



ROYAL COMMISSION  
ON  
LABOUR IN INDIA.

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EVIDENCE.

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Vol. VI.

ASSAM AND THE DOOARS.

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#### NOTE TO PART I.

In this part is reproduced the bulk of the evidence submitted to the Commission in the form of written memoranda in reply to the list of subjects circulated in August 1929. In preparing this volume the Commission have sought to retain all matter likely to be of permanent interest to students of the subject, and not available elsewhere. Material supplied to the Commission which has already been printed and published elsewhere has in general not been reproduced. Where memoranda have been abridged all considerable omissions have been indicated in the text.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE.

“To inquire into and report on the existing conditions of labour in industrial undertakings and plantations in British India, on the health, efficiency and standard of living of the workers, and on the relations between employers and employed, and to make recommendations.”

NOTE.—“Industrial undertaking” for the purpose of the Commission is interpreted as in Article I of the Washington Hours Convention, which is as follows:—

“For the purpose of this Convention, the term ‘industrial undertaking’ includes particularly:—

- “(a) Mines, quarries, and other works for the extraction of minerals from the earth.
- “(b) Industries in which articles are manufactured, altered, cleaned, repaired, ornamented, finished, adapted for sale, broken up or demolished, or in which materials are transformed; including shipbuilding and the generation, transformation and transmission of electricity or motive power of any kind.
- “(c) Construction, reconstruction, maintenance, repair, alteration, or demolition of any building, railway, tramway, harbour, dock, pier, canal, inland waterway, road, tunnel, bridge, viaduct, sewer, drain, well, telegraphic or telephonic installation, electrical undertaking, gaswork, waterwork or other work of construction, as well as the preparation for or laying the foundations of any such work or structure.
- “(d) Transport of passengers or goods by road, rail, sea, or inland waterway, including the handling of goods at docks, quays, wharves or warehouses, but excluding transport by hand.”

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The competent authority in each country shall define the line of division which separates industry from commerce and agriculture.

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## LIST OF SUBJECTS.

## I. Recruitment.

- (1) *Origin of Labour.*
  - (i) Extent of migration.
  - (ii) Causes of particular streams of migration.
  - (iii) Changes in recent years.
- (2) *Contact with villages.*
  - (i) Extent and frequency of return.
  - (ii) Extent of permanent labour force.
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  - (ii) Possible improvement.
  - (iii) Public employment agencies.
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    - (b) Possibility of practical schemes.
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  - (v) Possible substitutes.
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    - (c) Other causes.
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  - (v) Application of International Conventions relating to unemployment.
- (8) *Labour "turnover."\**
  - (i) Average duration of employment.
  - (ii) Extent of casual employment.
  - (iii) Absenteeism.
    - (a) Extent, character and causes.
    - (b) Seasonal or otherwise.
    - (c) Time and wages lost.
- (9) *Apprentices Act, 1850.*  
Value of.

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\* This word should be read as indicating generally the changes in composition of the labour staff of an undertaking.

**II. Staff Organisation.**

- (10) *Details of organisation, administrative and departmental.*
- (11) *Selection of managing staff.*
- (12) *Recruitment and training of supervising staff, superior and subordinate.*
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  - (iii) Control exercised over working conditions.
  - (iv) Effects.

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- (17) *Facilities for acquisition of land for workers' houses.*
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### **B. Mines.**

- (63) *Hours worked per day and per week.*
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  - (ii) Actual, i.e. including overtime.
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ROYAL COMMISSION  
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