabis to make use of the Bombay School of Architecture.

Subsidies for Rural Medical Practitioners.- In order to provide a remedy for unemployment among medical graduates, the committee recommended that the system of subsidizing private practitioners in rural areas should be revived. An experiment of this nature was tried in 1922, but was not successful, and the Ministry of Local Self-Government is of opinion that no real advantage could be derived from a revival of the system. Even if it were successful, it would be only a temporary palliative of existing unemployment, and the Ministry considers that any further expenditure which Government is able to afford in connection with the extension of medical relief could more profitably be incurred on expansion of the existing programme of rural dispensaries and the modernizing and extension of the provincialized tahsil and district headquarter hospitals. On the other hand, the creation of a profession of trained chemists for the dispensing of drugs which has been recommended by the committee is a measure which commands the sympathy of the Ministry and the steps necessary to put it into practical effect are under consideration. The question is, however, a difficult one and may involve all-India legislation, so that no immediate decision can be expected.

Special Law Training.- The Committee made the suggestion that arrangements should be made for the training of graduates in law in the art of conveyancing. This recommendation has been communicated to the Punjab University. It is understood that the Law Faculty has accepted the underlying principle and has arranged for the Law College Council to draw up a scheme and to submit it to the Faculty for consideration.

A Commerce Course.- A degree course in commerce, for which a specially equipped college prepares students, has been recently established. It is too early to say whether the absorption of its products in the finance, commerce and trade of the province will result in a more generally beneficial and more highly organized industrial and commercial system in the province; it may well be that the leavening of the agencies employed in export, import and distribution by brains more highly trained in the technique of finance, trade and commerce may lead to a more general and thorough appreciation of the needs of the producer and consumer which may involve larger opportunities for service by the educated in the chain of connection between them than are now to be found; but the future is still uncertain.

Expansion of Co-operation.- The Committee has made the recommendation that the Co-operative Department should be expanded in order to foster co-operative production and distribution. In this connection

the Ministry of Agriculture observes that the history of co-operative production in Europe and in India has shown that, while co-operative effort is often successful in increasing the profits of an industry which is already organized on a satisfactory basis, it is very rarely successful in the case of industries not so organized and which have to meet the competition of large-scale industries. The same is true in regard to co-operative distribution. Endeavours have been made without success in most of the provinces of India to overcome the great difficulties in the way of distribution ~~of~~ on co-operative lines. The Ministry of Agriculture, however, is prepared to give a trial to any sound scheme of co-operative production or distribution.

Provision of Agricultural Facilities: Gentlemen Farmers.-

Attention has been drawn in the report of the committee and in the notes of dissent attached to the report to the desirability of providing facilities to educated youths to adopt agriculture as a means of livelihood. The Governor in Council is in agreement with the committee that there is wide scope for the application of new ideas to agricultural production and marketing and he would welcome the participation of educated youths in what must always be by far the most important industry of the province. There are numerous instances where educated men, either on their own land or on land leased from Government or private owners, have devoted their capacities to fruit, dairy or general tillage farming and by dint of superior mental alertness, greater resource and sounder and more economic methods of working have increased production and profits from the land to a pitch far above that attained by their neighbours who pursued more primitive and less well-informed customary systems. Standardization of produce and better marketing with such assistance as Government may be able to give, offer an equally wide field for the exercise of ~~initiative~~ <sup>initiative</sup> and intelligence. It is in intelligent youths turning their attention to the land, much of which still lies undeveloped or underdeveloped, that hope seems to centre.

Government's programme.- So far as Government is ~~concerned~~ concerned, it is clearly out of the question for it directly to increase employment by the expansion of posts in its own establishments. It can, however, by its action indirectly create or influence conditions which may open up wider fields for remunerative occupation; and much of its energies and activities are directed towards this purpose. It will continue to the best of its ability to expand the material resources of the province by the extension of irrigational facilities and by the development of sources of power, such as the hydro-electric project. It will pursue its policy of increasing production by concentration on agricultural research and demonstration. So far as resources permit, it will make progressive improvements in fostering vocational, technical and industrial education and in assisting industries, particularly those of the home type, by technical advice, co-operative organization and industrial loans. The extent to which use is made of the opportunities afforded, largely depends on the efforts of the people of the province to avail themselves of this.

(The Punjab Gazette, No.21, dated  
23.5.1930, pages 673-678).

having been assigned free and that no interest charges during the execution of the work be included, and that the reteable value as calculated above be accepted by the Municipality for assessment purposes.

In his latest report the ~~Superintendent~~ Superintending Engineer states that altogether 748 houses have been built in different localities at the cost of <sup>Rs. 931000</sup> ~~93-1 millions~~ against the sanctioned amount of Rs.1.0 millions. Three types of houses have been constructed. The cost ranges from Rs.2,000 to Rs.650 each, and the rent charged, from Rs.6/8 per mensem to Rs.2 per mensem. The demand for the new houses is said to be so great that no houses remain vacant in two localities and hundreds of applications are received as soon as new houses are put up.

Sir M. Visweswaraya, an ex-Dewan of Mysore and an expert engineer and town-planner, who has been entrusted by the Hyderabad State with the duty of drawing up a comprehensive report on the city improvement schemes that remain to be undertaken has stated in his report that the City Improvement Board proposes to spend a sum of Rs.1.0 millions a year on the construction of houses for the next five years. The Superintending Engineer is of opinion that the needs of the poor in this respect will be met by spending a sum of Rs.5.0 millions on this work. The average density of the population in Hyderabad City is 8761 persons per square mile or 14 persons to the acre. In slum areas the density goes up to 200 to the acre, and 50 persons to the acre is considered to be the average. It is proposed to provide accommodation for 20 persons out of every 50, per acre in such areas. At this rate in clearing 1200 acres of slum area provision will have been made for a population of 24,000. The number of houses built at an outlay of Rs. 5.0 million

-3-

will thus be about 5,000. These operations will have the effect of dishousing 30 persons for every 20 for whom new houses may be built at Government cost. Consequently, Sir Visvesvaraya has pointed out that it is important that all ~~the~~ people unhoused should have new buildings provided for them at their own cost, or in the case of the poor, at the cost of Government. Otherwise it will only mean that new slums will spring up in parts of the City where there are none at present.

(Times of India.- 30-5-30).



Co-operation.

Co-operation in Madras, 1928-29\*

The following facts about the progress of the Co-operative movement in the Madras Presidency are taken from the Annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies Act in the Presidency, for the period 1st July 1928 to 30th June 1929, submitted to the Government of Madras by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras :-

Number of Societies .- The Co-operative movement attained its silver jubilee during the year under review. The number of societies increased from 14,510 to 15,086 or by about 4 per cent during the year. Attention was paid more to consolidation than to expansion and so there was a decrease in the number of societies newly registered during the year, the figures for 1926-27, 1927-28 and 1928-29 being 1,455, 1,260 and 726, respectively. The number of members at the end of the year was 940,784 as against 891,031 in the beginning, the increase being 5.58 per cent, which gives an average of 64 members per society in the Presidency as in the previous two years. Of the total number of members, 562,298 were agriculturists, 277,545 were non-agriculturists and 100,941 were classed as persons having mixed occupations.

Growth of Working Capital .- The working capital of all societies rose from Rs.152.297 millions in 1927-28 to Rs.165.153 millions in the year under review. The total working capital of the movement, excluding the investments of one society in another amounted to Rs.90.869 millions as compared with Rs.82.094 millions in the previous year, and was made up as follows :-

	Millions.
	Rs.
Paid-up share capital ...	17.170
Deposits of individuals and institutions ...	61.877
Reserve fund ...	8.428
Loans from Government ...	3.394
Total ...	90.869

\* Annual Report on the Working of the Co-operative Societies Act, II of 1912 for the year 1928-29. Madras: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Press, 1930. Price, 1 rupee 6 annas pp 111+230.

The percentage of owned capital (share capital plus reserve fund) to working capital was 18.89 against 18.35 in the ~~xxx~~ previous year.

Agricultural Societies .- The number of agricultural credit societies increased from 11,966 to 12,382 representing an increase of 3.5 per cent against 8.78 per cent last year. With the exception of a small number (59) all are on the unlimited liability basis. Amongst the agricultural non-credit societies, there were 133 societies for purchase and for purchase and sale as against 127 at the beginning of the year. There was an increase in the trading activities of these societies, the value of stock sold being Rs.2,22,130 against Rs.1,55,777 in the previous year. A few of the societies undertook the sale of members' products for commission to the extent of Rs.5,67,031 against Rs.5,32,463 in the year 1928-29. The purchase of members' products also rose from Rs.1,53,315 to Rs.2,06,586. Fifteen milk supply societies were registered during the year bringing the total number of these societies to 35.

Non-agricultural societies .- The number of non-agricultural societies increased from 1,593 to 1,659 or by 4.1 per cent and the number of members rose from 232,190 to 246,592 representing an increase of 6.2 per cent. Of these societies, 1,144 were credit societies. Amongst the non-credit non-agricultural societies were 195 stores societies. The value of stock sold rose from Rs.2.338 millions to Rs.2.371 millions and the net divisible profit fell from Rs.55,105 to Rs.51,973. The net loss incurred by some societies increased from Rs.20,524 to Rs. 23,169 or by Rs.2,645. The proposals of the Registrar for the organisation of a central depot at Madras for the disposal of weavers' products on a large scale and the appointment of a business expert in that connexion are under the consideration of Government.

~~The number~~ Supervising and Audit Unions.- The number of supervising and audit unions increased from 392 to 416 during the year. Besides these, there were 3 propagandist unions, 25 district federations, and 5 co-operative training institutes. In addition to the recurring grant of Rs.1,200 to the Provincial Co-operative Union and Rs.1,000 to the Hood Co-operative Institute, Tanjore, for training union supervisors and recruits to co-operative service, 21 district federations were given a subsidy of Rs.1,000 each to enable them to conduct training classes for panchayatdars and office-bearers of rural societies. The Government have also sanctioned a subsidy of Rs.4,000 to each of the training institutes towards meeting the cost of running the courses and placed at the disposal of each a Sub-Deputy Registrar to superintend the classes. A class was opened in the Government Institute of Commerce, Madras, to impart instruction in Co-operation, Auditing, Banking and Book-keeping and a Deputy-Registrar was lent to the Institute as Lecturer on Co-operation.

Suits instituted :- The number of suits instituted in Civil Courts fell from 1,435 in 1927-28 to 1,026 in the year under review. 24,768 arbitration references were preferred as compared with 20,444 in the previous year. In regard to the question of expediting the execution of awards referred to in the review on the report for the previous year, the Government have directed that the existing arrangements should be continued for the present.

Among the various kinds of societies existing in the Presidency, special attention has to be drawn to Labour Contract Societies and Weavers' Societies, as these ~~kind of~~ societies are meant to serve the interests of labourers and hand-loom workers respectively. The following paragraphs indicate the salient points in their development:-

Labour Contract Societies .- There were 63 societies for labourers as against 60 societies in the previous year for the object of taking labour contracts and thereby to find work for their members. The total number of members in these societies were 3,781 of whom 3,165 were actual labourers, the remaining being helpers. The members include road makers, wood cutters, cartmen and field labourers. The societies had a paid up share capital of Rs.22,371 with a reserve fund of Rs.37,676. Only 33 societies secured contracts to the value of Rs.1,63,325 while they had at the beginning work pending execution to the value of Rs.1,71,833. They actually completed within the year work valued at Rs.2,28,665. A sum of Rs.94,618 was paid as wages. The remaining 30 societies did not do any work. It will thus be seen that nearly 50 per cent of the societies have not made any material progress during the year. Several of the societies have either not secured contracts or their work has not in the past been so satisfactory as to merit contracts being given to them. Patronage from public bodies and even from Government departments has not been encouraging. It can only be concluded that the powerful competition of private contractors has been so strong that the labour societies could not stand against them.

Weavers' societies .- There were 55 societies exclusively for weavers and 86 credit societies of which more than 60 per cent were weavers. Their working capital increased from Rs.1,52,413 to Rs.1,55,900 and the divisible profit from Rs.3,752 to Rs.4,669. The working capital in credit societies where more than 60 per cent of members were weavers rose from Rs.5,20,380 to Rs.5,53,284. The difficulties in developing co-operative activities among weavers and the progress made

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have been fully explained in detail in <sup>the</sup> ~~my~~ <sup>Submitted</sup> notes to the Textile Committee. It was pointed out that the main difficulties to be overcome were the indifference, ignorance and character of the weavers, difficulty in selling their products, the ~~vested~~ vested interests of master weavers, indebtedness of the weavers, their unbusinesslike methods and the rarity among weavers themselves of men capable of ~~a~~ running even the simplest society and that to overcome these it was necessary (1) by social and educational work to divert expenditure from toddy to more nourishing food, and to induce some desire for improvement, (2) to organize local co-operative societies with the real co-operation of weavers, not merely their passive acquiescence to provide an organization for providing yarn at the cheapest possible rates and to give small loans and to take over cloth not intended for local sale, (3) to organize a central depot for the disposal of their products on a large scale, (4) by technical advice and assistance to facilitate cheaper production, (5) by technical supervision to ensure uniformity of quality, and (6) by technical advice to facilitate the manufacture of cloth suitable for wholesale market. In regard to item (1) temperance propoganda has been started by the Government. In regard to the rest, application has been made to Government for the appointment of a Textile Business Expert.

Agriculture.

Programme of Agricultural Research: Advisory Board's Plan.

At pages 62-63 of the report of this Office for December 1929, reference has been made to the first session of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research held at Pusa from 7-12-1929 to 12-12-1929. The Advisory Board of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research is again to meet at Simla from 9-6-1930 to 12-6-1930 when several important and far-reaching schemes of agricultural research are to be discussed.

Schemes for the improvement of rice cultivation in the Central Provinces, for rice research and for the appointment of a plant breeding expert for rice in Burma, as well as for rice research in Bihar are set down for consideration almost at the commencement of the Board's meetings. Following these, there will appropriately be a general co-ordinated scheme for rice research to be examined. The recommendations of the Locust Committee, which has already issued no less than seven communiqués, will be reviewed and steps taken to meet the growing menace to crops.

The Board will also consider the question of appointment of a research officer at the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, to investigate the condition known as contagious abortion among domestic animals, and similar proposals for the appointment of a research officer for the investigation of tuberculosis and John's disease among animals, and a Protozoologist at Muktesar. The establishment of a veterinary institute in the Central Provinces is yet another item for discussions relating to veterinary matters. It is proposed to establish a bureau of agricultural intelligence in India and also a sub-station of the botanical section of the Pusa Institute at Karnal. The question of taking over by the Imperial Council of the contribution of the Government of India to the Bureau of Entomology will be gone into and the

Board will consider irrigation facilities for sugarcane growing and the proposal to award an annual prize for the most striking agricultural improvement of the year.

The resolutions passed at the Conference of Empire Meteorologists and at the International Meteorological Conference regarding agricultural meteorology will be discussed, and the Board will also consider the invitation to the Government of India for participation in the World's Grain Exhibition and a the conference to be held in Regina City in Saskatchewan Province from July 25 to August 6.

(Pioneer, 24-5-1930).

Migration.Indian Labour in Mauritius.

The Annual Report of the Protector of Immigrants in the Colony of Mauritius, for the year 1928 shows that 601 Indians consisting of 517 males and 84 females arrived at Mauritius ~~for~~ from India during the year under review. The number of Indians who left the Colony at their own expense was 1,589 whereas 367 souls comprising 270 males and 97 females were repatriated. The total Indian population in the Colony of Mauritius as at 31st December 1928, amounted to 281,025 souls, of whom 41,044 were housed on the estates. A large number of day labourers also reside on these estates. Out of the 41,044 persons housed on the estates, 15,593 were men, 10,976 women and 14,475 children.

According to the Report, the average daily number of labourers employed by the month and housed on the estates in the various districts of the Colony during the year, was 16,713. The largest number, 4,468, was employed by the estates in the Savane District. Taking the Colony as a whole, each male worker on the estates attended on 84.5 per cent. of the total number of working days during the year. For 0.5 per cent. of the days the worker absented himself with leave, for 13 per cent. of the days without leave and for 2 per cent. on account of sickness. On an average about 15.5 per cent. of the men were reported to have absented themselves from work on each working day. The average monthly earnings actually earned by these labourers was Rs. 13-7-8 as against a possible monthly average of Rs. 15-14-7. The average monthly earnings were highest in the Port Louis District where they amounted to Rs. 21-5-11 and lowest in the Savane District for which the average was Rs. 10-4-4.

The owners of the Estates provide for the accommodation and medical treatment of their servants in case of sickness. Fifty estate hospitals

were reported to have been maintained for the purpose during the year 1928 as against fifty-one in 1927. The death rates of the Indian population per 1000 persons on and off Estates during the year were 22.6 and 29.7 respectively, which would show that public health on the estates is better than in the rest of the Colony. Among the estate population alone, the birth rate was 35.16 per thousand and the proportion of still births to live births amounted to 9.84 per cent. The rate of infantile mortality was about 115 per 1000 births.

Out of the total arable land in the Colony, the area cultivated by Indians was 84,000 acres or 43 per cent., a similar per-centage of the total area under sugarcane also being cultivated by them. The immigrants and other Indians continue to hold the largest number of draft animals, carts and carriages for trade purposes and likewise the largest number of milch cows and goats. The number of Indians holding deposits in the Government Savings Bank was, on 30th June 1928, 16,323 and the total amount of these deposits was Rs. 23,01,577. Remittances to India through the Post Office during the year amounted to Rs. 212,352. The number of Indian children attending primary schools in receipt of Government grants during 1928 was 16,452 of whom 2,998 were girls.

(Labour Gazette, May 1930,  
Vol. IX, No.9, Bombay).