



# LABOUR CONDITIONS IN CEYLON, MAURITIUS, AND MALAYA

REPORT BY

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(Labour Adviser to the Secretary of State for the Colonies)

*Presented by the Secretary of State for the Colonies to Parliament*

*by Command of His Majesty*

*February, 1943*

LONDON

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY HIS MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
To be purchased directly from H.M. STATIONERY OFFICE at the following addresses:  
York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2 ; 120, George Street, Edinburgh, 2 ;  
39-41 King Street, Manchester 2 ; 1, St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff ;  
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1943

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Cmd. 6423

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THE COLONIAL OFFICE,  
LONDON.

31st March, 1942.

The Right Honourable VISCOUNT CRANBORNE, P.C., M.P.

MY LORD,

I have the honour to present herewith my report on labour conditions in Ceylon, Mauritius, and Malaya, which were the countries included in my terms of reference.

*Extent of Investigation.*—I append an itinerary of my travels in each Colony, showing distances covered and investigations carried out.

*Form of Report.*—Owing to the marked differences between the conditions and circumstances of the three Colonies, I present my report in three separate sections.

*Acknowledgment.*—I desire to express my appreciation of the help afforded me in my work by the Governments concerned, and also by the local Associations, Chambers, etc., as well as numerous members of the public, who in many cases went to much trouble to facilitate my task. I carried out my investigations informally, and thus had the advantage of a large amount of confidential information.

I was accompanied throughout my tour by Mr. H. Nield of the Colonial Office staff, who was of great assistance to me in the collection of material and the compilation of my report.

I have the honour to be,

My Lord,

Your Lordship's most obedient servant,

G. ST. J. ORDE BROWNE,  
Labour Adviser.

## ITINERARY.

**Ceylon.**

66 days were spent in Ceylon.

Approximate distances travelled—by road...	2,900 miles
by rail ...	220 miles
Estates, mines, factories, etc., visited ...	32
Institutions visited ... ..	8
Harbours ... ..	3
Meetings with employers and employees ...	34
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**Mauritius.**

28 days were spent in Mauritius.

Approximate distances travelled—by road...	300 miles.
Estates, factories, and workshops visited ...	11
Institutions ... ..	9
Meetings with employers and employees ...	13
Other Conferences ... ..	11

**Malaya.**

45 days were spent in Malaya.

Approximate distances travelled—by road...	650 miles.
by rail ...	800 miles.
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Institutions visited ... ..	9
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(In addition to the above, numerous discussions and memoranda furnished valuable information.)

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