
Report for July, 1930.

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VDS.

General.

The general political situation in India during the month under review has taken a slight turn for the better, the most hopeful development being the notable effort for peace made by two leading Indian liberals, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. M.R. Jayakar. The economic situation in the country is, however, acutely distressing. The intensification of the political campaign, with its attendant phenomena of boycott of foreign goods and its corollary of repudiation of contracts, and boycott of British shipping companies, insurance firms and liquor shops, has created an unparalleled degree of dislocation of the economic life of the country.

A crisis of the first magnitude has ~~been~~ ^{been} precipitated in the textile industry of Bombay, where as the result of accumulation of stocks, fall in cotton prices, general trade depression and acute political tension, in addition to the Sassoon group of 10 mills, 14 more mills had to close down and many more mills ~~had~~ ^{had ~~been~~ *had been* compelled} to have recourse to short-time working. It is estimated that as the result of the industrial depression in Bombay about 70,000 mill operatives have been thrown out of work. Other industrial centres like Ahmedabad and Sholapur have been affected to a lesser extent by the crisis. In Calcutta, the jute industry is passing through very difficult times as the result of accumulation of stocks and trade depression, and employers have had to take a decision to reduce weekly working hours from 60 to 54.

The difficulties of the situation have been accentuated by a series of physical and other calamities. Severe earth-quake shocks were felt in Bengal on 4-7-1930 as a result of which great damage has been done to the railway and telegraphic communications and the crops of the province. In Western India, the province of Sind was visited by

heavy floods during the latter half ~~nd~~ of July, owing to which Karachi City was practically marooned for some days causing great dislocation to the trade of this busy port; Shikarpur, another town of the province had to be almost entirely evacuated, and immense harm was inflicted to the standing crops in the surrounding areas. On the North-West Frontier a new peril has materialised. The lawless Pathan population of the "no man's land" between India and Afghanistan, taking advantage of Government's preoccupation with the political situation, has launched a series of marauding expeditions into the North-Western Frontier districts of India. According to today's (13-8-1930) newspapers, a party of Afridi raiders has succeeded in isolating the strategically important city of Peshawar and are kept at bay only by the guns of the fort.

Such is the ^{acutely} ~~actively~~ distressing economic back-ground to the stagnation on which the grim political struggle ^{which is being carried on} ~~in the country~~. It is no doubt a right appreciation of the difficult times ahead for the country ~~if a halt is not called betimes to the policy of extremism~~ that has been responsible for the inducement of a better frame of mind in both parties. The political happenings of the past few months have enabled the Congress to demonstrate its strength, and the unfailing supply of recruits to replace those volunteers arrested by the authorities under one or other of the many new Ordinances has supplied positive proofs of the willingness of the nation to solidly support the Congress. The Government has evidently been impressed by the unassailable position of the Congress, and despite the repressive policy which it is still pursuing to maintain its prestige, is disposed more and more to tender the olive branch, so that before the Round Table Conference opens in London on the 20th October the present unseemly tug of war between the Government and the Congress might cease, and at least a pretence

of united backing might be ensured for the London Conference.

This chastened mood of the Government ~~is~~ is attributable to two causes, first, the real desire evinced by Lord Irwin to restore peace in the country and to dissociate himself and his government from the odium attached to a policy of repression, secondly, the fear that the government is in imminent danger of losing the support of its few remaining friends in the country, of the Liberal Party and of the various Muslim groups. It has to be noted in this connection that the liberals have all ~~the~~ along been registering emphatic protests against the repressive policy of the Government, and that certain representative Muslim organisations holding their meetings at Simla during the period under review condemned the Simon Report, while accepting certain specific recommendations made by the Commission.

The main feature of the first half of July has, therefore, been the launching of a concerted "peace offensive", which opened ~~it~~ with an important speech by the Viceroy to a joint session of the Assembly and the Council of State, and was followed up by a barrage of manifestoes issued by prominent Assembly Members, by certain leading liberals and by several moderate organisations. Simultaneously with these Simla efforts, the Governor of Bombay had been holding a miniature Round Table Conference in Bombay representative of various interests, mainly with a view to woo and win over "big business" to the side of the Government. The most notable of the overt peace efforts has been an offer on the part of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar to interview unofficially Gandhi and the two Nehrus in jail, an offer which has been gratefully accepted by Lord Irwin, scrupulous care having been taken by the two peace emissaries to keep the prestige of the Government intact by the ostentatious assurance "we do not profess to

represent Government or any party in taking this step. If we fail in our attempt the responsibility will be ours". Thus, at present, the Liberals are holding the stage in their accustomed rôle of peace-makers, but considering the known stubbornness of the younger Nehru and the immense reserves of tenacity of which Gandhi is capable when occasion demands, there is very little ground for optimism about the success of this eleventh hour attempt to patch up peace.

On 9-7-1930 the Viceroy made a notable speech before a joint session of the Legislature which may be regarded as a heroic gesture for peace and as a final restatement of the Government's position with regard to the many important issues involved in the present struggle. Lord Irwin reiterated that his pronouncement of November last stands, and reaffirmed that the attainment of Dominion Status was the natural completion of India's political growth. With regard to the Round Table Conference, it was stated that the Conference would enjoy unfettered freedom to approach its task, greatly assisted indeed, but with liberty unimpaired by the report of the Simon Commission or by any other documents which will be before it. The assurance being given that any agreement reached by the Conference would form the basis of the proposal which would later be submitted to Parliament, Lord Irwin appealed to all schools of Indian political thought to support the Conference and thus confound the pessimism which was entertained in certain quarters about the usefulness of such a conference. Regarding the civil disobedience movement, the Viceroy gave the warning that so long as the movement persisted, the Government would fight it with all its strength, as whatever may be the spirit animating many of its adherents, such a movement was bound to do the country immense harm. Lord Irwin

concluded with an appeal that saner counsels may prevail and that Indian leaders should choose the paths of peace.

Lord Irwin's speech has had a great effect. Many, with whom perhaps the wish is father to the thought, interpret the speech as a committal on the part of the Viceroy to a scheme of Dominion Status with temporary transitional safeguards, which is the maximum that Indian nationalists have been asking for. "Rally round the Viceroy" is thus the slogan of the movement and there has been a steady output of manifestoes urging upon the country the supreme wisdom of such a course. A statement issued on 9-7-1930 over the signatures of ^{Mr}Jayakar, Mr. Jinnah, Sir C.P. Sethna, Sir C.P. Ramaswamy Iyer, Mr. Natesan, Mr. Shanmukham Chetty, Mr. Mody and Mr. Fazal Rahimtulla, urge participation in the Conference by the Congress as the Viceroy's speech made it clear that the Simon Recommendations will not be the last word on the subject of reforms and thus it is still possible to achieve a Dominion Status constitution. The manifesto demands that the Government should immediately repeal the emergency measures that have been recently enacted and that an unequivocal offer of amnesty should be extended to all political prisoners not guilty of any acts of violence. At the same time it makes an appeal to the Congress to abandon its programme of non-co-operation and civil disobedience and solicits the Congress group to attend the London Conference.

Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru in a separate statement made to the press on the same date makes an appeal of an identical nature and asserts that if the desire for peace which is so fervently avowed by both sides is to be taken as genuine, it will have to be implemented by a revision of policy, on both sides, irrespective of any false considerations of prestige. This has been followed by a similar appeal issued by the

Western India Liberal Association, of which, it may be mentioned, Sir Chimanlal Setalvad is the leading light.

It is idle to chronicle further instances of favourable responses to the Viceroy's ~~plan~~ peace gesture on the part of moderate groups; what is more to the point is to record the reactions in Congress circles to the new move. So far, no notable Congress leader has committed himself on the point, such reticence, no doubt, being the result of the feeling that the lead on so important a question should come from the triumvirate behind prison bars, of Gandhi and the two Nehrus. The only mentionable exception is the Hindu which says "Once again at a critical juncture Lord Irwin has made a sincere and manful attempt to find a way out, of the present tragic impasse" but qualifies praise with an expression of regret that even in a speech conceived with such high purpose Lord Irwin has found occasion to deal with the activities of the Congress in terms of "needless acerbity". The lack of immediate and adequate response from the Congress has doubtless been the occasion of a notable offer on the part of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar in a letter on 13-7-1930 to the Viceroy to the effect that permission should be accorded to them to interview the three imprisoned leaders and urge them in the interests of the country to make suitable response to the Viceroy's appeal. As had been stated before, the mission is an entirely self-imposed one and the clearest assurances have been given that the Government would not be compromised in the ~~least~~ least degree by the action of these go-betweens. Lord Irwin replied on 16-7-1930 welcoming the offer and according Mr. Jayakar and Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru the necessary permission.

The interview of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Mr. Jayakar with Gandhi took place at Yeravada Jail on 23-7-1930. The conversations lasted four hours. Mr. Gandhi, it is stated, was fully aware of the situation in the country and so the discussion turned round to what would be the future course of action in view of the Viceroy's recent pronouncement. As the greatest secrecy has been kept about the proceedings, it is impossible to indicate what transpired at the interview. The Times of India of 29-7-1930 says that Gandhi was prepared to reconsider his own and the Congress's decision not to participate in the Round Table Conference, but that prior to doing so he wanted at least some sort of assurance from His Excellency the Viceroy that the latter would meet his (Mr. Gandhi's) demands. All this is, however, daring speculation. What is definitely known is that the interview proved inconclusive and that Gandhi referred the peace emissaries to the two Nehrus in Naini Jail. Sapru and Jayakar then proceeded to Naini where they had two long interviews with Pandit Motilal and Pandit Jawaharlal on 27 and 28-7-1930. After their interview with the Nehrus the following statement was issued jointly by Sapru and Jayakar: "We again interviewed Pandit Motilal Nehru and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in the Naini Jail today and had four hours' conversation with them. We placed before them all the facts in our possession and discussed the situation with them at length. They have given us a note and a letter for Mahatma Gandhi and Mr. Jayakar is taking the same tomorrow morning to Poona via Bombay. At this stage we are not in a position to make any further statement!"

Perhaps the peacemakers did not find the two Nehrus on all fours with Mr. Gandhi, or again, it may be that some points in the latter's letter seemed to them to require amplification or amendment.

Mr. Jayakar proceeded to Yeravada bearing Pandit Motilal's letter to Gandhi and interviewed him a second time on 31-7-1930 and 1-8-1930. After the interview, Mr. Jayakar issued the following statement to the press: "I have for the present finished my talks with Mahatma Gandhi. Sir Tej Bahadur and myself will now await His Excellency the Viceroy's decision on the proposal we have made to him about bringing Pandit Motilal and Pandit Jawaharlal to Yeravda for consultations with Mr. Gandhi. I think it inadvisable to say anything more at this stage". (Pioneer, 2-8-1930).

The Viceroy agreed to the suggestion to bring about a joint consultation between the two Nehrus and Gandhi and accordingly the Nehrus left by special train for ~~Yeravda~~ Yeravda on 10-8-1930. It is understood that conversations took place between them on 12 and 13-8-1930. At the moment of writing, the talks are still proceeding. Besides Gandhi, the two Nehrus, Sapru and Jayakar, it is understood, Vallabhai Patel, present president of the Congress, was also present at the meetings. The restoration of a peaceful atmosphere and the fate of the London Conference now depend upon the result of these peace-parleys, and at present it is impossible to predict what response would be given by the congress leaders.

The summer session of the Assembly lasted from 7th to 18th July. The party groupings of the attenuated house is as follow: Nationalists who form the official opposition 22, Independents - 16, Swarajists -11, Central Moslems - 13, European Group - 11, and the balance - non-party men and government and nominated members. As was anticipated Maulvi Mohammed Yakub was elected President, his rival, Dr. Nandlal, securing only 22 votes.

The proceedings were on the whole tame. There were bitter attacks on the police and an unusual number of adjournment motions, but the general volume of constructive criticism was not large. The three days' discursive debate on the grant for the expenses of the Round Table Conference was the principal event of the session, which otherwise has to its credit a number of Bills, only one of which, Mr. M.R. Jayakar's Hindu Gains of Learning Bill, produced any controversy and even this went through without a division. The constitutional debate was for the most part rambling and disappointing.

Two matters of special interest to the I.L.O. came up before the Assembly on ~~the~~ 14-7-1930. The first was a resolution moved by the government to the effect that the Government should examine the possibility of giving effect to the Convention and two Recommendations adopted by the 12th I.L.Conference re: protection of workers against accidents and that the results of this examination should be placed before the Assembly within 18 months. The second resolution recommended to the Governor General in Council that India should ratify the Convention concerning the marking of weight on heavy packages transported by vessels adopted by the 12th Conference. Both resolutions were adopted. (The full text of the debates on these two resolutions are reproduced elsewhere in this report). Identical resolutions on the same subjects were adopted~~d~~ by the Council of State on 15-7-1930.

The summer session of the Council of State began on 9th July and ended on 18th July. On 14-7-1930, Sir Pheroze Sethna moved that steps should be taken to give effect to the recommendations of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations last year. (A fairly full summary of the speeches of Sir P. Sethna and Sir Brojendra Mitter, are given elsewhere in this report).

The life of the Legislative Assembly ^{terminated} expired constitutionally on the 31st July, while the Council of State, which could continue up to February 1931, was dissolved by the Viceroy on 22-7-1930. Fresh elections have been ordered ~~for~~ and 30th September 1930 has been fixed as the final date for elections to both houses. All Provincial Councils, except those of Bengal and Assam, have also been dissolved and elections to these councils are going on at present. The Congress has taken up the attitude of strongly boycotting the legislatures, both central and provincial.

Lord Irwin's term of office as Viceroy is ~~fast~~ drawing to a close. Speculation is rife in political circles as to who would succeed him. There is strong feeling in favour of a second term of office for Lord Irwin, partly because he has gained the confidence of India and partly because of the feeling that it is unwise to change horses when crossing a stream. It is realised that there are certain factors in the situation which may militate against a second term of office for Lord Irwin, though it is presumed confidently that such an invitation will be extended to him.

It is being said that, should Lord Irwin not continue in office, the choice of the Marquess of Zetland, well-known and well-liked in India as Lord Ronaldshay, would meet with a general measure of approval.

The full personnel of the Indian Delegation to the September Session of the Assembly of the League of Nations has been announced. It will consist of His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner, Nawab Sir Zulfiqar Ali Khan and Sir W Ewart Greaves with Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadhicary, Sir Denys Bray and Sir Jehangir Coyajee as substitute delegates.

The personnel of the Indian Delegation to the September 1930 session of the Imperial Conference, London, has also been announced. India will be represented at the Conference by His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, His Highness the Maharaja of Bikaner and Sir Muhammad Shafi. Sir Geoffrey Corbett and Sir Pestonjee Ginwala will be attached to the delegation as substitute delegates, especially on the economic side.

12

Labour Representation in the Legislatures:

Simon Report Recommendations.

At pages 10 to 17 of the Report of this office for June 1930 has been given a general summary of the report of the Indian Statutory Commission on Indian Reforms. Below are given the main recommendations of the Simon Commission regarding the representation of Indian labour on the legislatures to be constituted hereafter:-

"We have made careful inquiries with a view to making adequate arrangements for the representation of labour employed in large-scale industry in various parts of India, but no readymade solution is available. Mr. Whitley's Commission (the Royal Commission on Labour in India, under the chairmanship of the Right Hon. Whitley) will doubtless throw more light on a very obscure problem. Our own investigations go to show that even where a registered trade union exists in India, its executive is not in most cases so closely representative of the workmen for whom it speaks as would be the case in Britain. Moreover, Indian labour is not for the most part organised for purpose of collective protection and in many places no effective machinery for selecting a spokesman exists. We have been much interested to learn of an experiment recently undertaken in addition to the municipal Corporation of Bombay four councillors chosen by an "electoral college" of delegates who are elected by the members of registered trade unions. The number of delegates elected by each union is proportional to the strength of the union. Only those who reside in Bombay City and have been members of a registered trade union for six months may vote, and candidates for the post of delegate, as well as candidates for the councillorship, must be on the list of voters. Only one election, in which several registered trade unions did not participate, has so far taken place under this scheme. It is at present too early to draw

any conclusions from this experiment; but it is doubtful whether it will succeed in securing the selection of men who are genuine representatives of labour.

The best suggestions we can make is that in every province the Governor should have the duty of drawing up rules for securing, by the means which in existing circumstances are the best available, labour representation. If the Governor finds that for the present he must still resort to nomination, he should consider whether there are suitable labour organisations which he might consult before making his choice. Ultimately, the solution of the whole problem will be found in a much greater lowering of the franchise than is practicable at present, and, when this stage is reached, special representation will, we trust, become unnecessary. But in the meantime there is no alternative, and we attach much importance to the greatest care being taken and the utmost effort ^{being} made to secure as special representatives of labour, men who really have the confidence of their fellows and have shared their experiences. If suitable members are available, we should like to see the proportions of labour representation not only maintained but increased.

One of our number (Major Attlee) considers that there should be no special representation for particular interests whether commercial or labour. He thinks that the former should obtain adequate representation through the general constituencies and believes that the introduction of adult suffrage in certain specific areas such as the Presidency towns and other industrial areas is already practicable and would enable the wage earners to influence through their votes the return of members favourable to their interests. Instead of preserving special seats for European commerce, planting and mining interests, he would suitably increase the number of seats representing Europeans generally".

(The Trade Union Record, June & July 1930).

Views of Mr. V. V. Giri .- I am appending the views of Mr. V. V. Giri, General Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation and Indian Workers' Delegate to the ^{10th} session of the International Labour Conference regarding the Simon Commission's Report given in the course of a statement to the press :-

When the Royal Statutory Commission was appointed, for more reasons than one, the workers rightly boycotted it, as the constitution of the Commission was a negation of the principle of self-determination and the Chairman was considered to hold reactionary views against Labour. Even the farce of the present so-called Fiscal Autonomy has been repudiated as being constitutionally unsound.

The demand for Adult Franchise has been rejected as being "impracticable", while communal electorates are to be perpetuated. Burma is also to be a separate entity. The result of accepting such a recommendation, from the view-point of Labour, would be disastrous, as this would pave the way for divergency of Labour Legislation both within India and Burma, leaving Labour in politically weak areas unprotected. The Central Legislature is to be a replica or Subcommittee of the communal provincial legislatures.

A mockery of Provincial Autonomy in the face of over-riding powers of the Governors with their nominated Ministries and the perpetuated "Civil Service" irresponsible to elected representatives has been suggested. Workers, whether agricultural or industrial, who constitute the bulk of the population of India, can have nothing to do with a scheme of constitutional reform ~~xxx~~ which ignores the principle of self-determination and no greater condemnation of the Simon Report can be furnished than in its own words "steps should be taken to break a union which does not rest on common interests."

References to the I.L.O.

The Pioneer of 2-7-1930 publishes a Reuter's cable to the effect that Mr. S.C. Joshi's motion in the Conference in favour of convening a special Conference of Asiatic countries on labour conditions has been lost for want of a quorum. (The other important papers published the news in June).

The Labour Gazette of Bombay of July 1930 (Vol. IX-No.11) publishes at page 1118 the news of the turning down of Mr. S.C. Joshi's proposal regarding the Asiatic Labour Conference. The same news is published also in the New India of 3-7-1930 (Vol. IV - New Series No.14) at page 15.

The Hindu of 4-7-1930 publishes a long letter dated 18-6-1930 from its Geneva correspondent reviewing the progress of the 14th session of the Conference, the work before the session with special reference to the attitude of the Indian Delegates to the items on the agenda, and finally the speeches of Messrs. Joshi and Ojha during the discussion of the Director's Report and Sir A.C. Chatterjee's rejoinder to them.

The speeches of Messrs. Joshi and Ojha continue to receive good publicity in the Indian Press. (The texts of the speeches of Messrs. Ojha and Joshi have been supplied to all important Indian news-papers by this Office).

The Times of India of 8-7-1930 publishes copious extracts from the speech of Mr. Joshi in the discussion which ensued the presentation of the Director's Report.

"The Indian Post" of July 1930 (Vol. I - No.1) publishes in full the speech of Mr. S.C. Joshi in the discussions on the Director's Report. The Labour Gazette of Bombay of July 1930 (Vol. IX, No.11) also publishes at pages 1119-1120 Mr. Joshi's speech.

The Servant of India of 3-7-1930 (Vol.XIII - No.27) in its Editorial columns comments on the speeches of Messrs. Joshi and Ojha and justifies the references to domestic politics in the course of their speech on the ground that the present political movement has many aspects which profoundly affect the welfare of labour.

The Hindu of 12-7-1930 publishes a long letter dated 24-6-1930 from its Geneva correspondent on the Director's speech, referring particularly to his references to India. The letter also deals with the progress of the conference in a detailed manner.

The Servant of India (Poona) of 31-7-1930 (Vol. XIII - No. 31) publishes an editorial comment on the Director's speech in reply to the discussion on the Report presented by him to the Conference.

The Pioneer of 15-7-1930 publishes the news of the rejection by the Conference of the two amendments proposed by Mr. Latifi, ^{Substitute} Indian Government Delegate, to the Draft Convention on Forced Labour. The same article publishes the news of the acceptance of the addition of a clause to the recommendation re: Forced Labour proposed by the Indian Workers' Delegate aiming at the protection of workers recruited for forced labour from the temptation of alcoholic liquors.

The Hindu of 17-7-1930 publishes a long article from its Geneva correspondent reviewing the work of the 14th I.L. Conference.

Other articles reviewing the work of the 14th session appear in the Servant of India of 17-7-1930 (Vol. XIII - No.29) and the New India of 31-7-1930 (Vol.IV-New Series No.18).

The Labour Gazette of Bombay of July 1930 (Vol. IX No.11) publishes in its "Month in Brief" column the news of the adoption by the Conference of the Draft Convention on the Hours of Work of Salaried Employees. The same issue publishes at pages 1144 to 1160 a summary

of the replies of the Government of India to the Questionnaire on Forced Labour as well as the text of the Draft Convention on the subject.

Another reference to the 14th session of the I.L. Conference appears in the Servant of India of 10-7-1930 (Vol. XIII, No.28) where a long article on the Director's Report to the Conference is published. The New India of 3-7-1930 (Vol. IV, New Series No. 14) makes a reference to the adoption of the Draft Convention re: the 8-hour day and 48-hour week.

... ..

The Labour Gazette, Bombay, in its July 1930 issue (Vol. IX No.11) publishes at pages 1114 to 1118 extracts from the Report of the Government Delegates to the 13th International Labour Conference.

... ..

The Legislative Assembly as well as the Council of State passed resolutions re: the convention for the protection of workers against accidents and re: the convention concerning the marking of weight on heavy packages transported by vessels. The discussions on the resolutions in the Legislative Assembly are reproduced in the section of this report dealing with National Labour Legislation.

... ..

The Indian Post of July 1930 (Vol. I, No.1), the official organ of the All-India (including Burma) Postal and R.M.S. Union, publishes at pages 5-10 a long article under the caption "Co-ordinating Social Progress — the I.L.O. and India" contributed by the Director of this

this Office. The object and achievements of the I.L.O., its contributions towards the amelioration of the conditions of work manual workers and clerical classes, its influence on the movement, and the Geneva conventions ratified by the Government of India, are some of the points emphasised in the article.

... ..

A long article on the "13th Maritime session of the Conference" contributed by Prof. C.A. Krishna Murti, M.A., is published at pages 293-296 of the Indian Educator (Madras) 1930. The article concludes with the following statement:- of the fact that the report has blessed the conference as a successful one', one is forced to make an honest declaration after careful perusal of the report that it has not been quite so successful in Asiatic countries in general, and India in particular, are. The intervention of the League of Nations is most called for in such cases. Otherwise it is only the latest addition to the list of organisations called into existence with glorious and sounding names but of questionable benefit and help to the countries in need of them".

... ..

Sir Phiroze Sethna ^{moved} introduced in the Council of State the following resolution regarding the Report of the Indian Delegation to the League of Nations in 1929.

"That this Council recommends to the Governor General that steps should be taken to give effect to the recommendations in their report by Sir Muhammad Habibullah and other members of the Indian Delegation to the session of the League of Nations last year."

In his speech moving the resolution, Sir ^{Pheroz} Sethna explained the reasonable nature of each of the recommendations in the Report (See pages 8-11 of the report of this Office for the month of March 1930) and laid stress on the necessity to take early steps to carry out the recommendations.

Sir Brojendra Mitter, Law Member, Viceroy's Executive Council, replied on behalf of the Government. In his speech he emphasised the following points :-

The Government were giving effect to some recommendations. They were unable to accept other recommendations at present, but were not unsympathetic. The Indian delegation under the existing constitution received instructions from the Secretary of State, who had a constitutional right of supervision over the delegates. The Secretary of State was indeed a nexus between British ~~and~~ India and the States and as such had a controlling authority. So long as the States were not represented in the Central Legislature, the Indian delegation could not be under the control of the Central Legislature. India was no doubt an original member of the League, but her delegates derived authority not from the representatives of the people in the Central Legislature, but from the Secretary of State and to that extent her position and influence in the League were impaired. India was on the eve of constitutional revision and therefore this was not the proper time for India to press upon the League for a seat on the Council, for it might meet with a rebuff and might prejudice India's claim in the future. Such being the case, this was also not the time to press for the location of permanent representatives at Geneva. Regarding the appointment of Indians in the League office, this question was purely within the discretion of the Secretary General and if they kept up pressure, India might get her due, but the Government of India could not take steps directly. Concluding Sir B. L. Mitter, requested Sir P. Sethna to realise the dilemma in which he would be placing Government if he pressed the resolution.

Sir P. Sethna withdrew his resolution, after emphasising that it should not be difficult to secure from those once selected ^{an undertaking} that they would be prepared to act as delegates for at least two or three years. He accepted the assurance of Sir B. L. Mitter that the Legislative Department had the machinery required now for dealing with League matters. Regarding permanent representation at Geneva, he appreciated Sir B. L. Mitter's advice to wait till 1932, when the constitution might be revised. He was glad Sir B. L. Mitter realised ~~it~~ the inferior position now occupied by India and trusted that he would strengthen the hands of the Viceroy in his fight for Dominion Status. Concluding, Sir P. Sethna criticised the latest speech of Mr. Winston Churchill against Dominion Status within the life time of the present generation, when he was pulled ~~up~~ up by the chair on the ground of irrelevancy. Sir P. Sethna wound up by stressing the

opinion that if Dominion Status was not to be obtained within the life time of the present generation, then India should sever her connection with the League of Nations.

(Summarised from Council of State Debate
of 14-7-30, Vol. II - Nos 3, pages 101-119)

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The Annual Report of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain for the year ending 31st March 1930 a copy of which has been forwarded to this Office contains at pages 12-14 three references to I.L.O. (1) the Chamber's protest against the appointment of Mr. Browne as an Advisor to the Indian Employers Delegation to the 13th I. L. Conference. (2) the Chamber's protest against certain "insinuation" made by Sir Geoffrey Corbett before the Credentials Committee of the same Conference regarding the formation of an Indian Chamber of Commerce at Calcutta in competition with the Bengal Chamber of Commerce as well as against his statement that Mr. Browne was connected with the British India Steam Navigation Company which was in competition with the Scindia Steam Navigation Company. (3) finally the protest of the Chamber against the "arbitrary and unfair manner" in which the I. L. O. refused to correct the mistake in translation of ^{the letter of} Mr. Erulkar, the Secretary of the Chamber, ~~the letter~~ to the Credentials Committee

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In the recently published Proceedings of the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industries which was held at Delhi on 14, 15, and 16-2-30 (a summary of which appears at pages 39-45 of the report of this office for February 1930), ^{the} Resolutions and the ensuing discussions concerning the choice of Mr. ~~B~~ Brown as Advisor to the Indian Employers' Delegate for the 13th I.L. Conference and certain statements made by him in the conference appear at pages 39-58 of the Proceedings. A copy of the Report of the Meeting has been sent to Geneva with this Office's minute D1/1130/30 dated

A communique issued by this Office summarising the references to India in the speech made by the Director in reply to the discussion on the annual report presented by him to the 14th Conference, was published in the Pioneer of 25-7-30 and other important papers (The cutting from the Pioneer has been forwarded to Geneva with this Office's minute H.2/1133/30 dated the 24th July 1930)

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The Pioneer of 25-7-30 publishes a long communique issued by this Office explaining the genesis of the ~~Ann~~ Asiatic Conference idea. The cutting from the Pioneer has been forwarded with this Office's minute H.2/1133/30 dated the 24th July 1930.

National Labour Legislation.

Amendment of Madras Trade Union Regulations, 1927.

(Procedure re removal of office of registered trade union).

The Fort St. George Gazette, Madras, dated the 22nd July 1930 publishes at page 1040 (Part I) the following amendment of the Madras Trade Union Regulations made by the order of the Governor in Council, Madras:

Fort St. George, July 12, 1930

(G.O. No. 2035 L).

No. 331.- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 29 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926), read with section 21 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), the Governor in Council is pleased to direct that the following amendment shall be made to the Madras Trade Union Regulations, 1927, the same having been previously published as required by section 30 of the said Act:-

Amendment.

To clause (3) of regulation (11) of the said Regulations the following proviso shall be added, namely:-

"Provided that, if the name of the Trade Union the head office of which has been so transferred 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 such Trade Union to change its name and shall refuse to act under clause (2) until such change has been made".

(Fort St. George Gazette, 22-7-1930,
page 1040. Part I).

The full text of Regulation 11 of the Regulations made by the Government of Madras under Section 29 of the Indian Trade Unions Act,

1926 (XVI of 1926) is given below:-

"11. (1) The Registrar, on receipt of a notice of removal of the registered office to another province, shall forward to the Registrar of the province to which the head office of the trade union has been transferred, a copy of all the entries contained in the register prescribed by regulation 4 and a copy of the rules of the union with all amendments thereto.

(2) The Registrar of the province to which the head office of the trade union has been transferred shall thereupon enter in his register the particulars relating to the trade union and shall certify the fact of such registration on the certificate issued under regulation 5. The Secretary of the Union shall present the certificate to the Registrar for the purpose.

(3) The procedure prescribed in clause (2) above shall be followed in respect of a trade union whose head office has been transferred to this province."

Proposed amendment of Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927.

(Procedure re. removal of office of registered trade union

The Calcutta Gazette dated the 3rd July 1930, publishes at page 1011 (Part I) the following draft of an amendment of the Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927:

No. 1122F.Com.- 25th June 1930.- The following draft of an amendment, which, in exercise of the power conferred by section 29 of the Indian Trade Unions Act, 1926 (XVI of 1926), the Governor in Council proposes to make in the Trade Union Regulations, 1927, published with notification No. 2188Com., dated the 24th March 1927, as subsequently amended, is published as required by sub-section (1) of section 30

of the said Act for the information of persons likely to be affected thereby.

The draft will be taken into consideration on or after the 9th October 1930, and any objections or suggestions which may be received by the undersigned before that date will be duly considered:-

Draft amendment.

For regulations 10(2) of the said regulations, the following shall be substituted, namely:-

"10(2). The Registrar, on receipt from the Registrar of another province of a copy of the entries contained in the register maintained under section 8 of the Act in respect of a Trade Union the head office of which has been transferred to Bengal, shall enter the particulars in his register and shall notify the fact that he has done so to the Secretary of the Trade Union.

Provided that, if the name of the Trade Union, the head office of which has been transferred to Bengal, 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 head office to alter its name, and shall refuse transfer until such alteration has been made".

E.N. Blandy,

Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.

(The Calcutta Gazette, 3-7-1930, page 1011, Part I)

The following is the text of Regulation 10 of Bengal Trade Union Regulations, 1927:-

10 (1) The Registrar, on receipt of a notice of removal of the registered office to another province, will forward to the Registrar

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of the province to which the head office of the Trade Union has been transferred, a copy of all the entries contained in the register prescribed by regulation 4 of these regulations.

(2) The Registrar of the province to which the head office of the Trade Union has been transferred shall thereupon enter in his register the particulars relating the Trade Union and shall notify the fact that he has done so to the Secretary of the Trade Union.

India and the Convention for Protection of
workers against accidents.

Assembly Proceedings.

The following extracts are taken from the Indian Legislative Assembly Debates of the 14th July 1930:-

Resolution re: convention for protection of workers against
accidents.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE RAINY (Member for Commerce and Railways):

Sir, I move:

"That this Assembly having considered:

- (1) the Draft Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships;
- (2) the Recommendation concerning reciprocity as regards the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships; and
- (3) the Recommendation concerning the consultation of workers' and employers' Organisations in the drawing up of regulations dealing with the safety of ~~mx~~ workers employed in loading or unloading ships;

adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Twelfth Session, recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should examine the possibility of giving effect to the above Convention and the Recommendations and that the results of this examination should be placed before the Assembly within eighteen months from ~~this examination should be placed before the Assembly within eighteen months from~~ this date."

I have only a few words to say in respect of this Resolution, but I think it is due to the House that I should tell them what exactly are the reasons which have made it necessary to bring it forward. As the House will see from its terms, it does not commit the House to any definite expression of opinion, but it conveys an injunction to the Government of India to proceed with its examination of the question, and to place its proposals before the Legislature within a period of 18 months. The necessity arises in this way. Under Article 425 of the Treaty of Versailles, the member Governments have bound themselves to bring any draft convention or recommendation adopted by the Inter-

national Labour Conference before the competent authority empowered to take action, within 18 months from the date when the draft convention or recommendation was adopted. In this case the period of 18 months will expire on the 21st December next, and as legislation will be necessary before the Government can ratify the Convention, it is necessary in order to comply with the provisions, of the Treaty, that the draft Convention and the Recommendations should be brought before the Indian Legislature this Session, because before the next Session begins, the period of 18 months will have expired. The nature of the Resolution being what it is, I do not think it is necessary for me to go into any great detail as to the terms of the Convention. It provides a pretty complete code for the protection of workers, employed whether ashore or afloat, in loading and unloading ships. In a matter of this kind, it is obvious that we could not in any case come to decisions without consulting Local Governments, commercial bodies, shipping interests and the Port Trusts and we started consulting them some time ago. We have not, however, yet received the opinions of all Local Governments, and we shall not be in a position to formulate our proposal until we have their replies. Thereafter the whole matter will be taken up and in due course the proposals of the Government of India will be placed before this House. Sir, I move.

MR. N. G. RANGA (East Godavari and West Godavari cum Kistna : Non-Muhammadan Rural) : I learn from the reports submitted to the Government of India by its delegates to the International Labour Conference that this particular proposal was placed before them by the Government of India in April last. Their delegates to the International Labour Conference claimed that it was not possible for them to ratify or to accept this particular convention on behalf of the Government of India, in view of the fact that the Government of India had such short notice. In fact this was the same claim that they advanced in reply to my Honourable friend, Mr. Matin Chaudhury, who criticised their attitude. Sir, I learn from the Honourable the Leader of the House that the Government of India has not yet had sufficient time to consult Local Governments and also the other organisations which are concerned with this particular matter. It is also learnt from him that the Government of India have had replies only from a few provinces and

not from all. I should be very grateful to the leader of the House, Sir George Rainy, if he would inform me whether they received the proposal from the International Labour Office in April, 1930, or April, 1929. If it was in April, 1929, that the Government of India were appraised of this convention of the International Labour Conference, certainly they have had more than enough time to consider this. If they had notice only in April last, that is three months ago, then to ask for 18 months' time to give the necessary consideration for this particular convention, in order to arrive at their own recommendations, is rather an extraordinary thing, because it shows that the Government of India are not really anxious to help the workers of this country - dockyard workers and workers employed on steamers - as soon as possible.

It is a notorious fact that in most of our docks and shipyards, no attention has been paid till now by the Port Trusts or the employers to take the elementary precautions to prevent accidents to the workers; and even when accidents have occurred, very little attention is given to the question of giving necessary compensation to these workers. I am conscious of the fact that there is a Workmen's Compensation Act, but by reason of the fact that these dockyard workers have not been organised properly, this Act has failed to give sufficient redress or sufficient assistance to these workers. Government have not taken care to see that the employers are persuaded to take the necessary precautions, and what is worse, there has been negligence on the part of employers as well as of Government. But to-day Government come to us and ask for a period of 18 months in order to formulate their own proposals. The other day (i.e., 7th July, 1930), when my Honourable friend Mr. Matin Chaudhury, drew the attention of the Honourable Sir Joseph Bore to this question ~~and~~ and inquired why Government should ask for six months time to consider that particular convention regarding the industrial accidents of workers, he was given the answer that Government had to circulate that particular convention to all the Local Governments and to get the necessary replies before they could formulate their own conclusions and place them before this House. Sir, a period of six months was found necessary for that particular convention, so is not that period long enough for this particular convention also? If this is not long enough, ~~for this parti-~~ ~~cular~~ at most one year should be quite enough. Why do Government want

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18 months? This question is very important, and I sincerely hope that the Honourable Sir George Rainy will try his best to see that proposals are placed before this House within at most one year from now. Secondly, Sir, there is a third section - the recommendation concerning consultation between workers and employers over the drawing up of regulations dealing with the safety of workers employed in loading and unloading ships. Here I learn that some of the urban workers working in the dockyards of cities are organized into trade unions and therefore it is quite possible for them, or it may not be impossible for them, to safeguard their own interests when this particular question comes up for discussion, but what about those workers employed on small sailing ships and also in inland ports? These workers are not at all protected because they have no organizations for themselves. ~~Therefore it is quite easy for Government to ignore for themselves.~~ Therefore it is quite easy for Government to ignore them if their case is not placed before them properly. I would request the Honourable Sir George Rainy to take note of this fact and to try his best to see that proper representation is given to these people also on any committees or councils which may be held to get this particular convention ~~convention~~ discussed at the proper time. Thirdly, Sir, I do not know whether the Government of India propose to apply this particular convention only to the seaports or to inland ports as well. There was a discussion on this point at the International Labour Conference, and the majority of the delegates were of opinion that this particular convention should be made applicable to workers employed both at the seaports and also in the inland ports, and to workers employed on the shore and also on board steamers. Now I would suggest that it would be in the interests of the dockyard workers in this country, and those workers employed on the steamers and sailing ships, if this particular convention were to be made applicable not only to workers at the ports, but also to the workers in the inland ports of this country and to workers on the shore as well as workers on board steamers. Lastly, Sir, there is a provision made in this convention that a Government, if it was found to be necessary, should be authorised to exempt any small steamer or any small inland port from the provisions of this particular convention. Sir, I think this is a very dangerous provision. If this particular

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authority to exempt sailing ships or certain inland ports were to be given to the Government of India, I am perfectly sure, Sir, that the Government of India would try to exercise ~~this~~ this power in as many cases as possible, to the detriment of the ultimate interests of the unorganised and helpless workers of the inland ports. Therefore I give this particular caution to the Government of India not to try to take advantage of this particular provision, but to try their best to extend the benefits accruing from the application of this convention to the workers employed in inland ports also.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE RAINY : Sir, I should like to say a few words in reply to what has fallen from my Honourable friend. He seemed to think that, in this case, the Government of India have been extraordinarily dilatory. Now what actually happened was this. The Convention and the Recommendations were adopted by the International Labour Conference in its Twelfth Session in May and June, 1929. Owing to the procedure of double discussion which obtains in the International Labour Organization - first discussion in one year and a second discussion in the next - and owing to the delay which takes place before papers reach the Government of India from the International Labour Organization, we had literally no time whatever to consult Local Governments and the other interests concerned. In these circumstances it was clearly impossible for the Government delegates at the Twelfth Session to take a decided line; and it was the more necessary, after we received the draft Convention and Recommendations, that we should take steps to see that these important questions were fully examined. The papers were issued from the Office of the International Labour Organization at Geneva in September, 1929, and they finally reached the Commerce Department about the middle of November. There was no delay in issuing a circular to Local Governments asking them to give their own opinions and to obtain the opinions of the interests concerned, and considering that this is the first occasion on which we have had a real opportunity of examining them, I do not think there has been any undue delay. Now my Honourable friend put ^a question. He wanted to know whether these provisions in the Convention and in the Recommendations would apply to the inland ports. Sir, my Honourable friend is in a position to answer his own question. If he will read the draft Convention and Recommendations, as no doubt he has

already done, he will find that the provisions do apply in many cases to the inland ports as well as to the seaports. Now when the International Labour Conference have adopted a Convention, the member-Governments can decide for themselves whether they will ratify or not, but they cannot ratify with reservations. Therefore, the answer to the question is that, if the Government of India finally decide that the Convention should be ratified, and if the Legislature should concur in that decision, because in order to make it effective legislation is necessary, then in that case the provisions will apply both to the seaports and to the inland ports. I think, Sir, that really answers most of what fell from my Honourable friend, and it is perhaps unnecessary that I should say more.

MR. N. G. RANGA : Does the Honourable Sir George Rainy propose to give due representation to inland workers employed in inland ports who are not properly organised at present?

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE RAINY : I am afraid I cannot give an answer to that question at this stage, but I will certainly promise that what my Honourable friend has suggested will be considered.

MR. PRESIDENT : The question is that the following Resolution be adopted :

"This Assembly having considreed:

- (1) the Draft Convention concerning the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships ;
- (2) the Recommendation concerning reciprocity as regards the protection against accidents of workers employed in loading or unloading ships; and
- (3) the Recommendation concerning the consultation of workers' and employers' Organisation in the drawing up of regulations dealing with the safety of workers employed in loading or unloading ships;

adopted by the International Labour Conference at its Twelfth Session recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should examine the possibility of giving effect to the above Convention and the Recommendations and that the results of this examination should be placed before the Assembly within eighteen months from this date."

The motion was adopted.

India and the Convention re: marking of weights on heavy packages.

Assembly Proceedings.

The following extracts are taken from the Indian Legislative Assembly Debates of the 14th July, 1930:-

Resolution re convention concerning the marking of weight on heavy packages transported by vessels.

THE HONOURABLE SIR GEORGE RAINY (Member for Commerce and Railways):

Sir, I move :

"That this Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he should ratify the Draft Convention concerning the marking of the weight on heavy packages transported by vessels, adopted by the International Labour Conference at its 12th Session held at Geneva in May-June, 1929."

This Convention, Mr. President, is a very simple one. It requires that any package or object weighing one metric ton or more consigned for transport by sea or inland waterway, shall have its gross weight plainly and durably marked upon it on the outside before it is loaded on a ship or vessel. The object of this Convention is to protect the worker against the danger to which he is exposed if heavy packages which must be loaded or unloaded on a ship by mechanical means do not have their weight marked on them. Obviously, it must seldom be possible to move a package weighing more than one metric ton by hand, and therefore it has to be moved by mechanical means. If the weight is not marked, a crane or derrick may be used to lift the package though it is not really strong enough to carry it. If the crane broke, there might be great danger to the life and limb of those who were employed in working the cargo. Since that Convention was adopted, we have consulted Local Governments, Local Administrations, commercial bodies and the other interests concerned on the question whether we should ratify the Convention or not. The opinions we have received are practically unanimous that the Convention should be ratified, and the only two dissentient opinions we have received are from the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and a firm in Madras. After considering the opinions, the Government of India are clearly of opinion that it is desirable that the Convention should be ratified.

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Then we have also considered the question whether special legislation will be necessary, but as far as we can judge there is no present need for such legislation. The Port Trusts under their various Port Trust Acts have the power to frame bye-laws for the safe and convenient use of wharves, docks, piers, etc., and we believe that will be quite possible to enforce the Convention by means of such bye-laws. In one port, namely, Chittagong, the position is rather exceptional, because the jetties belong to the Assam Bengal Railway Company. The Company, however, is willing to enforce the necessary rules to secure compliance with the Convention by virtue of their powers under the Indian Railways Act.

As regards the inland waterways, our information is that cranes are very seldom employed in the loading and unloading of vessels, and packages weighing one metric ton and upwards have very rarely to be dealt with. Therefore it appears to us that no legislation is necessary at present on that point, but should it appear, as the result of further experience, that legislation to enforce the Convention is necessary, then, undoubtedly, the Government of India would come to the House and ask for the necessary powers. Sir, I move.

The motion was adopted.

Factory Administration in India, 1928.*

The report recently published by the Government of India on the Statistics of factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year 1928 and the accompanying Note on the Working of the Factories Act during 1928 furnish valuable information about the conditions of work of the factory population in India.

Number of Factories.- The total number of factories subject to the Act rose to 7,863 in 1928 as against 7,515 in 1927. The corresponding figures for 1924, 1925 and 1926 were 6,406; 6,926; and 7,251 respectively. During 1928, provisions of the Act were extended to 197 small establishments, as against 160 in 1927. Burma and Baluchistan have still not yet notified any such extension of the Act and it is stated in the Burma Report that the question of notifying small factories employing between 10 and 20 persons has been held in abeyance, as an increase in the staff of the Factory Department, which would be necessitated by notifying a considerable number of such factories, cannot yet be made owing to financial stringency.

Classification of factories.- Out of the 7,863 factories, 329 were owned by Government or Local Funds; 418 were textile factories; 555 engineering concerns; 121 minerals and metals; 1,558 rice mills; 909 tea factories; 227 oil mills; 305 printing and bookbinding establishments; 199 saw mills, and 2,183 cotton ginning and baling factories. The Bombay Presidency had the largest number of factories - 1498, followed by Madras with 1,393, Bengal with 1,348, Burma with 968 Central Provinces and Berar with 756, Assam with 606 and Punjab with 559. The development of the industrial activity in other provinces appears to have been very slow.

Strength of Factory population.- The factory population showed a slight decrease, the total average daily number recorded during 1928 in respect of all factories subject to the Act being 15,20,315 as against 15,33,382 in 1927. Of the total employed in factories, 12,16,471 were men; 2,52,933 were women; 42,996 boys and 7,915 girls. The corresponding figures for 1927 were 12,22,662; 2,53,158; 48,028 and 9,534 respectively. Bombay, the United Provinces, Bihar and Orissa, Assam and Ajmer-Merwara have recorded decreases as compared to figures for 1927. The remaining provinces have recorded increases during the year 1928. The fall in the All-India figures of factory population is mainly due to the fall of 25,785 in the Bombay figures, the chief cause of which is the mill strike of 1928 which lasted for about six months.

*Statistics of Factories subject to the Indian Factories Act (XII of 1911) for the year ending December 31st, 1928 together with a note on the working of the Factories Act during the year. Published by order of the Government of India. Calcutta: Government of India Central Publication Branch, 1930. Price Re. 1 or 1s.9d. pp.31.

Distribution by Provinces.- The distribution of factory workers by provinces is as follows:- Madras, 1,36,973; Bombay, 3,56,083; Bengal, 5,71,079; United Provinces, 86,531; Punjab, 51,613; Burma, 1,01,586; Bihar and Orissa, 68,100; Central Provinces and Berar, 70,160; Assam, 47,842; North-West Frontier Province, 854; Baluchistan, 1,241; Ajmer-Merwara, 14,871; Delhi, 10,443; and Bangalore and Coorg, 2,939.

Distribution by Industries.- (1) Government and Local Fund Factories - 1,47,308 (Railway Workshops, 74,470; Ordnance factories, 22,714; Printing Presses, 13,664; Engineering (general), 10,568); (2) Textiles Factories - 6,66,916 (Jute mills, 3,38,635; Cotton (spinning and weaving and other) factories, 3,17,780); (3) Engineering - 1,57,366 (Railway workshops, 62,994; General engineering, 36,274; Shipbuilding and engineering, 24,225); Minerals and Metals - 53,577; (Iron and Steel smelting and steel rolling mills, 31,329; Petroleum, refineries, 12,898); (4) Food, Drink and Tobacco - 1,83,331 (Rice mills, 74,613; Tea, 63,085; Sugar, 15,253); (5) Chemical, Dyes, etc. - 45,964 (Matches, 14,526; Oil Mills, 10,661); ~~Ram~~ (6) Paper and Printing - 30,303 (Printing, book-binding, etc., 24,207; Paper mills, 5,283); (7) Wood, stone and glass - 38,909 (Saw mills, 17,160; Bricks and tiles, 9,354; Cement lime and potteries, 6,124); (8) Skins and hides - 5,805 (Tanneries, 3,101); Leather and shoes, 2,678); (9) Gins and Presses - 1,83,413 (Cotton ginning and baling, 1,46,600; Jute presses, 36,485); and (10) Miscellaneous - 7,423 (Rope works, 4,137

The ^{above} ~~following~~ figures indicate the distribution of factory population by industries. The figures within brackets indicate the number of workers in some of the important industries under each general heading.

Women in Factories.- The total number of women employed in factories has slightly decreased, the number being 2,52,933 in 1928 as compared to 2,53,158 in 1927. There were, however, increases in the provincial totals of women employed in factories in Madras, Bengal, the Punjab, the Central Provinces and Berar, Assam, Ajmer-Merwara, Delhi and Bangalore and Coorg. The increase in ~~the~~ Madras is attributed to the rise in the number of seasonal factories, women forming the great bulk of the labour employed in such mills. The increase in Bengal is ascribed partly to the increasing employment in jute mills of labour over 15 years of age in place of children. In the Bombay Presidency the irregular employment of women in Sind has been considerably reduced by the surprise visits and prosecutions instituted in past years and that only one serious irregularity was detected as the result of a large number of surprise visits. It is, however, recorded in the Burma report that cases of illegal employment of women at night have been detected and that this illegality had not been so effectively stamped out as was thought a few years ago.

Child Labour.- The number of children employed in factories fell from 57,562 in 1927 to 50,911 in 1928. All the major provinces shared in the fall except the Punjab where there was an insignificant rise of 22 in the number of children employed in factories. The decreasing employment of children in factories is a satisfactory feature of the year and is ascribed generally to the growing preference for the use of adult labour owing to the rigid enforcement of the Act in respect of child labour. It is mentioned in the Bihar and Orissa report that

the elimination of children appears to be still a very general policy of managers, but that the figure is necessarily maintained by the acquisition each year of new factories whose managers see the obvious advantages of child labour but are at first unaware of the less patent disadvantages arising out of the restrictions placed upon their terms of employment by the Factories Act. It is satisfactory to note from the Bombay report that the enactment of section 44 A of the Indian Factories Act and departmental action taken in Bombay has led to an almost complete abolition of child labour irregularities in the Ahmedabad mills where some years ago the practice by parents and others of illegally employing the same children in two different mills on the same day was rife.

Hours of work.- Out of every 100 factories employing men, in 28 the men worked for 48 hours or less per week, in 13 for more than 48 hours but not more than 54 hours per week while in 59 the men worked for more than 54 hours per week. Out of every 100 factories employing women, in 30 the working hours for women were limited to 48 hours a week but not more than 54 hours, while in 56 women worked for more than 54 hours per week. 34 per cent. of the factories employing children fixed their maximum hours at not more than 30 per week. There has been very little change in this respect from the corresponding figures for 1927 for men, women and children. As regards exemptions from certain sections of the Indian Factories Act, the figures of factories in which the majority of operatives are exempted from the provisions of certain sections generally show a small increase in respect of each section except with regard to section 27, where the increase is a large one from 385 in 1927 to 751 in 1928.

Accident Statistics.- The total number of recorded accidents during the year rose from 15,711 in 1927 to 16,348 in 1928 of which 264 were fatal as against 242 in 1927; 3,494 serious and 12,590 minor accidents. All the major Local Governments except Bombay and Bihar and Orissa share in the increase. There were 7 fatal accidents in Bengal due to electric shock and the investigations proved that in every case the responsibility lay with the management in not complying with the requirement of electricity rules. Many of the accidents occurred in the Railway workshops resulting in injuries to the eyes of workmen and possible safeguards are under considerations. A contributory cause of increase in the United Provinces and the Central Provinces is surmised to be due to a greater knowledge of provisions of the Workmen's Compensation Act among the workmen so that even cuts and bruises are reported. Satisfactory progress was made during the year in connection with the fencing of dangerous machinery in all the provinces. Workmen working near dangerous machinery evince reluctance to wear tight clothing.

Housing and Welfare work.- Perceptible progress was made during the year in the matter of the housing of labour and sanitation in factories all round. An interesting step to insure healthy conditions of work in new factories is recorded in the United Provinces where the Local Government issued model bye-laws to be adopted by the Municipal and District Boards under which the Municipal and District Boards are required to submit a copy of the plan for approval to the Chief Inspector of Factories before sanctioning the construction of a new factory. The British India Corporation are mentioned in the United Provinces report as being pioneers in the field of housing and welfare work generally. Marked progress was made in many of the provinces, in

respect of the ventilation and lighting of factories towards which the contribution of the spinning and weaving mills of Ahmedabad requires special mention. The development of welfare work was found to be slow during the year. 22 mill creches were in operation in Ahmedabad during the year and working mothers are beginning to appreciate the facilities thus offered. Among various welfare work carried on by the millowners of Bombay the most interesting item is the sum of Rs. 14,000 advanced at a low rate of interest to employees desirous of drawing earned wages before the stipulated pay day; the interest on the sum is utilised for welfare work. Kelvin Jute Mill has opened an eye-dispensary which will serve the whole of Titaghur district and schools have been opened by Egerton Woollen Mills in the Punjab.

Convictions under the Act.- The number of convictions obtained during the year for breaches of the Factory Act was 1,348 as against 1,420 in 1927. Complaints as to the inadequacy of fines imposed on factory managers convicted of offences under the Act are repeated this year also, the effect of such inadequate fines on an unscrupulous factory manager being an encouragement to defy the law.

Inspectors.- The total number of factories inspected during the year rose to 7,093 as against 6,692 in 1927 and the percentage of the number of factories inspected to the total number of factories rose to 90 in 1928, from 89 in 1927. As in the previous reports, Assam ~~xxxx~~ continues to contain the largest number of uninspected factories. Burma also showed during the year under review a large number of uninspected factories and this is explained to be due to the factory inspection department being short-handed for 9 months in the year. Bengal has effected a noticeable improvement in this respect over the figures of 1927.

(The following are the references for the reviews of the administration of the Factory Act during 1928 in the various provinces:-

Factory Administration in Bombay, 1928 - pages 26-32 of Sept. 1929 report; Factory Administration in the Punjab, 1928 - pages 32-35 of September 1929 report; Factory Administration in the Central Provinces and Berar, 1928 - pages 35-38 of September 1929 report; Factory Administration in Bihar and Orissa, 1928 - pages 38-39 of September 1929 report; Factory Administration in Bengal and Assam - pages 39-43 of September 1929 report; Factory Administration in Burma, 1928 - pages 23-24 of October 1929 report and Factory Administration in the United Provinces, 1928 - pages 25-27 of October 1929 report.

The administration of the Factory Act in India for the year 1927 is reviewed at pages 46-50 of the monthly report of this office for January 1929.)

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923,
in Burma during 1929*.

The total average number of workers employed per day in Burma decreased from 125,288 in 1928 to 122,290 during the year under review. Altogether 1,135 returns were received from employers, and of these 982 were from factories, 146 from mines, 2 from tramway companies and 5 from Port Authorities. According to these statements there were 57 deaths, 84 permanent disablements and 1,599 temporary disablements in respect of which compensation was paid during the year. The amount paid by way of compensation were Rs.55,741-4-0, Rs.33,496-13-11, and Rs.21,552-10-6 for ^{deaths, permanent disablements and} temporary disablements respectively. 14 cases of injuries due to occupational diseases were reported of which 11 involved permanent disablement in respect of which Rs.6,196-10-8 were paid by way of compensation and 3 temporary disablement towards which Rs.1,116-8-0 were paid. No cases of payments of compensation for accident to miners were reported during the year.

Workmen's compensation Commissioners.- District Magistrates continued to be Commissioners for Workmen's Compensation for their respective districts in Burma proper, excepting the Yenangyaung and Sale Townships of the Magwe District, for which the Warden and the Assistant Warden of the Oil Fields were respectively appointed to be Commissioners, with effect from the 1st October 1929, and the Rangoon,!

* Report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, in Burma for the year 1929. Rangoon: Superintendent, Government Printing and Stationery, Burma 1930. Price.- Rs. 2 = 3s. pp 33.

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Insein and Hanthawaddy Districts for which the Director of Statistics and Labour Commissioner, Burma (formerly the Officer-in-Charge, Labour Statistics Bureau), continued to be Commissioner. Assistant Superintendents in the Federated Shan States continued to be Commissioners for those States during the year.

Applications before Commissioners.- The total number of cases filed during the year was 105, of which 15, 12 and 3 related to award of compensation for fatal accidents, permanent disablements and temporary disablements, respectively, 72 to distribution in fatal cases, 1 to recovery of compensation under section 31 and 2 to payment of deposits in cases of permanent disablement.

Administration .- The Act seems to have been used to a greater extent during the year under report than during the preceding years. The substitution of District Magistrates for District Judges as Commissioners was a desirable change and the former as executive officers seem to be better suited for the performance of duties assigned to Commissioners under the Act. There is still a tendency among some employers, especially the smaller employers, to evade the obligations of the Act. No great improvement in this respect may perhaps be expected unless provisions are introduced in the Act, under which employers may be compelled to make deposits in such cases. It must, however, be noted here that there have been cases where ex-gratia payments have been made by some employers through the agency of this office to ~~the~~ dependants of deceased workmen although no claims were made under the Act, and according to the employers concerned no compensation was payable under the Act. Further, it is also found that in cases of temporary disablements for short periods

employers of standing treat their employees very liberally and pay them much more than what is actually due under the Act. There are reasons to believe that workmen are becoming acquainted with the provisions of the Act and are finding out fast what their rights are. The publication in factories and other establishments of the notice drawing attention to the procedure to be followed by injured workmen or the dependants of deceased workmen in making their claims seems to be having the desired effect.

A summary of the report on the Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in Burma during 1928 is given at pages 28-30 of the Monthly Report of this Office for August 1929.

Working of the Workmen's Compensation Act in the
Central Provinces and Berar during 1929.*

Employers' Returns under Section 16 *According to* ~~From~~ the Annual Returns

received by the Commissioners from the employers and of workmen, ~~it~~
~~appears that~~ the total number of accidents for which compensation was
paid was 236 of which 17 resulted in death, 40 in permanent disable-
ment and 179 in temporary disablement, as against 18, 32, and 181
respectively in 1928. The compensation paid was Rs. 7,786/8/0 for
fatal accidents, Rs. 9,011/0/11 for permanent disablement and Rs.
~~Rs. 2,502/8/10~~ 2,502/8/10 for temporary disablement against Rs. 6,927/12/0,
Rs. 5,090/1/9 and Rs. 2,659/6/11, respectively, in the preceding year.
These figures do not include accidents to persons employed in connec-
tion with railway services and the compensation paid for them, as the
returns for such accidents are submitted direct to the Railway Board.

The working of the Act was on the whole satisfactory. The
Commissioners, Nagpur and East Berar, report that the Act is not yet
widely known to workmen and that they are as a class ignorant of their
rights under the Act and cannot therefore take full advantage of the
benefits conferred by it.

Award of compensation (under section 10).- There were 3 applica-
tions pending from the previous year, 2 in respect of permanent dis-
ablement and 1 of temporary disablement which was subsequently found to
refer to permanent disablement. During the year under report 18 appli-
cations were filed, of which 5 referred to fatal accidents, 10 to
permanent disablement and 3 to temporary disablement. Of these 21

*Report on the Administration of the Workmen's Compensation Act
(VIII of 1923) in the Central Provinces and Berar during the
Calendar year 1929. Nagpur: Printed at the Government Press, 1930.
(Price - Nine Annas), pp. 11.

applications, 1 was withdrawn, 1 dismissed for non-appearance, 5 admitted by opposite party, 7 allowed either in part or full and 1 dismissed after contest. Thus 15 applications were disposed of leaving 6 pending at the close of the year, 3 relating to fatal accidents and 3 to permanent disablement.

Distribution (under section 8).- There were 11 distribution proceedings pending at the commencement of the year. 31 were filed during the year under report and 1 was received by transfer from the Commissioner, Bengal. Of these 43, ~~43~~ were transferred to the Commissioner, Madras, for disposal, 2 were withdrawn and the compensation deposited therefor refunded to the depositors (as the deceased were found to have left no dependants), 34 were disposed of on admission by the opposite party and 5 remained pending at the close of the year.

(The working of the Act in Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1928 is reviewed at pages 30-31 of the monthly report of this office for August 1929.)

Factory Administration in Central Provinces and Berar, 1929.*

The total number of factories coming within the purview of the Indian Factories Act, in Central Provinces and Berar rose from 868 in 1928 to 893 during the current year. Of the 893 factories, 104 were perennial and 789 were seasonal factories. During the year under review, 37 factories were added to the Factories Register. 21 out of the 37 additions to the register were ginning and pressing factories, and 5 out of the remaining 16 were rice mills. The number of factories actually working was 769, consisting of 104 perennial and 665 seasonal factories.

*Report on the Administration of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (Act XII of 1911), as modified up to the 1st June 1926, in the Central Provinces

The average daily number of operatives employed was 43,975 men, 23,852 women, and 1,464 children in 1929, as against 44,130; 24,591; and 1,439 in 1928. The total average daily number of operatives decreased from 70,160 in 1928 to 69,291 in 1929. The decrease which is more noticeable in ginning and pressing factories is, however, more apparent than real in view of the failure of as many as 59 such factories to submit their ~~xxx~~ annual returns in time. The wages of skilled and unskilled labourers remained almost stationary. The year witnessed only one strike which occurred at the Rai Sahib Reckhand Mohota Spinning and Weaving Mill at Hinganghat and after four days was called off on the transfer of the pay clerk whose unpopularity had caused it.

Welfare Work.- The general health of the operatives was satisfactory and no serious epidemics have been reported from any part of the province. Several factory owners supply preventive medicines free of cost and the number of dispensaries maintained by perennial factories rose from 13 to 14 and afforded relief to 175,006 against 186,634 persons during the preceding year. The number of establishments which provided creches remained unchanged while there was an increase of 43 in the number of infants accommodated. The indifference shown by several concerns towards this important measure of infant welfare has been noted by the Government and it recommends that every opportunity should be taken of bringing home to the employers their responsibility in this matter. The welfare work at the Express Mills continued to be satisfactory and other mills also ~~xxx~~ made a modest beginning in this direction. There was a continuous decline in the number of children receiving education at the factory schools and Government in its review of the report hopes that employers will do their utmost to impress on their operatives the advantages of literacy and persuade them to take advantage of the facilities offered by such schools for

the free education of their children.

Accidents.- There were 331 accidents during the year under report as against 337 in the previous year. Of these 15 were fatal, 69 serious and 247 minor. The total amount of compensation paid under the Workmen's Compensation Act was Rs. 9,762 as compared with Rs.6,000 paid during the previous year, a fact which shows that the labourers are getting better acquainted with the provisions of the Act.

Factory Inspection.- In 1929, 104 perennial factories and 659 seasonal factories were inspected out of a total of 893 factories. The total number of inspections was 1,846 as against 1,597 in the previous year. In seasonal factories, violations of section 26, i.e., the employment of persons beyond ~~xxx~~ specified hours and section 21 regulating the midday and mid-night recess were frequent though difficult of detection. In 1929, 162 cases were instituted against occupiers and managers of factories, of which 105 were disposed of with fines ranging from Rs. 10 to Rs. 200 and 57 cases are still pending. The report mentions that some improvement has been effected in respect of the inadequacy of the fines previously imposed for violations of the provisions of the Factories Act and Rules and that heavier fines are now being imposed.

(The Report on the Administration of the Factories Act in Central Provinces and Berar for the year 1928, is reviewed at pages 35 to 38 of the monthly report of this office for September 1929. A reference is also invited to a review of labour condition in Central Provinces and Berar given at pages 37 to 38 of the report of this office for December 1929.)

Wages of Shipping Labour, Rangoon.

At page 25 of the report of this office for May 1930 reference had been made to the Conciliation Board appointed by the Government of Burma to settle the differences between Indian and Burmese dock labourers. The question of the employment of Andhra (Indian) labour and the rates of wages to be paid to Andhra and Burmese labourers were discussed at a joint meeting of representatives of the Stevedores and the Conciliation Board held in Rangoon on 9-7-1930. The following is a summary of the proceedings:-

The meeting was held at the instance of the shipping agents, who desired to arrange with the stevedores a return to the system of contracting on a tonnage basis. The representatives of the stevedores, while ready to quote a fixed rate per ton of cargo when shipping labour was performed by Andhras, intimated that in regard to Burmese labour, they could not give up the system in force during the strike and since its settlement, by which the shipping agents paid to them the actual cost of labour employed, plus a percentage as commission.

For the shipping agents, examples were quoted of the rise in cost incurred by employing Burmese labour in loading and unloading ships. The average cost was stated to have been 225 per cent. greater; in one instance the increase was as much as 400 per cent. It was pointed out that unless costs could be reduced freight rates were bound to go up. The suggestion was made that wages should be varied in proportion to efficiency and that inefficient labourers should be weeded out.

The stevedores maintain that the cost of Andhra labour was 45 to 60 per cent. greater after the strike than before it. The cost of

Burmese labour had varied widely with the nature of the cargo handled. Examples were cited ~~of~~ of one ship on which the cost had been 135 per cent., and of another, on which it had been 235 per cent. greater than before the strike. It was pointed out that the period immediately following the settlement of the strike was abnormal owing to the congestion of shipping in the Port, and that in considering costs an allowance of at least 25 per cent. should be made on the average for loss of time when work was impossible, due to rain, or because shippers had failed to place cargo alongside.

The difficulty in deciding whether a gang had given a fair day's labour, regard being paid to comparative inexperience and to working conditions, was ^{also} never discussed. It was pointed out that this could not be left to the ship's officers in view of the many other calls on their time besides that of keeping a watch on the handling of cargo. The stevedores expressed reluctance to take a decision involving a reduction in the wages of a gang for the inadequate output of work without support from the shipping agents and the Conciliation Board.

The stevedores finally agreed to contract on a tonnage basis at rates $16\frac{2}{3}$ per cent above pre-strike rates for ships worked by Andhra labour. This agreement was to take effect without delay. The stevedores intimated that they desired to hold another meeting among themselves to consider the question of ships worked by Burmese labour. The decision reached, they said, would be communicated to the shipping agents at an early date.

The Conciliation Board informed the stevedores that on a report being made to it that a gang of Burmese labourers had not given what could be ~~considered~~ considered a fair day's work when account was taken of the inexperience of the gang, the nature of the cargo handled and the working conditions, the Board would be ready, if it accepted the report to support the stevedore in a refusal to continue to pay in future the maximum rate of wage to that gang, and would advise ~~them~~ what would be a fair rate of wage to pay in view of the gang's comparative inefficiency

(The Statesman, 12-7-1930).

Hours of Work on Indian Railways:

All-India Railwaymen's Federation's Demands.

(Not for Publication).

At pages 9 to 15 of the report of this office for January 1930 have been published the texts of a Bill further to amend the Indian Railways Act, 1890, as also of the Railway Servants Hours of Employment Rules, 1930, both of which have been designed to give legal effect to the ratification by India of the Washington Hours Convention in so far as it affects Indian railway workers. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 27-2-1930. The legislation thus passed, however, has not met with the approval of the All India Railwaymen's Federation. On 28-2-1930 representatives of the Federation met the Railway Board and expressed the view that the Federation considered that the Railways Act even in its amended form did not fully meet the Washington Hours and Geneva Weekly Rest Conventions. The representatives of the Federation are meeting the Railway Board on 1-9-1930 when a memorandum pointing out the defects in the recent legislation and embodying certain suggestions for improvement will be presented by the Federation to the Railway Board. The Secretary of the Federation has supplied this office with an advance copy of the memorandum. The following are the suggestions advocated in the memorandum:-

Intermittent Workers.- Section 71 A of the Act makes difference between "essentially intermittent" workers and others. Proposed Supplementary Instruction No. 1 is accordingly drafted but from the view point of the Federation, no difference should be made in principle between workers as "intermittent" or otherwise, for the purpose of limitation of duty hours, and grant of Weekly Rest days, as followed in some countries like Holland, ~~France~~ Canada, Russia, etc.

However, the Federation is willing to accept the idea of limitation of duty hours for the so-called "intermittent" workers to 60 in the week as a first step, as recognised in the Article 6 of Draft Convention concerning the Regulation of Hours of Work in Commerce and Offices as follows:-

"The hours of work of certain classes of persons whose work is inherently intermittent and does not call for sustained physical or mental effort, such as caretakers, office messengers and persons employed to look after working premises and warehouses, may be increased to ten hours in the day and sixty hours in the week, provided that the hours of work in the day, including breaks, do not exceed twelve hours and are immediately followed by a rest of at least twelve consecutive hours".

The Federation suggests that two or more alternative tests recognised in other countries at the option of the employees should be allowed to differentiate "intermittent" workers performing duty day by day only, on the principle of equated hours by treating 4/5 of the period of so-called inaction while on duty as working hours as in Norway, or by other fair methods.

Night duty, however, calls for sustained attention and no difference between "intermittent" and other workers should be made so far as night duty is concerned. Accordingly the Supplementary Instruction No. 1 should be modified, bearing in mind also that workers classed as "intermittent" whenever performing non-intermittent work should not be deprived the privileges of non-intermittent workers.

Excluded categories of workers.- Section 71 B of the Act and Rule No. 3 of the Draft Hours of Employment Rules, exclude certain categories of employment. The Federation desires that in principle all employees should have the benefit of same privileges without distinction so far as duty hours and rest days are concerned and further as stated by the Railway Board before the Royal Commission on Labour "it is hoped, however, that the Rules (Hours of Employment Rules) will be in operation on most of the Indian Railways by the end of the year 1930-31, and earlier on the North-Western Railway", it should be stated that before the end of that period, section 71 B and Rule 3 with the modifications suggested shall apply for all staff including Factory hands in all the Indian Railways.

Secondly, the running staff are excluded under Rule No. 3 on the ground that their case is under investigation. The Federation desires to point out that this fact need not and should not prejudice the running staff from getting the benefit of overtime allowance in cases where running allowances are less remunerative under present duty hours. The question of following the example of Railway Mail Service employees who work for 36 hours, 33 hours and 30 hours in the week if they work in the day or day and night or only nights respectively, may be considered.

Thirdly, sub-section 1 of Section 2 of the Belgian Act of 14th June, 1921 excludes persons invested with directive or confidential functions but not persons holding positions of supervision from the benefit of statutory limitation of duty hours and rest days. Similarly the Rules and the Supplementary Instruction No.4 should be modified to give supervisory workers the benefit of the privileges desired for the other workers. Clerks in the Workshops are excluded from the benefit of the Factories Act by the Bombay Government, as persons performing confidential functions and this practice should be stopped by bringing the clerical staff in line with other workshop staff.

Power to declare workers as "essentially intermittent".- Fourthly the Head of a Railway should not be empowered to declare employment of any staff as "essentially intermittent" under Sub Clause B of Clause 2 of Rule 3, and Rules 4 and 5. The Factory Act does not give similar power and it is the Local Governments who are so empowered. ~~This~~ This function, in the opinion of the Federation, should be entrusted to a Joint Body of representatives of Employers' and Workers' Organisations according to spirit of Clause A of Article 6 of Washington Hours Convention, vesting the power of veto if at all necessary, in the competent authority. Any Rules prescribing the limitation of duty hours of so-called "intermittent" ~~xx~~ workers should be framed with due regard to each individual case by the Local representatives of Capital and Labour in each establishment or place of work, within the general limits suggested in this Memorandum.

Sub Clause D of Clause 2 of Rule 3 should be omitted as it is opposed to the principle prescribed in Washington Hours and Geneva Weekly Rest Conventions.

Daily Maximum Hours of Work.- Section 71 C of the Act does not impose any statutory limitation of daily duty hours unlike the Factory Act. A daily maximum of ten duty hours in the case of "essentially intermittent" workers as prescribed in the Draft Convention on the working hours of Commercial staff engaged in intermittent work and 9 duty hours in regard to non-intermittent workers should be ordinarily prescribed. "The average" clause in regard to weekly limitation of duty hours should not be authorised as is the case in regard to the Factories Act. The word "emergency" in the Section should mean only what is referred to in Article 14 of the Washington Hours Convention namely "the event of war or emergency endangering the national safety" as the other conditions (except urgent work to the Railway) authorising temporary exceptions are the only authorised ones in the ~~Hours~~ Hours Convention.

Article 3 of Washington Hours Convention applies only to "urgent work to be done to machinery or plant to the extent necessary to avoid serious interference with the ordinary working of the Railway" and not to every so-called "urgent work to the Railway", which expression is likely to be abused in practice. Therefore the Railway Authorities should not be empowered to use this provision in the Act for more than four days in the year without approval by the suggested Joint Body of Employers' and Workers' Organisations who must be shown that the temporary exception is necessary for urgent work to the machinery or plant of the Railway to avoid serious interference with the ordinary working of the Railway. Section 9 of the Belgian Act of 14th June 1921 provides for overtime at a rate exceeding the normal remuneration by not less than 25 % for extra hours worked in pursuance of Section 9 of the said Act. Similarly overtime for any work above normal duty hours should be recognised as is the case already in regard to the Engineering Gangs on some Railways in all cases without exception and without the restriction imposed in Sub Clause (b) of Clause 3 of Section 71 C of the Act. Further, Article 6 of the Washington Convention should be fully observed and the rate of overtime for apprentices in Lilloah Workshops engaged prior to 1st April 1926, namely 50% above the normal rate should be additionally granted ~~xx~~ for all. The maximum of 40 hours overtime monthly recognised by the Bengal Government for the Factories should be further imposed with a view to lessen even this limit gradually.

Weekly Rest day.- Section 71 D of the Act is also equally unsatisfactory. So called essentially intermittent workers should not be denied regular weekly rest days or compensatory holidays to be availed at the option of the employees. It is suggested that a weekly maximum of 60 duty hours for the "intermittent" workers and 48 hours for others should be legislated.

4 Minimum period of 32 consecutive hours every week as rest period for non-intermittent workers and 24 consecutive hours rest period every week for "intermittent" workers should be prescribed.

Similarly the minimum daily rest of 14 consecutive hours for the former and 12 hours for the latter should be definitely prescribed, the only exception being the running staff who may be given 9 hours rest at out-stations.

Supplementary Instruction No.5 should be modified to include and not exclude time taken in going to and from place of residence in connection with duty as recognised in Switzerland, Holland, etc., and similarly also time for wage payment, meal times, rest pauses not exceeding 1½ hours in duration each should be so included. Supplementary Instruction No.6 should be omitted as the staff should not be made to suffer for the sickness of others.

Rule 6 should be altered as the staff designated as "temporary" are more times than not men of longer service than so-called permanent employees. Further as on the H.E.H. the Nizam's State Railway, the Permanent Way Staff should get regular weekly rest.

Breach of rest allowance at double the normal rates for breaking the minimum rest authorised in any day or week or holiday should be recognised and similarly the over rest allowance for the running staff should be continued.

Continuous night duties or double duties weekly should not be authorised ordinarily and only temporary exceptions under Section 71 D in cases referred to in the modified Clause 3 of Section 71 B should be authorised. For "intermittent" workers an alternative proposal of granting three periods of rest of not less than 32 consecutive hours each or accumulating unused rest days should be considered for being given at least once in ten days in the place of the present Rule No.7.

Daily-rated employees including Workshop Staff lose pay on account of the Statutory limitation of the weekly rest and Supplementary Instruction No. 8 should more expressly mention that they would be paid for Sundays or weekly rest days hereafter.

The staff should be given option of choosing the most convenient rosters of duty within the suggested limits, so long as the business of the Railway is not consequently retarded.

Labour Representation.- Section 71 E of the Act does not mention anything about labour representation. The Rules should provide for inclusion of Union and Federation representatives in the appointment of the Authorities under this Section.

Section 71 C of the Act provides for the appointment of Supervisors of Railway Labour on the lines of Factory Inspectors but no mention of this is made in the Draft Rules. Respective Local Unions should be represented equally with the Officers appointed in compliance with para 5 of Railway Board's letter No. 40-L dated 29th March, 1930 in

the suggested Labour Inspectorate and the All-India Railwaymen's Federation should be permitted to work along with the Special Officer referred to in para 6 of the said letter. It may be pointed out that in countries like Czechoslovakia, etc., works' committees are empowered to watch the supervision of the Eight Hours Act.

Proposed Rules 8, 9 and 10 should expressly make it clear that Unions have right of access to the place of work and relevant information necessary to examine whether the Act is properly enforced and registers open for inspection by the representatives of the workers should be maintained showing the details of enforcement of the Act and its Rules and Regulations.

Principle of Collaboration .- In this connection, the recommendation of the 11th International Labour Conference that the representatives of the Employers, the Managing Staff, Workers' Organizations and the Factory Inspectors should collaborate in the staff matters such as Accident Prevention, Enforcement of Labour Regulations, etc., may be usefully followed up.

Right of redress .- The Rules should provide for the right of employees to seek redress before Law Courts or similar statutory bodies for being asked to infringe statutory provisions of the Act.

The Rules must finally prescribe that the previous working conditions should in no way be worsened by way of increasing daily duty hours, weekly total duty hours, or otherwise affecting weekly rest days, compensatory holidays, overtime and hour rates, etc.

(Memorandum on the Draft of the Hours of
(Employment Rules submitted by the All-
(India Railwaymen's Federation to the
(Railway Board.)

Conditions of Work of Press Employees, Central Provinces.

The annual report of the Press employees Association (Nagpur) for the year ending 31-3-30 contains interesting facts regarding the conditions of work of Press Employees in the Central Provinces. The Association was started in 1927. The majority of the members of the Association in 1929 were employees of the Government Press, and the employees of private Presses still show some hesitation in joining the Association in spite of the fact that "Conditions in the private Presses of the Province with a few honourable exceptions are proverbially bad and wages inordinately low".

In the Government Press, Nagpur, the report states many of the employees get only a pay of Rs. 20 per month while the Superintendent of the Press gets Rs. 1200 per month. The proportion of salary is thus 60 to 1. In Switzerland the report points out the proportion is 5 to 1 and in Japan 13 to 1. The question of revision of wages of the Press employees getting less than Rs. 20 was raised *at* the Annual meeting of the Association in 1929. The Government of the Central Provinces had partially redressed this grievance but had stopped the dearness allowance with the result that, from the employees' point of view, it has taken away by one hand what it had given by the other. Another demand of the press employees raised last year was the desirability of the application of the leave rules as are applied to Government of India Press employees. This grievance remains still unredressed and the employees claim that the benefit of the ~~m~~ rules should be extended to them also, since employees in similar presses in the other provinces had already been accorded the extension of the rules.

A third demand of the employees is for the increase of special allowance of piece workers from 40% ~~per cent~~ to 75% and a corresponding

revision of the basic hour rates of work. A resolution on this behalf was discussed and carried in the Central Provinces Legislative Council. The necessity ~~for the~~ revision, arises from the fact that the actual earnings of ~~piece~~ piece workers have diminished for the same amount of work they used to put in before, ~~as~~ ^{since} a result of the reduction in the size of publications, the liberal deductions made for blanks and the scarcity in composing materials. The employees get unreasonably low wages, ^{and} so have to contract debts due to ^{the high} cost of living. To redress their present grievance, they demand either an increase in the special allowance or in getting the rules of compensation modified so as to allow charges for blanks.

Among other ^{demands} ~~which~~ are of minor importance ~~demands~~ are the following :- the workers' Office hours should be from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (including interval) provided the time workers are placed on a monthly salary basis; ~~away of~~ the power vested at present in the Superintendent to compel some of the employees to work more than 12 hours a day should be withdrawn; the scheduled rate for compositors and piece workers should be put up in prominent places in presses; calculation of the wages of a time worker on casual leave should be on an 8 1/2 hour a day basis; the inkers should be given a starting salary of at least Rs. 17 per month in view of the fact that they get an increment of only Re. 1 in every 5 years and lastly the employees of the Litho branch should be asked to attend from 10 a.m. as of old instead of from 8 a.m., ^{the} ~~in~~ time newly introduced as a result of which they have to do more work for the same pay.

(Summarised from a communication to the I. L. Office, New Delhi, from Mr. R. W. Fulay, M.A., L.I.B., M.L.C., Hony. Secretary Press Employers' Association, C. P. and Berar.)

Indian Labour in Burma: Occupational distribution.

The following information about conditions of Indian labour in Burma furnished in the course of a leading article appearing in the Rangoon Gazette of 30-6-30 has been reproduced in the Hindu, Madras, in its issue dated 1-7-1930 :-

The Rangoon Gazette says that one of the chief difficulties connected with the separation of Burma from India will be the question of immigration of Indian labour into Burma. The paper says that any short sighted policy in this connection is to be deprecated. Indian labour is vitally important for Burma not only for manning the various industries but for the performance of the essential services and any attempt to stop or restrict the necessary supply cannot be too strongly opposed. Continuing, the paper states that the annual average number of Indians arriving in Burma in the five years 1921-1925 was 2,81,042, which increased nearly to 3,50,000 in 1929. Analysing the labour position and the occupations in which they are engaged, "The Rangoon Gazette" says that in Rangoon alone about 80,000 Indian labourers are employed in various industries, of whom Andhras are 55,000 and the rest Tamils, Ooriyas, Hindustanis and Chittagonians. Of these some 30,000 are employed in mills and workshops, 6,000 ^{walkers} in the wharfs and in stevedoring, 5,000 on cargo boats, 15,000 are rickshaw-pullers and handcartmen, while washing and conservancy essential services claim over 7,500. The number of ~~xxxxxxx~~ sweepers and 'mehters' in Burma can roughly be placed at about 4,000. Concluding, the paper states that making due allowance for the labour needed for industrial operations in places outside Rangoon and for agricultural operations, roughly some

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2,00,000 Indian immigrants are necessary. After indicating the necessity for ^a sane ^{outlook} ~~councils~~ in viewing the question of Indian labour as applied to industries and essential services, the paper remarks that it is to be hoped that this point will not be lost sight of when any measure is framed under the new constitution which has as its objective the exclusion of Indian labour from this country.

(Hindu.- 1-7-30.)

Review of Jute Mill Strikes during 1929.

The following statistics regarding the strikes in the jute mill industry during the year 1929 is extracted from the report of the Indian Jute Mills Association, Calcutta, for the year 1929.

There were serious strikes in the jute mills of Calcutta during the months of July, August and September, 1929. The first of the strikes broke out at Barnagore on 12th July and the last of the series which followed it terminated on 23rd September; though there was subsequent trouble at two mills in the membership of the Association during the second half of October and the first half of November. Fully 70% of the jute mills in Calcutta and district were brought to a stand-still at one stage or another during the main strike period, and the following figures, compiled from returns submitted by members of the Association, give some indication of the dislocation in normal trade conditions which resulted:-

(1) Time lost and looms affected.- (a) Total number of loom-hours lost - 54,44,005; (b) Total number of looms affected - 41,643.

(2) Loss in production.- (a) Hessian - 6,40,21,775 yds, and (b) Sacking - 5,17,95,746 yds. (estimated to represent in value Rs. 1,70,17,142. (3) Loss in wages to labour force - Rs. 27,11,409; and (4) Number of hands affected - 2,67,345.

(Pages 15 and 15 - Report of the Committee of the Indian Jute Mills Association, for 1929.

Labour News in Brief.

Revision of Wages on M. & S. M. Railway .- In a telegram received by Mr. V. V. Giri, General Secretary, All-India Railwaymen's Federation, on the 21-7-30 regarding the revision of wages of the M. and S. M. Railway employees, the Railway Board state that the proposals of the Agent, M. & S. M. Railway are receiving their urgent consideration, that as the proposals concerned many classes of employees some time was necessary for careful examination and discussion with the Railway administration, but the discussions have almost reached their final stage and that orders would be issued to the Agent of the M. and S. M. Railway personally after consultation with him on the 25-7-30. The revised scheme would have retrospective effect from the 1st April 1930. (Hindu .- 23-7-30)

Inquiry into textile labour conditions, Madras .- The Government of Madras has decided to institute an inquiry into the conditions of workers in the textile industry in Madras and Coimbatore, as also into the conditions in the larger concerns in the book-binding and printing industry in Madras city. The labour Commissioner, Madras, has invited the co-operation of the Madras Labour Union in the conduct of these enquiries. (Hindu .- 26-7-30.)

East Indian Railway Workers' Grievances, Lucknow.- At pages 29-30 of the report of this Office for June 1930 reference is made to a strike in the Loco Workshops of the East Indian Railway, Lucknow. Pandit Harkarnath Misra, President, E. I. Railway Employees' Union, Lucknow, at whose request the strikers resumed work on 23-6-30, has forwarded a list of grievances of the Lucknow workmen to the Railway Board at Simla and the Agent of the railway at Calcutta requesting them to depute a special officer to look into the grievances carefully

and to remove them as far as is practicable. Pandit Harkarnath has warned the authorities that unless early action is taken the workmen will again go on strike. (Pioneer .- 2-7-30).

B. N. Railway Workers' Grievances, Kharagpur.- The Branch Secretary, Bengal-Nagpur Railway has issued a statement to the press on 17-7-30 to the effect that ~~trouble~~ trouble has again arisen in the Kharagpur Railway Workshops owing to the non-redressal of the workers' grievances. He states that representations made directly and through the Union since March have been not heeded to. "Piece work recently decided optional has now been made compulsory. The new system has been introduced without consulting the men or the Union. The administration disliked the Union's interference to bring about a settlement. Messrs. Giri and Kalappa's advice has been rejected. The contagion is spreading to other shops. The Agent's letter threatening the dismissed persons with forfeiture of bonus and gratuity is causing great discontent." (Hindu .- 18-7-30).

Political demonstrations by Mill Workers, Bombay.- As a result of the strenuous propaganda carried on by Congress workers among Bombay labour to enlist the workers' sympathies for the nationalist cause, the workers of the city are taking an increasing interest in politics and are actively demonstrating their sympathy for the Congress cause. On 5-7-30, forty-nine mills of the city had to close down, as the operatives struck work to celebrate the completion of the second month of Gandhi's imprisonment. (Times of India .- 7-7-30).

Industrial Organisation.Employers' Organisations.The Swadeshi Sabha, Ahmedabad: A new Millowners' Organisation.

At pages 5 and 6 of the report of this office for June 1930 reference had been made to the efforts of the leaders of the Indian National Congress to come to an understanding with the millowners of the Bombay and Ahmedabad with a view to stiffen the swadeshi programme by fixing textile prices for fairly long periods. The plan was to start swadeshi sabhas, the membership of which was to consist of mill-owners and ~~wholesale~~ mahajans (agents) dealing in swadeshi cloth. More details are now to hand of the Ahmedabad Swadeshi Sabha.

At a meeting of the Swadeshi Sabha, Ahmedabad, held in the Mill-owners' Association Hall on 30-6-1930, the scheme of the Sabha as agreed upon between Pandit Motilal Nehru, President of the Congress, and the Committee of the Swadeshi Sabha was unanimously confirmed by the Sabha. A Working Committee of fifteen members and Executive, Propaganda and Finance Committees were appointed. Sheth Chamanlal Girdhardas Parekh, who is President of the Millowners' Association was appointed President of the Sabha and Mr. Gordhanbhai Patel, ex-M.L.C and Secretary of the Millowners' Association was appointed Hon. Secretary of the Sabha. It was decided to take a special office and to engage a special staff. As the scheme develops meetings of the Sabha and Sub-Committees will be held from day to day to put the scheme into operation. Indian owned and Indian managed mills, whether within or without Ahmedabad, agreeing to the scheme and arrangement can become members of the Sabha and the entrance fees, therefore, are raised by altering rule No.5 as follows:- "An entrance fee of Re. 1/8/0 per loom on all looms in any mill shall be charged".

Those mills desiring to join after July 5 will have to go through the procedure of election by the general body. It is understood that about forty mills have expressed their willingness to become members. Other mills have been approached by the Working Committee.

After a week of propaganda advertising the scheme and its benefits, efforts will be made to attract other mills, consumers, cloth dealers and intermediaries. Pandit Motilal Nehru will be requested shortly to nominate four Congressmen on the Committee for controlling prices and various Mahajans will also be requested to send in their representatives on the Controlling Committee as provided by the scheme. Sheth Ambalal and Sheth Kasturbhai, two prominent mill agents, are taking a very active part in carrying through the scheme.

(Times of India, 1-7-1930).

Industrial Organisation
(Workers Organisations.)

Proposed All-India Labour Conference.

Mr. M. A. Gani, M.L.A., Bar-at-Law, Lahore, has issued a circular to all labour organisations in the country inviting them to send representatives to an All-India Labour Conference which it is proposed to hold in Lahore on August 9 and 10. The Conference is to discuss mostly the higher problems of labour from the political and constitutional points of view and such other higher questions of policy that might be deemed necessary.

Mr. Gani says :- "Labour has its own politics. It is an entity in itself. It has undoubtedly a separate interest. It therefore behoves all labour leaders to rise to the occasion and advocate the cause of the constitutional advancement of labour and achieve for it an honourable place in the future constitution~~x~~ of India, in consonance with its political and economic importance, ^{numerical strength and its} its formidable power. True, there are two other all-India bodies which claim to speak on behalf of Indian labour, namely, the All-India Trade Union Congress and the All-India Trade Union Federation. Both of these are of no use to us at the present juncture. The former non-co-operated with the Government last year at Nagpur and is nothing but a labour branch of the Indian National Congress, or the Indian Branch of the Third International ^{the} and Pan Pacific International. The other body was created last year for a set purpose, after the fulfilment of which it has ^{not} been heard of."

The Conference will also discuss problems generally affecting labour all over India. (Times of India .- 29-7-30.)

A news item in the Hindustan Times, Delhi, dated 13-8-30 says that owing to the tense political situation in the Punjab, the Punjab Labour Conference and the All-India Labour Conference have been postponed to 30 and 31-8-30.

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Meeting of the General Council of the All-India
Railwaymen's Federation, Simla.

A meeting of the General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation was held at Simla on the 15th, 16th and 17th June 1930. The most important business before the meeting was that of putting the final touches to the demands that the All-India Railwaymen's Federation were to present to the Railway Board at the first half-yearly Conference of the Federation with the Railway Board on 16 and 17-6-30, (A full summary of the proceedings of the Conference is given at pages 49 to 55 of the report of this office for June 1930). The General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation at its meeting in Simla passed the following resolution defining the attitude of railway labour to the present political movement for securing self-government for India :-

(1) Whereas the present policy initiated by Government in arresting, indiscriminately assaulting and imprisoning national workers who are fighting for the attainment of Swaraj deserves the severest condemnation ;

Whereas Government by ordinances and repressive measures such as Martial Law is becoming a menace to the legitimate aspirations of the workers in the Country ;

Whereas the interests of the working class in the future constitution of the country cannot be adequately safeguarded without the recognition of the principle of self-determination for India, this General Council of the All-India Railwaymen's Federation strongly urges on the Government to negotiate with Mahatma Gandhi and other representatives of the Nation immediately and settle matters satisfactorily to all parties concerned and thus prevent a situation fraught with grave consequences.

This Council is of opinion that no representative of Labour should participate in the proposed Round Table Conference unless it is on the basis of "substance of independence" as enunciated by Mahatma Gandhi.

This Council appeals to all workers in the country to contribute their mite in all possible ways such as boycott of foreign cloth, adoption of Khadi and Charka and prohibition of liquor.

This Meeting also resolves to consult the workers' organisations as to the further part they have to play in the present struggle for emancipation.

This Council further calls upon all representatives of Labour to resign their seats forthwith from the Legislatures and the various Government Committees.

(2) It was also resolved that the following do represent the Federation in the Sub-committee to discuss the Rules on Hours of Work and weekly rest days with the Railway Board :-

- (1) Mr. J. K. Chatterji
- (2) " V. R. Kalappa
- (3) " S. G. Kale
- (4) " S. Ruruswamy

(Indian Labour Journal .- Vol VII -
June 1930 - No. 9).

The Madras Labour Union.

At a meeting of the Labour Union, Madras, held on 25-7-30 it has been decided to set up a labour candidate for one of the four seats allotted to Madras city in the Madras Legislative Council. Acting upon the suggestions sent to the Labour Union by Messrs. B. Shiva Rao, N. M. Joshi and John Cliff, Mr. G. Chelvapathi Chettiar has been selected as the labour candidate. (Hindu. 26-7-30)

Intellectual Workers.

Revision of Time Tests in Post Offices.

Mr. G.V. Bewoor, I.C.S., who has been deputed by the Government of India to study conditions of work in Indian post offices in relation to hours of work has recently submitted his report on the Revision of Time Tests in Post Offices. Mr. Bewoor has framed a new scheme of time-test for the operative as well as supervisory staff of the Post Office, the Railway Mail Service and the Dead Letter Office. The Government of India have after careful examination, accepted the report and are satisfied that the time tests and the methods of applying them, as recommended by Mr. Bewoor, are based on sound principles and careful observation. They trust that the measure, when it has been fully given effect to, will effectively remove the grievances of the staff concerned relating to hours of duty, and they look with confidence to the loyal co-operation of that staff in enhancing the efficiency of the postal service in India.

In circulating the report, the Director-General of Posts and Telegraphs points out, that the present serious deficit on the department working is largely due to the heavy cost of ^{the} various measures introduced during the last four years with the object of ameliorating the conditions of the service of the subordinate staff and he emphasises that, in order to avoid the imposition, either of an undue burden on the general revenues of the Government or increased charges to services to the public, it is necessary that the improvements in the pay of the staff should be balanced by a high standard of work and efficiency throughout the whole organisation from the highest to the lowest ranks.

(The Pioneer, 22-7-1930).

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ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Conditions in Cotton Mill Industry, Bombay, during 1929.

The recently published Report of the Committee ^{of the} Millowners' Association, Bombay, for the period 1st January to 31st December 1929, presented at the Annual General Meeting of the Association held at Bombay on 25-2-30 contains a lucid statement regarding the causes of the depression in Bombay's cotton mill industry. The report ascribes the depression to the following main causes :- (1) Chronic Labour unrest (2) increasing foreign competition (3) steadily declining tendency in price of cotton (4) accumulation of ~~xxx~~ stocks, and (5) the adverse effects of the 1 sh. 6 d., exchange ratio.

Referring to the extremely disturbed labour conditions the report says :-

"Since the year 1923, when the Cotton Mill Industry started on its downward grade, years of severe depression have followed one another in dismal succession. The year under review was no exception; indeed it proved one of the worst. Early in February, Bombay witnessed serious communal riots, regarding which an official inquiry stated that "the activities of the leaders of the Red Flag Union are the basic cause of the riots." In the following month - March - some of the labour leaders were arrested, and this event caused a certain amount of unrest amongst the workers. In the months that followed greater difficulties were experienced. The new leaders of the Red Flag Union were determined to create trouble, and the policy they pursued in the first few months rendered it inevitable. In spite of the attempts made by the Association to induce a peaceful atmosphere, a wanton strike was called for the purpose of paralysing the industry. The attempt ultimately failed, but the trade, commerce and industries of the City were once again dislocated. It was only the determined and sustained efforts made by the Association that broke the strike, but not before heavy losses had been inflicted on the industry and its labour. The financial position of most mills was already serious and the strike coupled with foreign competition, which was keener than ever before, put a very heavy strain on that the Cotton Mill Industry, not only in Bombay but throughout India, was in extremely serious difficulties and in urgent need of some measure of protection. This question was once again taken up by the Association with the Government of India, with the result that Mr. G. S. Hardy, Collector of Customs, Calcutta, was deputed to make a special inquiry into the nature and extent of foreign competition. After the publication of Mr. Hardy's report, a conference was held in Delhi at which representatives of the industry throughout India placed their views before the Commerce and Finance Members of the Government of India.

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The Report gives the following figures about accumulation of stocks of yarn and cloth :-

"Turning to the yarn market, it will be seen that the position of the industry in Bombay grew much worse ~~day~~ during the course of the year. At the commencement, the stock of yarn bales stood at 6,000 out of which only 2,000 represented bales unsold. The stocks gradually increased, and at the end of April, amounted to 4,000 bales unsold and 10,000 bales not taken delivery of by merchants, or 14,000 in all. Production then fell off owing to the strike, but in spite of this, the total unsold bales remained the same till the end of August. From this date, stocks again began to accumulate, and at the end of the year stood at 15,000 bales sold but delivery not taken and 8,000 unsold bales, or 23,000 bales in all. Not only did stocks of unsold bales increase from 2,000 to 8,000, but the figure for uncleared bales went up from 4,000 to 15,000, which indicates that merchants were unable to take up goods for want of finance and credit. If prices were considered, it will be found that there was a steady deterioration from 12³/₄ annas per lb. for 20s yarn at the beginning of the year to 10³/₄ annas per lb. at the end.

A similar survey of the cloth market reveals a still more unsatisfactory position. The year opened with comparatively small stocks - 19,000 bales undelivered and 31,000 unsold, or 50,000 in all. As with yarn, stocks ~~xxix,000 bales undelivered and 31,000~~ ~~xxxxix,000~~ began to accumulate, and at the end of April, they stood at 38,000 uncleared and 56,000 unsold bales, or 94,000 in all. This was mainly due to increasing competition from abroad. On account of the strike, stocks were reduced to some extent, the figures at the end of September being 41,000 and 43,000 respectively, or 84,000 in all. During these nine months, the total imports of foreign cloth amounted to 1,489 million yards, of which Japan's share was 380 millions which, compared with the corresponding period of the previous year, showed an increase of 4 per cent. and 81 per cent respectively. Not only did Japan continue to send increasing quantities, but she also reduced prices, compelling Indian mills to sell at a loss. At the end of the year, mill stocks in Bombay reached the figure of 58,000 undelivered and 61,000 unsold bales, or 119,000 in all. Prices for cloth showed a continuous downward tendency, although staple cotton prices did not show a corresponding decline. Further, when cotton prices were somewhat favourable, full advantage could not be taken of them owing to the prevailing strike. In January, the price of standard longcloth was 15³/₄ annas, which, at the close of the year, declined to 14¹/₂ annas. That being the state of the ~~yarn~~ yarn and cloth markets, it is not surprising that the industry should be in such a depressed condition.

Referring to the adverse effects of the 1 sh. 6 d. exchange ratio, the report observes.

The Mill Industry has also been adversely affected in more than one way by the exchange ratio, which, in spite of protests from every quarter, was fixed at 1 s. 6 d. It is well known that the majority of the people who are agriculturists depend for their

livelihood upon the prices received for the produce of their lands. These prices are naturally controlled by the prices which the rest of the world can pay for the surplus exported, and which, in turn, depend on the international gold value of commodities. With the exchange at 1 s. 6 d., the return to the agriculturist would be appreciably less in rupees, while interest, rent and land revenue would remain the same. To meet the decreased purchasing power of the consumer, prices have to be reduced; they have also to be reduced because the higher exchange ratio enables foreign countries to sell their goods cheaper in terms of rupees. The net result is especially disastrous where the full force of foreign competition exists, as in Bombay. But this is not all. Whatever difference of opinion there may be as to the intrinsic merits of the ratio, it cannot be denied that the means which Government is obliged to adopt to maintain it at its present unnatural level, are causing great hardship to industry in general by creating an artificial stringency in the money market. From June right to the middle of December call money in the open market ranged between 1 and 4 per cent., and at times money could not be lent even at 1 per cent. Yet the Imperial Bank rate was raised to 6 per cent. on 10th October and again to 7 per cent. on 31st October, thus putting an additional burden on industry and trade, which are mainly financed on the basis of the bank rate. In addition, the continuous issue of Treasury Bills at high rates diverted funds from industry and deprived the mills of the means whereby they have been usually financing their cotton and other purchases. The Government, in effect, are competing with the mills, and drawing upon the sources from which mills obtain their finance. It is not surprising that the operation of so many adverse factors should have made 1929 one of the worst years in the history of the industry, and it is obvious that, unless a resolute policy of helping the industry to stand against foreign competition and the other difficulties which are confronting it are adopted, the future cannot be viewed but with grave misgivings.

Slate Industry in Madras Presidency.

In 1927 the Special Officer for the Survey of Cottage Industries, Madras, reported to the Government of Madras that there was a good chance of improving the school-slate industry of Markapur village in the Kur~~ool~~^{ool} ~~is~~ district (Madras Presidency). It was then providing employment for 200 ⁵ and 300 people throughout the year; and about 3,000 cases each of four dozen slates were being exported every month. On this report, the Director of Industries suggested a detailed departmental examination. Mr. Fyfe, Inspector of Industrial Schools, Madras, visited the quarries at Markapur and inspected the processes employed locally in preparing the slates. The Government next directed that Mr. Fyfe should investigate the availability of suitable tools and machines in the United Kingdom for working slate, etc, under the conditions prevailing in the Madras Presidency. Accordingly Mr. Fyfe in 1928 visited various centres of slate industry in North Wales. On his return he submitted a report on the results of his enquiries in the United Kingdom. In reviewing that report Government ordered a further study of the commercial aspects of the industry with a view to ascertain the financial and other help to be rendered by the department. Enquiries in Malabar were also made regarding the supply of wood for frames and it was brought to the notice of Markapur merchants that a sufficient supply of wood could be had from Malabar.

The following is a summary of the main points in Mr. Fyfe's Report :-

Mr. Fyfe in his note on the development of this industry states that in recent years there is said to have been keen competition between the foreign product and the Markapur product. He, however, believes that a properly managed Indian concern should have no

difficulty in meeting such a competition. The slate at Markapur is very dark and excellent material for school slates, and the other principal raw material, timber, can be obtained and manipulated in India much cheaper than in Europe or America. But in order to meet foreign competition it would be necessary to improve the quality of the Indian product. The foreign slates are well-finished to exact sizes, well-framed with durable timber, carefully jointed and finished in workmenlike manner. The Markapur slates are very rough with splintered edges or broken corners, while the framing is in general, rough and badly put together with nailed mitred joints.

Mr. Fyfe believes that by the introduction of a few comparatively cheap machines all the different processes can be carried on at Markapur with success from a commercial standpoint. If the tools at present in use are supplemented by a few modern quarrying picks, wedges, ~~hammers~~ hammers and broad thin chisels, a considerable saving can be effected. To set up an establishment to prepare the slates in bulk ready for framing, Mr. Fyfe gives an estimate of the necessary machines, etc., which comes in all to Rs.9,000. As to the framing of the slates he recommends the use of two machines which are manufactured by Messrs. Thomas Robinson and Sons of Calcutta. During 1928-29 slates worth Rs.147,645 were imported into the Madras Presidency from abroad. Markapur is said to be producing about 3,000 cases a month, each case valued at Rs. 4. This works out at Rs. 1,44,000 per annum; that is, almost as much as the total value of the imported slates. It is also said that the market for Markapur slates is not in this presidency alone but in large centres in all parts of India except the Punjab. ~~It~~ Therefore Mr. Fyfe is of the opinion that if developed according to his suggestions the industry is capable of yielding reasonable profits.

(Hindu.- 5-7-30).

Government's New Rupee Loan.

The Government of India (Finance Department) have issued on 22-7-1930 a notification stating that subscriptions for an issue of 6 per cent. 1933-36 Bonds, will be received without limit of amount from July 28 to August 6, 1930 inclusive. Subscriptions may be had in form of cash or of Treasury Bills or of 6 per cent. 1930 Bonds issued at Rs. 100 per cent. and repayable at par not earlier than 1933 and not later than 1936.

The loan has been issued by the Government to meet its liability for the repayment of Rs. 115.5 millions of 6 per cent. 1930 Bonds, which falls due on the 15th August 1930, and to raise the

rupee capital required for its other commitments. The most salient features of the new loan are first, the attractive rate of interest offered to investors and, secondly, the very short ~~and~~ maturity period of the Bonds. Financial circles attribute the high rate of interest to the present political unrest. The short maturity period is taken to mean that Government, while recognising the necessity to pay good rates to attract money in the present circumstances, is hopeful of better times ⁷drawing soon and is, therefore, not prepared to pledge the country's credit too far ahead. The short period of the Bonds possesses the added advantage that it will not have any considerable effect on the prices of the Government's long dated securities.

Simultaneously with the announcement of the new loan, the Government of India has arranged for an advance of £50,00,000 from the Imperial Bank of India in London in instalments of £10,00,000 between July 14 and August 5, repayable between January 30 and March 6 1931. The rate of interest on the advance will be $4\frac{3}{8}$ per cent. per annum.

Owing to strong political feeling the Indian commercial bodies are showing no sympathy to the new loan. The Bombay Mahanandal (Federal^{tion} of Commercial Associations) at its ~~1~~ meeting held on 28-7-1930 have adopted a resolution urging members to boycott the loan (the Pioneer, 29-7-1930). It is expected that despite the antipathy to the loan shown by certain interests there would be a ready response from the investing public.

Enhancement of United States Tariffs: Indian Protests.

Representations have, it is learnt, been made to the Government of India by the various Indian commercial bodies as to the effect of the recent tariff alterations made in the United States of America.

A twenty per cent import duty has been levied on several commodities sent from India which till now were being sent duty free. These include tanned hides and skins, spices, cashew nuts, jute and jute articles. The Government of India, it would appear, have not taken any action thereupon. The Southern India Chamber of Commerce has there-fore addressed the Government once again in regard to this matter and requested them to take advantage of the opportunity afforded by the announcement of the President, U.S.A. inviting countries affected to make application to the U.S.A. Tariff Commission.

(The Hindu, 5-7-1930).

Social Conditions.

The Starte Committee's Report.

At pages 47 to 48 of the Report of this Office for the first half of July 1929 reference had been made to the Starte Committee appointed by the Government of Bombay to enquire into the educational, economic and social condition of the Depressed Classes and of the Aboriginal Tribes in the Bombay Presidency. The Report of the Committee with its proposals has recently been published. The Committee was appointed in November 1928, ^{and} the Members of the Committee were :- Mr. O.H.B. Starte, I.C.S., (Chairman), Dr. P. G. Solanki, M.L.C., Dr. BR. Ambedkar, M.L.C., P.R. Chikodi, Esquire, M.L.C., L.M. Deshpande, Esquire, M.L.C., Lt. Col. Burfoot, Salvation Army, Bombay; A. V. Thakkar, Esquire, L.C.E., Servants of India Society; A.A. Thorat, Esquire; Rao Saheb J. K. Mehta, Dangs Diwan and D. A. Janvekar, Esquire, M.L.C. Mr. Janvekar died and in his place Khan Saheb A. M. Mansuri, M.L.C., was appointed.

The main findings of the Report are briefly summarised below :-

Social Conditions.- The Report deals in detail with the problem of the Depressed Classes and Aboriginal Tribes in the Presidency excluding Sind. The problem of the Depressed Classes arises largely from the peculiar position they are made to occupy amongst the people of the Presidency. They form a large part of the total population of the Presidency proper; they number about 1,476,000 out of a population of 16,012,342. It is difficult to define exactly the position of the Depressed Classes. Notwithstanding the fact that they have the culture of the Hindu community, observe the religious rites prevalent in the Hindu community, recognise the sacred as well as the secular laws of the Hindus, and celebrate the Hindu festivities yet, as a mere touch of the Depressed Classes is held to cause ~~pollution~~ pollution which the orthodox Hindus are taught in the name of religion to avoid as sin, the Depressed Classes are obliged to live in a state of isolation from the rest of the community.

The problem of the Aboriginal Tribes is not essentially different from that of the Depressed Classes. In both cases the difficulty arises from the fact of isolation from the main body of the community. But the sense of servility ~~which has been noted above~~ ^{which is} as one aspect of the problem of the Depressed Classes is absent in the Aboriginal Tribes. Rather, they are characterised by a pride of race despising the culture of the other communities.

Education.- Dealing with the question of education, the Committee note that there has been steady progress. In the year 1927 there were 59,693 Depressed Class children in Primary Schools against 30,212 in 1917. This advance is largely due to the policy of Government requiring the admission of the children of the Depressed Classes in the common schools conducted by public authority without distinction of ~~XXXXXX~~

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caste or creed. The policy of admission to Common Schools has unfortunately not been applied in all places. Consequently in the primary schools the results regarding the admission of Depressed Classes have varied from locality to locality. Progress in this matter of entry into the common school has depended mainly on the firmness or otherwise of the Educational or Deputy Educational Inspectors. The Committee show instances where though the villagers have threatened a boycott of the school when the Depressed Class children were admitted, the Educational Authorities have remained firm and carried on the school with the Depressed Class children only until the others yielded and sent their children back. "The relative merits of the separate schools for the Depressed Classes, as against the admission of these classes into the ~~max~~ ordinary schools has taken a prominent place in our deliberations," say the Committee. The principle of common schools must be preferred to that of separate schools and the Government Circular of 1923 has struck the right line of action. The Hartog Committee came to the same conclusion when they said that they are strongly of opinion that the policy of the ~~max~~ mixed schools is the right one. The system of segregate schools tends unnecessarily to emphasise rather than reduce the difference between the Depressed Classes and other Hindu castes. The majority of the Depressed Classes have during the enquiry expressed themselves in favour of separate schools. Nevertheless, the Committee strongly advocate common schools and to make this system a success they suggest an admixture of staff. "We consider that the time is ripe for a more frequent interchange of teachers between the common schools and the separate schools. We are of opinion that if more Depressed Class teachers are placed in the common schools, the entry of the Depressed Class children in these schools will be greatly facilitated."

Economic Conditions.- "One of the reasons why the Depressed Classes have remained in their degraded condition is their poverty and the consequent want of economic independence without which they cannot be expected to rise in social status and free themselves from the many injustices to which they are subjected" say the Committee. The Depressed Classes and Aboriginal Tribes are heavily indebted and the rates charged to them by the money lenders are very high. The main reason for these high rates of interest is not that they are Depressed Classes or Aboriginal Tribes but that they have very little real property capable of being given in security and advantage is taken of their isolation and ignorance of accounting. This indebtedness can only be slowly removed by an improvement in their social habits.

Recruitment to public services.- The Depressed Classes labour under many disabilities in seeking for employment in Government service. It is not only the question of lack of education which stands in their way but also the general prejudice against them. The Committee emphasise the need for more recruitment of the Depressed Classes in the Police Department and urge that the present bar to their recruitment in the Army should be removed. Referring next to the higher appointments to other Government ranks, the Committee note with pleasure that Government have recently appointed a person from the Depressed Classes as a Deputy Collector. The existing orders of Government are sufficient in regard to the recruitment of the Backward Classes to Clerical posts in all

Departments if properly carried.

Housing of the backward classes.- The Committee deal also with the question of the housing of the Backward Classes and suggest that Housing schemes for them, especially for the Depressed Classes and the wandering tribes should be promoted. And in this connection they draw the attention of the Municipalities to the housing of their conservancy staff.

Special emphasis is laid on the question of migration to towns. "We would draw attention" say the Committee, "to the influx of the Depressed Classes into the towns and cities. This influx is mainly due to the fact that ~~xxxx~~ caste prejudices are less strong in towns and cities than in villages and hence a Depressed Class person has less difficulty in breaking through tradition and obtaining work. The Committee are of opinion that the Depressed Classes have benefited by this migration and that it should be the duty of the Backward Class Officer to promote migration.

Temperance.- There is a good deal of untouchability within untouchability in this Presidency. This complicates many questions relating to their life, especially the provision of the water-supply. The question of the use of liquor, and other intoxicants, the Committee point out, affects the social and economic condition of all Backward Classes to a great extent. Almost all the castes comprising all the three groups of Backward Classes and forming more than one-fifth of the total population form a great part of what are ~~x~~ called drinking classes in the pharaseology of the Excise Department. It is a patent fact that a large part of their hard earned money goes to the drink-shop specially if the allurements of a liquor or toddy shop be very close to their door.

The Committee therefore advocate certain changes in the present policy of the Excise Department including the re-introduction of rationing system failing which certain other changes like restriction of the hours during which shops are kept open, closure of shops etc. The Committee are not unmindful of the fact that complete prohibition if introduced within a short period is likely to cause disturbance to the State and lowering of the moral tone of ~~drinking~~ drinking classes.

The various proposals put forward by the Committee involve an annual expenditure of about Rs.3,70,000.

Abolition of Devadasi System in Travancore.

A message from Trivandrum, capital of the Travancore State, dated 13-7-1930 says that the Government of Travancore has abolished the system of dedicating Devadasis (dancing girls) to serve in the Hindu temples of Travancore, maintained by the Government.

The custom of animal sacrifices in temples was also recently prohibited in the temples maintained by the State Government.

(Times of India, 17-7-1930).

The text of the Devadasi Bill introduced by Dr. (Mrs) Muthulakshmi Reddi in the Madras Legislative Council together with a statement of objects and reasons are given at pages 58 to 61 of the report of this office for January 1930. Attention is also invited to pages 57 to 60 of the report of this office for April 1929 where the text of the Naik Girls' Protection Act (United Provinces) is reproduced.

Child Marriage Restraint Amendment Bill (Council of State).

On 14-7-30 the Honourable Mr. Surput Sing introduced a Bill in the Council of State to amend the Child Marriage Restraint Act, 1929 (Sarda Act - see page 6, February 1929 report and page 47 of July 1929 report). In moving his Bill, the Honourable Mr. Surput Sing said :-

What I simply want is the sanction of the House to two very reasonable propositions. In complicated human affairs, situations must always arise which will demand exceptional treatment. My first proposition is only to provide for such exceptional cases. For instance, a father or or a ~~at~~ widowed mother or a loving and conscientious guardian, while on his or her death bed, out of love or actuated by genuine well-being, may piously desire that a girl who is under 14 should be wedded to a young man of choice or vice versa. Such an exceptional case must, in all conscience, be taken out of the category of the Act, and wisdom dictates that due allowance should be made to meet such instances. My next proposition is that due regard for liberty of conscience should be made in such a legislation as affects very tender domestic relations, such as marriage. My appeal to the House is to consider seriously these two propositions and accord their support to the amendments so that the Act may be a perfectly wise measure and be acceptable to all parties.

I now turn to the practical application of the Act itself. It is about ten months now since the Act was passed and we all know what reception it has been accorded by the public at large. The drastic nature of the legislation, without ample safeguards for liberty of conscience or exceptional circumstances, has made it absolutely unpopular. We also know from first-hand knowledge to what a ridiculous extent the public at large went in order to avoid the provisions of the Act before it was actually enforced. Human ingenuity will always forge ways and means to provide for such instances as I have enumerated. So it is better that we, legislators, should forestall them and make due allowance ourselves for such situations.

The Hon'ble Mr. H.W.Emerson (Home Secretary) moved an amendment to the effect that the Bill should be circulated for opinion.

The amendment for circulating the bill was adopted by the House by 32 votes to 9.

(Summarised from Council of State Debates
Vol. II - No. 3 of 14-7-1930. pages 119-124).

Public Health

Factory Site Scheme, Hyderabad (Deccan).

At pages 61 to 63 of the report of this office for May 1930, reference had been made to certain schemes for slum clearance undertaken by ~~the~~ Hyderabad City, the capital of Hyderabad State. The latest news from this centre concerns the adoption of a scheme for a factory site covering an extent of 200 acres at a cost of Rs. 200,000. The following are the details of the Scheme:-

A Committee presided over by Mr. B. Abdy Collins, Director-General and Secretary of the Commerce and Industry Department, was appointed to consider the question and to decide what areas should be set apart for factories and business quarters in Hyderabad City and its environs, and what limitations should be placed on the establishment of new factories and the maintenance of existing ones in other parts of the city.

In the course of their investigations, the Committee conferred with representatives of the Chamber of Commerce and the Gunj merchants of Hyderabad; they also inspected various sites and solicited the views of the Municipalities of Madras, Calcutta and Bombay on the subject. The Committee have submitted their report in which they recommend that offensive and dangerous trades should be allowed to be carried on only within the Mushirabad area, or else in the area between the Maravan Road and the Musi river, both of which areas have already been set aside for this purpose by the Hyderabad ~~Mint~~ Municipality.

Special attention has been devoted in the report to the question of granting permission to erect or extend rice-hulling plants in and about the Gunj. Having regard to the noise set up in a factory of this character, together with the nuisance which arises from the husk

of the paddy, the Committee suggest that no further licenses should be granted for the erection of rice factories in city limits, and that those already in existence should not be permitted to extend. Also, that when the new Municipal Act is passed, existing factories should be removed from the city after due notice has been given to the owners. The Committee is, however, of the opinion that relatively little good would result from this decision, unless the existing granaries were made rat-proof, or, in the ~~inter~~ alternative, removed to a site on the outskirts of the city.

The Committee further opine that the City Improvement Trust ought to acquire and lay out an area for factories of all kinds within the Mushirabad area, and though a special allotment of funds might be required for this purpose, it believes that the outlay should eventually be remunerative. Sir M. Visvesvarayya was of opinion that a large area ought to be acquired and ~~land~~ laid out for the purpose. The Committee however, considers that it would be sufficient for the present if a plot of roughly 200 acres is provided.

With regard to the provision of electric power, which will be an essential concomitant of the scheme, it is considered that the laying of a special main at a cost of Rs. 35,000 should be undertaken.

The Superintending Engineer of the City Improvement Board, who served on the Committee, assesses the cost of acquisition and laying out of the factory plot at about Rs. 200,000. The Committee was informed that the railway was prepared to bring a narrow gauge siding into the factory area.

With a view to expediting the early consummation of the measure, the Committee recommends that the Municipal Bill, which is now before the Select Committee of the State Legislative Council, should be passed at the earliest possible moment.

(Times of India, 27-7-1930).

KB.

Industrial Housing in India.

The New India of 10-7-1930 (Vol. IV, New Series No. 15) publishes at pages 11 to 13 an objective article on the "Problem of Industrial Housing of India" making a variety of suggestions as to what steps the various agencies primarily interested in the matter should take to ameliorate the unsatisfactory conditions of life of the Indian workers in so far as they are the result of neglect in providing satisfactory housing for workers. The article suggests that at least four different agencies can undertake the work and co-operate to carry out the programme of amelioration, viz., the Municipal Corporations and the Improvement Trusts, the employers of labour, the Government and the social service organisations. The following is a summary of the article:

The duty of Corporations and Improvement Trusts .- The article complains that Municipal Corporations and Improvement Trusts which are responsible for the sanitary and health requirements of the industrial areas, have, in many cases, neglected the crying need of slum clearing in the industrial areas. The tenement-quarters constructed by some of the Improvement Trusts are, as in the case of the chawls built by the Bombay Development Directorate and the Improvement Trust, quite "pucca" with strong walls and deep foundations; but they are mere "standardized slums" as Colonel Wedgwood said on seeing them, being unprovided with either sufficient windows or interior space or back or front varandahs, and the Trust authorities charge for them rents so exorbitant that they consume, in many cases, as much as half the earnings of the workmen. In order to accomplish any beneficial work and in order that such work may be to the advantage of the laborers, it is necessary that there should be a fixed proportion of members, on the Improvement Trust Boards, representing the working class interests and well conversant with its needs. If the above-mentioned reforms in the working of the Improvement Trusts are carried out, and if such Trusts are established in cities like Madras, where they do not exist now, much work in the direction of solving the industrial housing problem can be done.

What Employers should do .- The lack of personal touch between employer and employee which is so ~~km~~ much in evidence in India is deprecated. It is conceded that some employers in many industrial centres have already done much to meet the housing problem of the workmen. The Buckingham and Carnatic Mill authorities in Madras, the Tatas who control the Jamshedpur Iron and Steel works, the

Currimbhoy Ibrahim Mill authorities in Bombay and some others deserve special mention in this connection, as pioneers in the movement for providing satisfactory housing accommodation for the workmen. They have laid out model quarters for habitation, with provision for light, drainage, roads, etc., constructed schools and hospitals, established recreational clubs and co-operative societies. However, this kind of activity on the part of the employers is confined only to particular groups of mills in particular places; and there are still many other places and many other employers who have yet to fall into line and do their part, before it can be said that, on the whole, the employers have become alive to their responsibilities. For example, very little welfare work lies to the credit of the mill and factory owners of Ahmedabad and Calcutta and still less to that of the owners of the coal mines of Raniganj and the jute mills of Calcutta.

How the State can help .- The article says that the State has yet to do a great deal towards the welfare of the Industrial workers by passing legislation for enforcing a constructive housing policy in the country just as the European and American Governments have done by passing Housing Acts, by expending money on Housing Schemes, by carrying into effect a systematic policy of slum clearance and tenement construction, and by passing Rent Restriction Acts. It recommends the Government to begin with the housing of workmen employed in Railways and other branches of industry and also to induce Local Bodies to undertake the work of slum clearance. Local Governments should be authorised to raise Housing Loans and lend from them prescribed sums to Local Housing Boards, which should be established in every important industrial area, according to their requirements, to be spent on the construction of model houses. Though there is Rent Restriction Acts existing in Bombay and Calcutta, their working has not been satisfactory, as their scope is limited and no serious attempt has been made to enforce their provisions. The Co-operative Movement can be utilized to very good advantage and special Co-operative Societies for building purposes can be started in the various cities on the lines of Societies already in existence in some cities. The activities of the Public Health and Medical Departments should also be extended so as to bring about satisfactory drainage and sanitary arrangements in industrial areas, and to render cheap medical aid to workmen and maternity benefits to the women workers.

How Social Organisations can help.- The Social Service League of Bombay, the Seva Sadan Society of Poona and the Y.M.C.A., in Nagpur, Madras, and other cities are some notable examples of social service organisations which have undertaken ameliorative work; they carry on propaganda work among the laborers to inculcate better ideas of living in them; they maintain and run schools to impart education to the children of workmen; and in other respects, they agitate for an improved standard of living for the workers by bringing their grievances before the Government and the employers. There is every necessity for an extension of this work of propaganda and rousing of the dormant conscience of the workers in order to dispel the cloud of unclean and unhealthy modes of life.

The article concludes with the hope that Whitley Commission will do a good deal towards ~~the~~ this side of the welfare and industrial workers.

(New India - Vol. IV. New Series No. 15. 10-7-30)

Co-operation.

Co-operative Societies Bill, Madras.

The sanction of the Governor-General has been obtained for introduction of a Bill in the Madras Legislative Council to consolidate and amend the law relating to co-operative societies in ^{the} Madras Presidency. The Bill contemplates some important changes, and aims to facilitate further the formation and working of co-operative societies for the promotion of thrift and self-help among agriculturists and persons of limited means.

As over-dues in credit societies are assuming alarming proportions, it is proposed to empower a Registrar or other officer authorised by him to recover over-due instalments of loans by distraint and sale of immovable properties. Provision for prompt arbitration and conditional attachment of property involved are made.

Hitherto, the State has been bearing the cost of arbitration and execution, besides the cost of audit, but, as co-operative societies have multiplied greatly, it is now proposed to empower the Government to make rules for levy of fees for settlement of disputes and for enforcement of awards. The term of lien on agricultural produce is restricted to 18 maunds, but it is proposed to convert the lien into a charge.

The liquidator is given more powers in the new Bill to wind up affairs under guidance of the Registrar, and the process of liquidation is sought to be placed on a better footing. It is proposed to declare wilful failure, wilful neglect or refusal, wilful submission of false returns and wilful disobedience of summons as offences under the Act.

The provisions are based upon the English Industrial and Provident Societies Act.

(Statesman 27-7-30)

VDS.

Women and Children.

Scheme for Training of Village Midwives, Baroda.

The Government of His Highness the Maharaja Gaekwar of Baroda have recently sanctioned a scheme for educating the village "dais" (midwives) in the modern methods of midwifery at the five centres of Baroda, Pattan, Visnagar and Petlad where there are maternity homes. All the "dais" taking advantage of the scheme will be provided with a stipend amounting to Rs. 15 per mensem during the period of training, which is for the present fixed at six months June to December every year. The "dais" will after undergoing the course of training be taken up for employment by the District Local Boards and will be available for service in the groups of villages placed under her charge. The scheme thus provides that in course of time all the villages and towns in the State will have the services of the trained "dais" only, to attend to maternity cases.

In the city proper the work in connection with infant welfare and maternity has been handed to the Shree Maharani Chimanabai Child Welfare and Maternity League, an association patronised by Their Highnesses and subsidised by the Government. The League employs a qualified lady doctor and several health visitors at different centres in the city, the whole being under the direct supervision of the Sanitary Commissioner and the members of managing board.

(Times of India, 21-7-1930).

Mill Creches in Ahmedabad.

An enquiry into mill creches in Ahmedabad was recently undertaken by the Labour Office, Bombay, with a view to collecting up-to-date information regarding the extent and the nature of the creche facilities provided by the cotton textile mills in Ahmedabad. The following is a summary of the report submitted by the Labour Office, Bombay:

Statistics of Women Operatives.- There are 66 cotton spinning and weaving mills in Ahmedabad which employ about 13,000 women workers. 41 or 62 per cent. of these mills employing about 10,000 women reported that they provided creches for the children of their employees. Five mills reported that they had creches under construction while the remaining 20 mills had no regular cheche arrangements in May 1930. The following table shows the number of women employed in the latter 20 mills.

<u>Number of women workers in each mill.</u>				<u>Number of Mills.</u>
	Below 50	...	...	7
	50 and below 100	...	...	3
100	,, ,, 200	...	...	7
200	,, ,, 300	...	...	3
Total				20

Out of the above 3 mills employing over 200 and more women workers, there was no proper creche in one mill, the second had only a shed equipped with cradles but without arrangements for food, nursing, etc., for the children while the third had provided a temporary creche but there was no attendance. A fourth mill which employs about 190 women reported that it had made arrangements for about 20 cradles, but it could not make any further progress in this direction as it had not sufficient space, being surrounded on all sides by other mills. A majority of the other mills which employed more than

100 women but had not maintained any creche are new mills and have only recently started working.

Growth in Provision of Creches.- The following figures show the number of creches started in different years. In 1918 2 mills started creches; in 1919 2 mills; in 1920, 3 mills; in 1921, 3 mills; in 1922, 4 mills; in 1923, nil; in 1924, 5 mills; in 1925, 1 mill; in 1926, 2 mills; in 1927, 3 mills; in 1928, 5 mills; in 1929, 10 mills, and in 1930 (up to May), 1 mill. The above figures show an increasing tendency on the part of the mill authorities in Ahmedabad to provide creche accommodation for the children of their employees.

Age of Admission.- The age of admission of children into the creches is generally from 2 or 3 months to 2 or 3 years. The creches are usually open from the starting hour to the closing hour of the mill, i.e., from about 7 a.m. to about 6 p.m. The total number of cradles in all the 41 mill creches was reported to be 1415 and the average daily number of infants looked after 1255. The highest and lowest numbers of cradles provided in any one ~~mill~~ creche were 84 and 12 respectively. In the case of 4 mills the number of infants exceeds the number of cradles provided and it appears to be necessary to provide for more cradles in these mills. Two of these mills have however, reported that they are constructing a new building and a shed for the creches as the existing accommodation has been found inadequate.

Amenities in creches.- The cradles are generally made by hanging a rectangular piece of cloth from both the ends of two wrought iron swing hooks attached to longitudinal pipes fixed in vertical wooden or iron stands. Three mills supply steel cradles and two other mills reported that they intend to replace the existing cloth cradles by new flat wire steel cradles. Mosquito curtains have been provided in

a few creches. Cloth for the cradles is almost invariably supplied by the mills. However, in a few mills women sometimes bring their own cloth and take it away with them every evening. The buildings provided for the creches may be classified as very good in 6 cases, and good in 11 cases. In 21 cases, only a shed or an ordinary type of building has been provided while in the remaining 3 cases the accommodation is very poor. The sheds are sometimes open on one side and sometimes even on three sides. In one mill, a double storied building has been provided with cradles both on the ground and on the first floor, while in another mill the rooms provided for the creche are on the ground floor of a chawl built by the mill for its employees.

Average Area and Ventilation.- The average area per creche is 1026 square feet. This does not include the area of the verandahs or the back rooms which have been provided in seven creches. The smallest creche measures 315 square feet and the largest 2440 square feet. In regard to ventilation, 36 creches may be classified as good and 5 creches as fair. Two mills have provided fans in the creches. From the point of view of general cleanliness, 4 creches may be classified as very good, 20 as good, 13 as fair and 4 as bad. A few mills provide galvanised iron dishes for being placed beneath the cradles to ensure cleanliness and some get the floors washed at short intervals. One mill has provided a spare creche room for sick children. 27 mills reported that they had got washing arrangements for children which usually consist of a bath-room or a Nahmi and a water-tap. 14 of ^{these} mills stated that the children in their creches were being given a bath every morning. These facilities appear to be much appreciated by the workers.

The area available per child in each of the different creches can be seen from the following figures:-

<u>Area available per child in Square feet.</u>			<u>Number of creches.</u>
10-20	...	...	3
20-30	...	...	16
30-40	...	...	9
40-50	...	...	8
50 and above	...	...	5
		Total	41

Staff of creches.- 28 mills have employed whole time paid staff for looking after the children in the creches while the remaining 13 mills employ no special staff at all. Out of the 28 mills employing staff, nearly 50 per cent. employ one or more ayahs only. Only 8 mills have engaged trained nurses ^{and} only 7 mills reported that they had engaged sweepers. One mill has employed two girls for playing with the children in the creche. Two mills engage full time teachers and two engage a full-time washerman. In mills which provide a dispensary for the benefit of their employees, the creche is generally supervised by the doctor in charge of the dispensary.

Initial cost of creches.- The figures regarding the initial cost of the creches, so far as they are available, show very wide variations. This is only to be expected as the nature of the creche accommodation in the different mills differs very considerably from the corrugated roof shed open on ~~the~~ three sides to the best modern type of building with very elaborate arrangements. In some mills old office or residential buildings or spare sheds have been used for the creche and in such cases only incidental charges for starting the creche have been stated. In some other cases accounts for all the welfare work done by the mills were kept together or the creche and some other welfare department, e.g., dispensary or school or ~~at~~ dining shed were

accommodated in the same building and hence separate figures regarding expenditure on the creche were not available. The highest figure of initial expenditure reported was Rs. 20,000.

Annual Recurring Expenditure.- The annual recurring expenditure for creches which maintain no staff mostly comes to below Rs. 50 per creche, while in cases when some staff is maintained, the average annual expenditure works out at Rs. 717 per creche, the expenditure figures in the case of the 25 creches reporting expenditure under this head ranged from Rs. 200 to Rs. 2300 each per annum. The expenditure on account of creches is generally incurred by the mills. Only two mills reported that the expenses were shared by their employees. The share of the workers' contribution could not, however, be ascertained as the contributions were spent on all the welfare departments of the mills and no separate figures were available regarding the expenditure on the creche.

Provision of Milk, etc.- 12 mills provide milk for the infants. The quantity of milk given to each child per day varies from about one-ninth to seven-eighths of a lb. Two mills supply khichri (rice and dhal) in addition to milk. Another mill supplies pancreatic emulsion to weak children. In the case of infants, mothers are allowed to feed them 3 or 4 times during working hours. 17 mills supply clothing, i.e., Ganjis or frocks, baltopis, sheets or godhadis, towels, napkins, etc. As regards the washing arrangements for clothes, the kholiyas or cloth hammocks are usually washed by the mill dhobi. In some creches, however, which have no creche staff the cradle cloth is washed by the women using the creche. Clothes supplies by the mill are generally washed by the mill dhobi. 4 mills have provided nursery schools and in two of these the Montessori system is followed. As-

As regards amusements, only 2 mills provide swinging cradles. One of them also provides toys. Another mill provides a glide. Cast distinction is not very rigidly observed in the creches. However, Dhed (low caste) children are kept separate from Thakerda, Waghri and Bhil (slightly higher castes) children in some of the creches. Sometimes the main creche is used by Dhed children while women of other castes make their own cradles elsewhere according to their convenience.

Conditions in Mills without creches.- Where creches are not provided, working mothers sometimes make their own cradles under some tree or temporary shed near the Department in which they work and leave their children to be cared for either by their relatives or by other persons without employment. In the latter case, the workers have to pay something to the person who looks after their children while they are working in the mill. Similarly, the workers have to entrust their children to their relatives or to outsiders even when the mills provide the cradles but do not employ any staff for the creche.

^AThe previous enquiry into this subject was made in 1926 and its results were published in the December 1926 issue of the Labour Gazette, Bombay.

(Labour Gazette, Bombay, Vol. IX,
No. 11, July 1930).

Employment of Children as Drain Cleaners, Calcutta.

Miss Agnes M. Attree, the Secretary of the Society for the Protection of Children, Calcutta Branch, has addressed a letter to the Statesman, Calcutta, dated 6-7-1930, in which she points attention to the scandal of small children being used to clean out the drains of Calcutta City. In the course of her letter she writes:- "It is indeed, it seems to me, a case for the Society for the Protection of Children in India to investigate, and I shall bring it before our Committee on the 8th instant, to see if ~~any~~ something cannot be done to stop such treatment of young children. Apart from the immediate terrifying effect on the children, it surely must re-act on their physical and mental condition and be harmful to their future prospects. It seems almost impossible to imagine an enlightened body of men such as the Calcutta Municipality allowing such suffering to children".

(Statesman, 6-7-1930.)

Education.
Industrial Education in Punjab^{The}*

The following facts about the progress of industrial education in the Punjab are taken from the report of the Director of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31st March 1929.

During the year under review the Industries Department continued its steady work for the industrial development of the province. The expenditure on capital outlay for industrial development rose from Rs. 1,68,558 to Rs. 4,50,317 and that on the Department from Rs. 7,73,809 to Rs. 8,48,698. The revenue during the same period went up from Rs. 64,696 to Rs. 72,603.

Industrial and Technical Schools .- Industrial and technical education received considerable attention : Rs. 2,58,055 have been expended on Government Industrial schools; and the provincialisation of industrial schools maintained by local bodies has been completed while two new schools have been opened. The number of Government Industrial schools actually working in the province at the end of the year was 24, but it is increasing, and Government proposes to add a certain number of new schools every year to meet the growing demand for industrial education. These schools have been brought up to date and considerably improved new crafts have been added, and additional equipment provided. 21 vernacular, 11 drawing and 14 craft teachers have been added, and proposals for further additions have been approved. These institutions are growing in popularity. During the

* Report on the Department of Industries, Punjab, for the year ending 31st March 1929. Lahore: Printed by the Superintendent, Government Printing, Punjab, 1930. Price: Re. 1-0-0 or 1 s. 6 d. pp 22 + xxi.

year under review the number of students on the rolls increased from 2,905 to 3,323 of whom 1,500 were artizans and 372 agriculturists. The number of artizan boys seeking admission continues to increase, and it is satisfactory to note that there has been an appreciable increase in the number of students going into the Middle Department. 186 students appeared in the Industrial Middle Standard Examination as against 141 during the previous year. The appointment of a whole-time Inspector of Industrial Schools has enabled the department to develop plans of sound industrial education. A new and up to date scheme of ~~xx~~ studies, drawn up by him has been introduced and the standard of training has risen appreciably in consequence of his care and attention. The Government Technical School, Lahore, ~~xxxxxxxx~~ attracted a large number of students. The adjunct of the Government Technical School, viz., the school for the Blind, continues to be run efficiently, and had 29 students on its rolls as against 25 in the previous year.

Women's Institutes .- The Government Zenana Industrial School and the Lady Maynard Industrial School for Women, Lahore, have been improved. The number of students in the former school increased from 145 to 172 during the year under review, and in the Lady Maynard Industrial School from 153 to 190.

School of Arts .- The Mayo School of Arts, Lahore, continued to grow in popularity. The number of pupils increased from 229 to 265 during the year under review and the demand for admission exceeded the accommodation available: 80 applicants had to be refused admission. The cabinet work class continued to be the most popular, with 111 students. The Arts and Crafts Depôt, the link between the Mayo School of Arts and the cottage worker, had another

year's successful working.

The Government Institute of Dyeing and Calico Printing, Shahdara, ^{81 new students were admitted during the year. 29 were} has a useful record of work. ⁸¹ Matriculates and 29 artizans.

Students are now given training in the technical and commercial processes involved in dyeing, bleaching and finishing of yarn, etc., and also in work done under actual factory conditions. Several samples are prepared by the Institute for the guidance of professional calico printers and advice was given to a number of individuals and firms engaged in textile trades. Substantial additions have been made to the equipment of the Institute.

Industrial Loans .- Greater advantage was taken during the year under review of the facilities provided by the Industrial Loans Act. The amount of loans has risen from Rs. 54,300 to Rs. 1,08,000 during the year under review, of which Rs. 33,000 was taken by the weaving industry. Loans amounting to Rs. 28,000 were granted to the Jalalpur Jatan weavers who have formed themselves into a joint stock company for the purpose of developing the weaving industry.