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Report on the Working of the Factories Act in Assam for the year 1939

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SHILLONG
PRINTED AT THE ASSAM GOVERNMENT PRESS
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No. 2347-F.

From

W. ALLSUP, Esq., M. I. Mech. E., M.I.E.I.,
CHIEF INSPECTOR OF FACTORIES, ASSAM,

To

THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSAM.

Shillong, the 31st August 1940.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith my Report on the working of the Factories Act, 1934, in Assam for the year 1939.

Your obedient servant,

W. ALLSUP,

Chief Inspector of Factories, Assam.

Report on the Working of the Factories Act in Assam for the year 1939

I.—NUMBER OF FACTORIES AND THEIR INSPECTION

1. The number of factories under the operation of the Act at the end of 1939 was 789, an increase of 6 (*vide* Appendix 1). The increase was spread over the following industries, match machinery, transport vehicle repairing, rice, printing and tea. During the year under review 9 factories were brought on the Register (*vide* Appendix 2) and 3 factories were removed therefrom (*vide* Appendix 3).

In last year's Report mention was made of the erection of the first European-owned Rice Mill in the Nowgong district. Though completed this did not manufacture during 1939.

Though the considerable annual increase of previous years in the number of rice and oil mills brought onto the Register was not maintained it is considered that there is still scope for further such mills, particularly on the North Bank of the Brahmaputra.

Cotton Pressing and Ginning.—Although the number of such mills remained the same, the output of cotton shewn in the 1938-39 Pressing Returns decreased considerably—the figures being 9,482 bales (approximately 803 tons) as against 12,946 bales (approximately 1,126 tons) for the previous Cotton Pressing Year season (September to August). The 1939-40 shows 12,612 bales approximately 1,138 tons.

Though there are a number of hand presses for cotton, as remarked in previous Reports jute still remains a "forwarding" Agricultural Industry in Assam, not a factory or even jute "pressing factory" industry, and the number of sugar factories in the Province showed no change.

2. *Workers' personnel.*—The average daily number of workers returned by Managements as employed in factories increased by 1,326 to a total of 52,003. Of this total 37,414 were adult males against 34,540 for 1938, an increase of 2,874. The adult females increased by 328 to a total of 11,009 whilst the adolescents decreased by 844 to a total of 2,550 and the children decreased by 32 to a total of 1,030.

This decrease in young persons is considered to be all to the good. Whilst the increase in adult females by 328 may not appear truly healthy, as it shows a tendency to increase female labour (though to a lesser extent than the increase in 1938) it is considered to be better than seeing an increase in young persons employed, particularly when the adult males have again increased by nearly three thousand as against just over two thousand the previous year, *i.e.*, the rate of increase in males is some eight times that of the increase in females.

It may be simplest to mention here that the year 1939 was the first year of Industrial Statistics in India for which the average number of workers returned under the Factories Act could be checked against any other Return. This double check is now given by the Annual Return under the Payment of Wages Act, which Wages Returns only commenced statutorily from 1939 and are thus for the first time available. Many considerable discrepancies were discovered in these two returns for the same factory and the figures had to be referred back. Whilst the Wages Act Return figures would normally be smaller, as workers drawing over Rs.200 per mensem are excluded from the operation of the Payment of Wages Act and hence from its Return, the enquiries brought to light the fact that many factories had calculated the "daily average figure" on a wrong basis, particularly in the case of seasonal factories, which form the majority of the Assam factories, as for such factories the working year is obviously only the working (manufacturing) season of some 8 months. Steps are being taken to see that the vital importance of using only the correct "working days figure" as the divisor of the calculation is brought to the attention of all managements.

The Indian Tea Association assisted the Inspectorate in enquiring into this difference of figures returned. It is this difficulty which has so greatly delayed the publication of this Annual Report as it was felt to be more undesirable to publish "averaged" figures rather than to delay in order to obtain correct figures for so important a matter as the first set of data to be published statutorily.

INSPECTION

3. *Staff.*—This remained unchanged. The increase in office work during the year prevented the writer from touring as much as he desired to do and this tendency will inevitably increase as labour legislation and references from factories and, in the case of Assam, electrical references also, continue to increase.

In September numerous oil mills and some saw mills applied for relaxation of working hours' control alleged to be necessitated by a great increase in the demand for oil cake due to a falling off in the availability of imported chemical manures. One saw mill also applied in order to expedite timber for military departments and tea boxes to tea factories. Suitable schemes of working not exceeding the limits of the Act and of the existing Exemption Rules were proposed and accepted by the mills, under the Chief Inspector's powers under Section 44(2) of the Act. In some cases the desire was to work continuously day and night with only two shifts. This was obviously undesirable and indeed impossible without special abrogation of the limiting powers of the Act on the ground of "war emergency", which it was considered the situation did not justify in the particular cases.

4. *Touring by the Chief Inspector.*—In January Calcutta and Delhi were visited in attending the Central Electricity Board. Opportunity was taken to see certain factories and electrical installations in Bengal.

In February the Annual General Meeting of the Indian Tea Association, Surma Valley Branch, at Silchar was attended and addressed, by invitation, and in November the similar Meeting at Jorhat of the Assam Valley Branch, also by invitation; in each case combining factory and electrical inspections on a 2-3 weeks' tour with the attendance at the respective meetings.

In May a long tour was made through Nowgong, Sibsagar and Lakhimpur districts—Digboi being specially visited in connection with the serious strike which was then in progress in the oilfields and factory establishments of the Assam Oil Company, Limited.

In July the Sylhet and Cachar districts were toured.

In September another long tour was made through the same three Assam Valley Districts and in October the Sylhet and Cachar districts were again toured for two weeks before the close of the tea manufacturing season.

Touring by the Inspector.—There is only one Inspector. He went out on tour every month of the year. Pursuant to the policy of doing as great as possible a percentage of factories in all areas rather than concentrating on a few of the easier areas, all the districts in Assam excepting Goalpara were visited. The number of factories able to be visited was 310. Special reference may be made to inspections carried out in the Jeypur, North Cachar, Habiganj, Bishnath and Gohpur areas during the tea manufacturing season. Hitherto inspections of these areas were perforce mostly carried out in the off season during the cold weather as in those days the roads were not gravelled and were practically impassable during the rains. Even with main roads motorable, considerable difficulty is found in reaching factories off the gravelled roads and it is generally impossible to visit every factory in a given area unless prepared to sit down to wait till a particular road becomes passable.

In addition to the usual enquiries when visiting factories, special attention was paid by the Inspector in 1939 to improvement of lighting and ventilation conditions in the Indian-owned rice and oil mills of the Province and the hours and numbers of the workers. It is often claimed that people seen at work in such mills are employees of the persons sending material to be milled or to be collected after milling.

More touring could be done did funds permit. Had not the "economy cut" in the Travelling Allowance grant of 1938-39 been restored to allow the Department to tour up to the end of March 1939, the later touring, done in 1939 and early 1940, would have had to be still more restricted as the cost of the touring in one financial year would have had to be charged to the following year to the detriment of the latter's and initiating a vicious circle.

II.—SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS AND VENTILATION

5. *Sanitation.*—Attention is drawn to the Booklet published by the Ross Institute of Tropical Hygiene in December 1939 on "Conservancy for Tea Estate Labourers" written by Drs. Lamprell and Ramsay, profusely illustrated by photographs and sketches. With this Booklet available it would be futile to attempt to condense its useful information in a Report such as this.

Shortly after the close of the year the writer was fortunate to meet Sir Malcolm Watson of the Institute when he was touring Cachar with Dr. Ramsay. It was suggested he should attend the Institute Course when next on home-leave.

It can safely be said with the full support of the sanitary authorities that the only solution for sanitation in factories of any size is the Septic Tank Latrine. Deep bore-hole latrines are all very well for small establishments and for individual houses of workers provided due care be taken with their construction and maintenance, but they are not suitable for a factory of any size.

It is hoped owners and occupiers will take the necessary action on their own initiative.

Where latrines are kept in a clean condition very encouraging reports by Managements have been received, and heard when making inspection visits, showing that the factory worker is gradually being educated to use the facilities provided instead of his bad old indiscriminate practices. The same obviously applies to private conveniences in workers' lines where the cleanliness is primarily a matter for the householder concerned.

The Directorate of Public Health was able to find time slightly to extend its visits to factories, in that a few tea factories and their workers' lines were visited in addition to inspecting the town mills for cleanliness and sanitary requirements. This assistance by a qualified medical staff is greatly appreciated and it is trusted may be able to be extended in scope.

Reports received from District Officers—which it is regretted are impossible to mention individually—as well as observation by the whole-time Inspection staff go to show that there has of late years been a speeding up in general factory improvements prior to the outbreak of the war. Improved tea and general product prices compared to those of the “slump” years of the earlier part of the decade have no doubt made these possible. There are still however a considerable number of factories where there is much room for improvements. Extracts from reports from Managements under the separate heads of Dust, Ventilation and Lighting are now given for the first time to show credit where it is due and, it is hoped, to spur on the laggards. *Ex-factory* sanitation, etc., is reported upon in Section IV.

6. *General cleanliness of factory premises.*—Both for use internally and externally aluminium paint was being more used until the outbreak of war raised difficulties in supply and price. There still however remains much to be done in the badly constructed old rice, oil and flour mills. As remarked in previous Reports demolition and reconstruction on proper lines is the only remedy for these premises some of which can only be called disgraceful. The Inspectorate has however had to use its discretion and trust to constant inspection pressure taking its effect rather than to handicap the local cultivators and throw the mill workers out of work by closure orders or other drastic action.

7. *Dust prevention.*—Several dust extraction installations were specially visited by the writer during the year, some of which are extra to those reported by Managements under “Welfare” and it is especially pleasing to be able to say that the very considerable Dust Extraction Equipment designed by a specialist firm which the large Dewan Factory of the Tarapore Tea Company in Cachar decided to instal is to go on despite the difficulties caused by the outbreak of war.

The following is an extract from Reports made by Factories showing progress made in 1939:—

BUDLABETA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED.

Kanjikhoa Division.—“A Dust extraction plant is installed in the sorting room.”

JOKAI (ASSAM) TEA COMPANY, LIMITED.

Joyhing Division.—“Three of the factories are completely equipped with efficient dust removal plants. Pathalipam was done this year and in the remaining garden Bordeobam, an installation is being fitted”.

Dikom Division.—“Chelneys are housed, and an elaborate system of dust extraction in course of erection”.

Hukanpukri Division.—“Arrangements have been made in the sorting room for extraction of tea dust by forced draught and the sorting room roof will be raised and extension added in 1941 to improve atmosphere”.

Duamara Tea Company, Limited.—"Two exhaust fans fitted in sorting room".

Saikhowa (Assam) Tea Company, Limited—Tonganagaon Tea Estate.—"Dust extraction plant purchased and will be fitted when alterations to the lay out of machinery have been completed".

The Limbuguri Tea Company, Limited.—"A large electric exhaust fan has been fitted in the sorting room to ensure dust free condition here".

Tingrai Tea Company, Limited.—"Two electric exhaust fans fitted in sorting rooms".

"Two dust extraction systems have been installed in the factories and a third is now in hand".

Jorehaut Tea Company, Limited—Kharikatia Tea Estate.—"The dust extracting fan has reduced the free tea dust in the sorting room to a negligible quantity".

A Darrang Tea Estate (no name desired).—"Since the Inspector's last visit a 4 feet 0 inch diameter exhaust fan has been fitted in the end of the drying room wall".

"A 36 inch dust extraction fan has been fitted in the sorting department".

Sagmotea Tea Estate—Consolidated Tea and Lands Company, Limited.—"Two Blackman's fans installed for ventilation and preventing dust (previously) to the 1939 working season".

Pabbojan and Associated Companies.—"All factories fitted with dust extraction system.

(Note.—Specially visited whilst this Report being typed.)

Eastern Assam Tea Company, Limited—Baliyan Group.—"Dryer Ducts (Rule 44) fitted and Drying Chamber areas walled off, exhaust air fan installed. Ventilation measures also continued at Seal-kotee and Mohunbaree".

Marangi Tea Company, Limited.—"Dust extraction equipment being installed".

Tarapore Tea Company, Limited—Dewan Tea Estate.—(i) Tea Sorting Room. "Installation of a dust collection plant comprising the following units:—

- (1) Duct work incorporating every machine in the sorting room ;
- (2) A sirocco No. 16 full width dust fan ; and
- (3) A sirocco 24" square patent "D" type collector".

(ii) *Tea Firing Room.*—"Exhaust Air Ducts have been fitted over all firing machinery (7 firing machines in all) and the dust laden air exhausts from those ducts into an expansion chamber, situated immediately over the firing room of the factory building. This chamber measures approximately 150 feet long \times 20 feet, wide \times 8 feet high and its purpose is to reduce the air speed, so that the heavier dust may have time to settle before air is exhausted to atmosphere...".

Craigpark Tea Company, Limited.—"Two electrically driven dust extractors have been placed in the sorting room. Indeed everything possible has been done to keep the place cool and clean. This of course improves both manufacturing and working conditions".

Majagram Tea Company, Limited.—"Dust extraction and air purification plant planned for cold weather 1940 erection".

Amo Tea Company, Limited.—"Dust extraction installed".

Cachar Dooras Tea Company, Limited.—"In continuing the considerable new and reconstructed factory programme dust extraction has not been lost sight of".

Chandighat Tea Estate.—"Dust extraction installed".

West Jalinga Tea Estate.—"Sorting Room dust extracted into loft".

D.rby Tea Company, Limited.—"Dust extraction plant being erected and Firing Room fitted with exhaust fans".

Note.—This factory has put in the first "foil" ceiling known to the Inspectorate in Assam.

Ruthna Tea Estate.—"Dust extract fan system fitted in Sorting Room".

Rashidpur Tea Estate.—"Dust extraction to be put in shortly".

New Samanbagh Tea Company, Limited.—"Dust extraction installed".

Bhubrighat Tea Company, Limited.—"Home made extraction plant put in".

Patrakola Tea Company, Limited.—"Dust extraction equipment installed".

8. *Ventilation—Rule 44 and Extraction of Tea Dryer Exhaust Air.*—This Rule introduced in 1935 has, as far as Tea Factories Air conditions go, particularly in the Tea Firing Room, had more effect upon ventilation, dealt with below, than any other single measure. In fact in old fashioned factories where partitioning off the sections of the Tea House is not very thorough the hot moist air from the Dryer Exhaust could give its unpleasant effects over a considerable part of the Tea House, in some cases exactly where wet air is undesirable, e.g., in the Sorting and Packing Departments.

Of late years there has been a greater support for the idea of the desirability of cooler factories, not merely of cooler Fermenting and Rolling Rooms in tea factories. Naturally special attention is still given to these two Departments, in which low temperature gives better control of fermentation and, from figures shown to the writer by the Scientific Department of the Indian Tea Association, tend greatly to improvement in quality.

It is probable the use of foil as a roof insulator would have extended had it not been for war prices. If the writer could have his way no factory in a hot country would be permitted to have only a C.I. sheet roof. Some heat insulating material

should be used for the roof itself or a "ceiling" of such material fitted below, as, in the writer's opinion, what for want of means may "serve" for a poor man's house or shop is not good enough for workers who have to work in a controlled establishment.

The following are extracts from Reports by Managements:—

The Assam Company, Limited.—"During the past year extra ventilation has been installed in both firing and sorting rooms. With that previously in use, the area available is ample for health".

Bhooteachang Tea Company, Limited.—"Seven new skylights have been fitted over the dryers giving much improved light while ventilation has also been considerably improved".

Ledo Tea Company, Limited.—"A large ventilator 50 feet long was fixed to the roof making atmospheric conditions within much more healthy".

Imperial Tea Company, Limited.—"Factory reconstructed and ventilation greatly improved".

Doom Dooma Tea Company, Limited.—"Ventilation—all factories are well ventilated".

Jorehaut Tea Company, Limited.—"The factory reconstruction programme of this company has continued. Dust extraction equipment fitted and ventilation modernised. (Several remodelled factories were specially visited by the writer of this Report.)"

Lukwah Tea Company, Limited.—"New and enlarged Dryer Ducts and Dust Fan in Sorting Room installed".

Jokai (Assam) Tea Company, Limited.—"The numerous factories of this Company have had extensive improvements carried out—in some cases practically reconstruction of the premises, dust extraction and Dryer Ducts fitted".

Upper Assam Tea Company, Limited.—"Factory improvements on a considerable scale continued here also".

A Cachar Factory.—"A curved roof ventilator has been fitted in reconstructing the Tea House to ensure cooler working conditions. An electric high speed fan has been fitted to ensure cooler and more comfortable working conditions.

Doyapore Tea Company, Limited.—"Large ducts fitted to Tea Drying Machines".

Chandypore Tea Company, Limited.—"In designing the new Tea House special attention was given to ventilation".

Rampore Tea Estate.—"Factory loft removed to improve ventilation and lighting".

Chandighat Tea Estate.—"Roof raised and dust extraction installed".

West Jalinga Tea Estate.—"Ventilator and skylights fitted".

Kurkoorie Tea Estate.—"Air conditioning put in in rolling and fermenting rooms".

Jetinga Valley Tea Company, Limited.—"Louvres extensively fitted".

The Consolidated Tea and Lands Company, Limited—Goombira Tea Estate.—"Lofts removed".

Jafflong Tea Estate.—"Factory ventilation improved".

Rajghat Tea Estate.—"Four new bays extended greatly improving Firing Room ventilation and lighting. Large curved ventilator along roof".

Rashidpur Tea Estate.—"Well lit and ventilated new Engine Room and electric battery room. Firing Room roof raised and this is a great improvement and has also enabled many windows to be put in high up".

Dhamai Tea Company, Limited.—"Factory extensively reconstructed with North Lighting and well ventilated".

New Samanbagh Tea Company, Limited.—"New type of roof fitted to improve ventilation and lighting".

Longai Valley Tea Company, Limited.—"New ventilation system and additional windows put in, Rs. 2,500, also Celotex ceilings, Rs. 1,500, in the Tea House".

Bhubrighat Tea Company, Limited.—"Fan and extra windows put in in the Firing Room and extensive painting with aluminium paint which made a considerable difference in inside temperature, 8 degrees below".

9. *Lighting.*—Previous reports have emphasised the generally low standard in Indian factories and in those of Assam. More detail was given in the Inspector's *Electrical Report* where the recommendations of expert bodies were summarised.

The suggestion to supply the Deputy Commissioners in their capacity as part-time Factory Inspectors with handy portable light meters (foot-candles) and with Dry and Wet Bulb Hygrometer sets for use when visiting factories was not approved by the Commissioner of Divisions, so the idea was dropped.

This is a pity as with only the very small full-time Inspector staff it is in practice impossible to reduce daylight inspection visits in favour of night-time ones if the total visits are not to fall off.

It is to be feared that the war will delay progress even in cases where factories are still illuminated only by oil lamps, but the following is an extract from Reports made by Managements:—

Assam Frontier Tea Company, Limited.—"The factory lighting has been increased by 60 per cent. at Khobang".

Namdang Tea Company, Limited.—"Lighting was improved by the fitting of 10 extra points".

Jokai (Assam) Tea Company, Limited.—“Lighting arrangements have been improved in all factories”.

Doom Dooma Tea Company, Limited.—“Improved lighting. All factories are fitted with high powered electric light for work at night”.

Saikhowa Tea Company, Limited.—“Substantial addition made to electric installation to improve lighting”.

The British Assam Tea Company, Limited.—“Flood lighting of firing and sorting rooms installed”.

Rajah Ali Tea Estate.—“Factory entirely rewired”.

Eastern Assam Tea Company, Limited.—“The large North Balijan Factory was rewired in 1938 and the similarly large South Balijan rewired in 1939”.

Jorehaut Tea Company, Limited.—“The construction of the very considerable factory reconstruction programme of the Company has continued and has a remarkable effect upon the lighting”.

A North Lakhimpur Factory.—“Factory entirely rewired and refitted electrically”.

Baraooa (Sylhet) Tea Company, Limited.—“The factory is well lighted by electric light throughout the building. A number of windows have been put on the south side near the roof and the room is much brighter than formerly”.

Doyapur Tea Company, Limited.—“Electric wiring was completely renewed and the number of lights with larger candle power was increased”.

Majagram Tea Company, Limited.—“Factory interior painted throughout with aluminium paint”.

Chandighat Tea Estate.—“Electric lighting put in”.

Iringmara Tea Company Limited.—“Electricity put in”.

Patrokhola Tea Company, Limited.—“Electric system rewired and efficient shades fitted in factory”.

10. *Fire precaution.*—In previous Reports the fire risk caused by dust was emphasised. Cleaner factories mean reduced risk. The mention of the availability of handy-sized Carbon Tetrachloride extinguishers, specially designed for electric fires in sub-stations, etc., does not appear to have led to increased use of such types. It is again emphasised that the difference in cost between this type and ordinary type is recouped many times over should a fire occur and expensive electrical equipment be damaged by use of liquid extinguishers of the ordinary types as used for “general” fire fighting.

Several factories were asked to construct emergency stairs from upper floors or to increase the means of rapid escape from ground floor rooms.

III.—WAGES AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF WORKERS

11. *Wages.*—As already mentioned this is the first year (1939) for which a compulsory return was called for under the Payment of Wages Act. Nearly all Assam Managements had been good enough to respond to a call for a trial voluntary Return for the year 1938, which not only gave some practice to managements in making out the Returns and to the Inspectorate in analysing them, but also enabled some figures to be given in the previous Report. In that Report attention was drawn to certain “traps for the unwary” that existed.

The discrepancies in the daily average number of workers between this (new) Return and the (old) Factories’ Annual Return for 1939 have already been remarked, and its delaying effect upon this Report.

The figures returned for 1939, after such correction as has been possible, show :—

	Rs.
Total wages paid in registered factories	... 5,819,835, say 58 lakhs.
Total daily average number of workers returned by registered factories as falling under the Payment of Wages Act and as earning the above 58 lakhs was	... .. 51,984

It will be noted that the workers’ strength is less by only 19 than the total daily average number of workers returned for 1939 under the Factories Act, *i.e.*, in approximately 800 factories there are only 19 “returnable-employees” who receive more than Rs.200 per mensem!

The total wages, 58 lakhs, are 2 lakhs less than the figure of 60 lakhs returned on the voluntary return made a year previously. As stated in commenting on that return in the previous Report, it was thought that some high-salaried persons not eligible to be “returned” under a Wages Act Return might have been erroneously included.

It is not considered that the wage-rate in Assam has fallen. The discrepancy is probably explainable by several reasons, *e.g.*, the drop in wages paid out during

the labour-troubles at Digboi and Tinsukia, and in due course a figure-level will emerge as further returns are made in successive years. In issuing the next return Forms still more information will be given on the accompanying "Instruction Sheet" as to who is a "worker" to be included in or excluded from the Wages Return and how the "working days" are to be reckoned. There is obviously scope for better appreciation of exactly who is to figure in these two Annual Return Forms from Factories. Superior grade are exempted from restrictions on hours of work and so do not go in the G-7 or other Attendance Registers but in a separate Form H as prescribed in the rules. Nevertheless they or many of them are still "workers" but some of them may have to be excluded from the Wages Return as distinct from the Factories Annual Return as drawing Rs.200 per mensem or over.

The difference of 19 in the total for adult males is obviously incorrect and the figures can only be accepted as approximately correct until the clerks working out the figures and the supervisors who check them take more care with the Returns.

The following detail figures may be of interest. In Assam there is a high percentage of adult female and "young person" labour relatively to the strength of Adult Males. In consequence, although the all-India Wages Return does not require any differentiation, it was decided, with the full agreement of the Indian Tea Association—which body indeed pressed a second time for reconsideration that all Provinces should differentiate between the classes of workers—that the Returns actually rendered by Assam Factories to the Inspectorate should show the different grades and their wages and so give a more true average figure. This shows:—

Grade				Average daily strength	Wages paid	Average per capita per annum
					Rs.	Rs.
Adult Males	...	...	...	37,395	4,962,704	132
Adult Females	...	...	...	11,009	623,250	57
Adolescents (both sexes)	...	...	...	2,550	184,670	73
Children (both sexes)	...	...	...	1,030	49,212	48

It is rather surprising at first sight to see an adolescent earning more per annum than an adult female. In practice however the bulk of these adolescents are hefty young men and are rated accordingly or at any rate at a higher rate than an adult female, and who probably lose less time than do women, whilst in many cases no doubt hefty female adolescents are also rated for pay as adults. Of the 2,500 odd adolescents nearly 2,000 are males.

Fines.—Only Rs.40-4-0 were deducted in fines and only 71 cases occurred.

Deductions—Other than fines:—

	Rs.	a.	p.	
Breach of contract	9	3	0	only 1 case.
Damage or loss of goods	101	3	0	291 cases.

In view of the Government of India Ruling that the ordinary worker cannot have deductions made from his wages for "damage or loss" unless he is a type of employee who had been "specially entrusted" with goods or tools, the cases reported voluntarily for 1938 were taken up with the Managements concerned. Similarly the cases now reported for 1939 will be taken up although the average is only some 5½ annas.

Had the gross wages, 58.19 lakhs, been merely divided by the gross daily average number of workers under the Wages Act (51,984), the average wage per capita per annum would have been Rs.112.

As the greater bulk of the Assam Factories are seasonal ones, working say only 8 months in the year, the true average wage per head per annum levelled to a full 12 month-working-year for such seasonal factory workers is some $\frac{1}{8}$ or 1.5 times the average figure for the various sex-and-age classes tabulated above and varying from Rs.132 down to Rs.48 per capita per annum.

Some details by type of factory, extracted from the full "Statement" as rendered to the Director-General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics, India:—

Industries	Average number of workers	Wages paid	Average per capita per annum
		Rs.	Rs.
1. Government and Local Fund Factories	550	1,57,964	287
2. All other factories:—			
(a) <i>Perennial</i>			
(i) Engineering, coach building, kerosene tinning, railways, electrical generating stations, industrial and technical school workshops.	1,780	5,44,323	306
(ii) Minerals and metals— Petroleum refineries/... ..	2,178	6,66,118	306
(iii) Food, drink and tobacco— Rice and ice	835	1,40,296	168
(iv) Matches and oil mills... ..	1,203	2,26,713	188
(v) Wood, stone and glass	991	2,08,582	210
(vi) Paper and printing	172	38,536	224
Total (Perennial)	7,709	19,82,532	257
(b) <i>Seasonal</i>			
(i) Cotton ginning and baling	486	28,091	58
(ii) Sugar	52	1,829	35
(iii) Tea	43,737	38,07,383	87
Total (Seasonal)	44,275	38,37,303	87

In comparing the above several types of factory the following factors require remembering:—

Regarding Item 2(a)(iii), Rice and Ice Factories.—Although not seasonal factories there is a considerable fluctuation in the demand on these factories and a considerable proportion of the workers' strength is fluctuating labour compared to other perennial factories.

In assessing the true value of "wages" there is also the very important matter of what housing and other amenities, sick attendance, sick pay, etc., are given by the employer. Those of the perennial factories Item 2(a)(ii) "Petroleum refineries," the Digboi and Tinsukia workers, receive general housing, water, sickness, leave and other amenities. Of Item 2(a)(i) a good proportion of both workers and Wages is concerned with engineering and petroleum-container making and filling of the Burma (Assam) Oil Company enjoying similar provision by the employer.

In the Seasonal Factory Class sufficient has been said under "Welfare" to show the amenities and "value" afforded by the employer in the case of tea factories.

The average per capita figures are as worked out by slide Rule, *i.e.*, approximately to the nearest third place (figure).

General.—Applications for the sanctioning of Acts and omissions for which fines may be inflicted continued to come in during the year under review.

It is obviously from the trivial figures shewn above that "punitive" deductions from workers' wages are very little used in our Assam Factories. The "objects" which were asked to be sanctioned for the expenditure of fine funds are sound ones, *i.e.*, for the general good of the workers. It has not been found necessary to object to any proposed "uses".

There were a few cases, anonymous, where illegal fining or delays in paying wages were reported. As far as possible these were enquired into. Mention has been made elsewhere of one workers' union reporting cases in a printing press for abuses.

12. *Representative Trade Organisations.*—In the previous Report it was said that the Inspectorate is endeavouring to get into touch with the Indian Planters' Associations. In June 1940 the Annual General Meeting of the Surma Valley Branch of this (Indian-owner) Association at Karimganj was attended and addressed by the writer by invitation. It is hoped it will be possible to extend this liaison to the mutual advantage of the industry and the duties of the Inspectorate.

There is still no news of any similar employers' organisation by the considerable number of Rice, Oil, Flour and other small mill owners.

Similarly no real Workers' Organisation can be said to exist. The Inspectorate was approached by a Printing Trade Organisation in one town which alleged grievances which were investigated. It is pointed out however that it is the duty of such organisations to obtain direct evidence themselves as they are far better able to do through the aggrieved worker member concerned than is the Inspectorate which can only officially visit the premises complained about and seek to secure evidence on the spot.

13. *Industrial disputes.*—A serious situation arose in the installations of the Assam Oil Company Limited at Digboi and Tinsukia in April. One side claimed it to be a lock-out and the other side a strike.

The writer visited Digboi in May and saw the Secretary and other member of the Workers Union and discussed several points they put up where they considered the Factories and the Wages Act might support them. Where necessary the points were put to the Management and, on return to Shillong, a brief Report sent to Government.

On the outbreak of war in September the area became a protected area and those workers who could not be reabsorbed into employment were paid a sum of money and their railway fare to their homes. Early in the year there was printed the report of the Court of Enquiry appointed by Government in August 1938, under Section 3 of the Trades Disputes Act to enquire into the conditions of work of the Company's employees.

There was also trouble at Urunabund Tea Estate in Cachar. The factory was specially visited in July by the writer.

14. *Due observance of working hours, etc.*—As previously remarked, many managements are far too careless in checking Register entries made by their clerical staff. In some cases definite breaches of the Act are openly shewn in the Register. This proves that the requirement of the law has not been adequately understood, as it is not supposed that requirements are deliberately breached and the fact of such breach set down to convict the owner. In all cases of doubt reference should be made to the Inspectorate rather than work illegally.

IV.—HOUSING AND CONDITIONS OF LIVING OF FACTORY EMPLOYEES

15. This is best briefly described as "Welfare *ex-Factory*". In Assam where the vast bulk not only of the factory but also of the "general" labour is housed by the employer on his property in the case of tea and oil establishments, the *ex-factory* welfare is a highly important factor in employment conditions and, though the Inspectorate has no powers in any matters outside the actual factory buildings and their precincts except as regards electrical-safety where electric lines or apparatus gives legal right of access to non-factory areas in its electric capacity, as much interest as time permits and as the employers can spare is given to *ex-factory* matters when making inspection visits.

The reports made by the District Officers when inspecting labour conditions under the non-factory protective enactments are also most useful, and the practice of the Deputy Commissioner of the Lakhimpur District of sending his "estate report" in full to the Inspectorate—instead of merely an extract from it to cover his visit to the factory in his factory capacity—has, as suggested in last year's "Welfare" remarks, been followed by other District Officers. The Inspectorate is much obliged to them for so doing and hopes next year to embody some facts from such sources if space permits.

This year a good response was made by employers to the request for voluntary sending-in of data covering *ex-factory* welfare in addition to actual improvements in the factory affecting the working conditions.

The factory measures have already been quoted under Ventilation, Dust and Lighting. The extracts now quoted deal with *ex-factory* matters only.

Next year, if the response from industry is as great or as is hoped still greater an attempt will be made to improve the set out of the information supplied. It is trusted no one who has replied has been omitted but, unless figures are given it is difficult to extract facts of any real value, *i.e.*, it is little use to say "improvements continued" or "we have such and such amenities". The idea is to show the actual annual improvements only. If industry has no objection to a continuation of this voluntary sending in of data, the Inspectorate proposes next year (for the year 1940) to send out a stereotyped form which will set out the various *ex-factory* items (wells, schools, hospitals, latrines, water supply, etc.) and similarly concerning factory items. So doing would make analysis of the facts much easier and less liable to error and should save correspondents writing what are in some cases lengthy letters.

For lack of space no mention is made of the sickness, maternity, child feeding and allowance benefits, issue of clothing, free fuel, fee or nominal rent land for cultivation and other "amenities and services" given to the workers. The reports received from employers and District Officers give figures showing that a great deal is in fact done. This is important not only to the writer of this Report but also to the industry, as a former Report was attacked by a leading Indian Newspaper as tendentious and ignoring the dark side of the labour situation in Assam. Consequently the Inspectorate has tried to obtain "definite statements of facts" to show what benefits over and above wages labour receives in Assam.

The following are the extracts from the reports made by the Managements. Where so desired the name of the concern has been omitted.

THE ASSAM COMPANY LIMITED—CHERIDEO TEA ESTATE

Two schools are in operation on the estate. One Middle School employes 3 teachers and has an average attendances of 57 scholars daily. The second which is a lower primary has one teacher and an average daily attendances of 35.

DEKHARI TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

A creche for workers children was started. The building consists of a house with verandah, cook house, latrines and septic tank. They are built of brick with C. I. roofs. There is also a bamboo and thatch shelter in the playground and a double swing for the use of children. Two women attendants, a cook and a sweeper are maintained. The approximate cost of buildings, etc., was Rs.2,000 the running cost is approximately Rs.180 a month. Children up to 4 years of age are left in the creche whilst their mothers are at work. They are fed three times a day—(1) in the morning milk, tea and bread; (2) mid-day rice, dal vegetables, etc., and (3) in the afternoon they are again provided with milk, tea and bread. They are weighed weekly and children not gaining weight receive special medical attention.

Twenty-one tube wells put in. Cattle troughs built. 23 house built. 12 seat latrine, automatic flush, and septic tank, Rs.1,500. Indian Staff Club built. Bazar (market) for workers built and fenced in.

BUDLA BETA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Thirty-two tube wells sunk. 90 bore-hole latrines installed. 33 houses, two schools, hospital extension and sanitation and a Club building and two Rest Rooms built during the year. Annual programme of 5 tube wells per estate.

A troop of Boy Scouts was started during the year.

MAKUM (ASSAM) TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Welfare Committees inaugurated in all Divisions.

Isolation Ward at Namdang Tea Estate. Hospital costing Rs.6,000 and extension at Bogapani Tea Estate Hospital at Rs.6,600, both with modern sanitation added. Christian Church costing Rs.4,000 built at Namdang and one at Rs.3,000 at Bogapani. 2,000 ft. new pipe lines and new wells, costing Rs.1,700 at Namdang and 26 tube wells sunk at Bogapani, costing Rs.5,500.

Houses.—Namdang, repairs, etc., costing Rs.2,865 and 564 houses repaired at Bogapani at a cost of Rs. 5,570 and new drains and roads at Rs. 1,173.

Margherita Estate.—New Club House of staff workers. Complete sets of games equipment provided. Ten wells, 30 houses, 67 latrines.

Dehing Estate.—Twelve tube wells, 10 houses, 3 hospital wards completely rebuilt.

Dirok Estate.—Six houses and one dispensary, ten tube and 15 closed type wells built.

JOREHAUT TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Kharikatia Estate.—Hundred and twenty new 2 room houses erected. Eighty-seven of these have own bore-hole latrine and the rest will follow. A new tank dug at a cost of Rs. 2,500, Rs. 2,000 spent annually on malarial control. Another Football ground added to the two already existing and a Hockey ground made.

Numalighur Estate.—Ninety two-room houses erected. One overhead tank with large ground tank put in, also a deep tube well. Thirty new bore-hole latrines erected. A school house built.

BRAE AND CHINGOOR TEA ESTATES, LIMITED—LOONGSOONG TEA ESTATE

One new tube well sunk. Hospital area drained. Concrete tank at factory for washing.

PABBOJAN TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Rs. 4,600 yearly average expenditure on each associated Estate on housing. All open wells being replaced by tube wells 80-100 ft. deep to scale of 1 well to 75 persons. Total spent on 5 estates in last 3 years Rs.37,800. Three of the 5 estates have larger and 238 ft. deep tube wells with power pumps giving 6,000 gallons per hour with 12—16,000 gallons storage tanks. Total expenditure on these 3 installations Rs. 76,500.

Septic tanks and automatic flush type latrines. Cost to-date all estates Rs. 68,560. Latrines are very popular with the labourers and a definite improvement in health. The Company does not approve bore-hole types though a number still exist.

One new hospital costing Rs.58,000 building. Trained Nurses and Midwives employed in each hospital. Pregnant and subsistence allowances on 5 estates amounts to Rs. 25,000 per annum. Children of ages 1-10 years get one free meal daily except Sundays; Rs. 14,127 spent on 5 gardens in 1939.

Malarial control.—Rs.5,000 spent annually for each of 5 gardens. Spleen rate fallen to 35 per cent. from that of 75-80 per cent. in 1924.

Fuel.—On each estate 8-12 acres replanted for timber annually.

JOKAI (ASSAM) TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Eighty new workers' houses, single type, of concrete with C.I. roofing. A new hospital at Pthalipam of same type as one built at Joyhing, also in the North Bank area, in 1938.

Fifteen pucca houses at Nalani. Thirty at Dikom and a school. Sixteen pucca houses and 6 tube wells at Nokhroy.

Panitola Estate.—Two new brick Indian Staff Quarters erected, and a new tube well sunk.

Bokel.—Sixty-one pucca houses, 2 pucca cattle sheds, 12 tube wells, 118 family latrines. One new hospital, 2 schools and staff club (completely equipped with Radio etc.). Scouting started.

Lengrai.—Hospital rebuilt. Eighty-five pucca houses, 30 more in hand and nearing completion. Fifteen tube wells. Bore-hole latrines for each family. Five new Staff Quarters and Staff Club, Tennis and Badminton courts. Welfare Committee being started. Spleen rate decreased from 75 per cent. to 39 per cent. in past year for children. Rs. 2,400 expended on anti-malarial work.

Hukanpukri.—Two factory latrines and bore-hole latrines for every family in lines. Large new Hospital Ward added. Forty pucca houses erected and 25 modernised. One Church, 2 "C" Class schools built and started work.

TINGRI TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Large fruit garden laid out on each Division for labour force consumption only. Fifty-six bore-hole latrines. Six tube wells, 20 houses rebuilt.

LEPETKATTA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Tube well and taps at Tea House. Eighty-one new houses, 5 tube and 1 pucca well. Three shelter sheds for garden workers' children. Three schools built.

KHONGEA TEA ESTATE LIMITED

Works covering housing etc. carried out in last 3 years at about Rs. 7,500. Also new school in 1939, Rs.1,500, with tube well. Upkeep charges of lines at Rs.3,000 annually.

TIMON TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Three deep tube wells sunk.

ASSAM CONSOLIDATED TEA ESTATES LIMITED

Bhamun Division.—Nineteen new pucca houses erected. Three new tube wells sunk.

Khawang Division.—Fifteen new houses and 6 new tube wells.

MOABUND TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Fifty-five new houses built and many bore-hole latrines installed. Cost Rs.7,000 in 1939.

LUKWAH TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Twenty-two new pucca houses built. Two thousand ft. of pucca drains. Line latrines being experimented with.

JOONKTOLLEE TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Ten new 2-room houses erected. One tube well sunk.

DOORIA TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Two-room brick house now standardised, 20 built and 20 to be built annually till all old type are thus replaced.

BORBHEEL TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Nearly all houses now provided with one bore-hole latrine and proves very popular. New Hospital building. Qualified Midwife engaged. New well with pump and tanks erected.

ASSAM FRONTIER TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Hokonguri Division.—Twelve new houses. Twenty new tube wells.

Khobong Division.—A 156 ft. tube well installed.

LIMBUGURI TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Thirty-100 feet tube wells. "B" class school. Boy Scout Welfare Committee. Five good breed bulls purchased to improve quality of workers' animals.

RUPAI TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Thirteen tube wells. Three 8-seat septic tank latrines. Thirty-one double pucca houses. Five incinerators. One "C" class school.

ITAKHOOLI TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Three new pucca houses built.

RAJAH ALLI TEA ESTATES LIMITED

Seven new tube wells sunk. Nineteen forty should see completion of total rebuilding of all lines.

UPPER ASSAM TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Maijan Tea Estate.—A new central hospital costing Rs.40,000 to replace the subdivisional hospitals. Equipped with latest sanitary and lighting arrangements with pucca Hospital Staff buildings. A certified Nurse employed.

Five new tube wells ; old lines being removed to more healthy ones. Twenty modern type houses built. One new pucca school.

Nagaghoolie Estate.—Two new tube wells.

Borboruah Estate.—Four pucca houses and 2 tube wells. Hospital entirely rebuilt. One complete line resisted on healthier ground and water supply extended to suit. One new pucca school.

Nudwa Estate.—New hospital with pucca quarters for staff. One new pucca school built.

Rungagora Estate.—Fifty steel frame houses walled with brick in place of old type ekra and plaster. All Staff Quarters rebuilt and water pipes taken to them. One pucca school built.

LEDO TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Six new 2-room houses erected.

THE CONSOLIDATED TEA AND LANDS COMPANY LIMITED

Powai Division.—New Hospital Isolation Ward Rs.5,500. New large well Rs.2,040.

Sagmootia Division.—Twenty new houses built, 128 repaired. Two new tube wells. Six bore-hole latrines. Two Hospital Wards renovated.

TEZPORE TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

New 2-ward Hospital at Rs.4,000. Two wards, 100 ft. from main Hospital building, have two double latrines and cook house and water supply. Rs.6,000 spent on houses in the year. Twenty-two modern type houses built. Fifty bore-hole latrines. Six new tube wells. School is regularly attended. Welfare Committee formed.

MANGALDAI TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Thirty new 2-room houses built. Sixty odd houses renovated. Pumps and wells cemented round and drained.

A DARRANG TEA ESTATE

Fifty new modern type houses built, each having 3 rooms and verandah. Pumping plant and tank at Rs.4,000 installed. Two new shallow tube wells. Old wells cemented and fenced off.

DOOMDOOMA TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Forty-two new pucca houses. Fifty-three houses improved. Forty-nine tube wells sunk with washing places. Two hundred and fifty-three bore-hole latrines and 152 seats with septic tanks. Two hospitals replaced by "Cottage type" of several blocks each, complete with water supply, septic tank sanitation, etc.,

SAIKOWAH (ASSAM) TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Eight new double houses. Seven deep tube wells. Considerable *pucca* Hospital extensions, with modern sanitation. *Pucca* septic tank sanitations for factory also.

THE CHUBWA TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Six tube wells put in. Fifty bore-hole latrines and a qualified Midwife engaged.

A NORTH LAKHIMPUR FACTORY

Pucca sanitation for Tea House, and 2 new covered wells in lines.

EMPIRE OF INDIA AND CEYLON TEA COMPANY LIMITED

New well constructed. Pumpmen kept on all main wells costing Rs.1,800 per annum to do this. Five 2-room houses built. Line upkeep Rs.4,150 for year. Six new Midwives trained. Feeding of sick Rs.3,500. Sick persons attendants' allowances Rs.2,279. Pregnant allowance Rs.2,025. Hook-worm Treatment allowance Rs.347.

BHOOTEACHANG TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Imhoff (patent) Septic Tank Latrine. Two hundred and forty feet tube well supplying 7,000 gallons per hour electrically pumped. Malaria census treatment fell from nearly 2,000 cases in 1931 to 235 in 1939. All non-working children given prophylactic quinine daily and prophylactic ophthalmia treatment in the season.

BISHNATH TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Pabhoi Division.—Tube wells, 30-160 feet deep, installed throughout the lines. Three trained Midwives engaged. Two schools and 2 schoolmasters also a night school at the special request of labour which is well attended. Two good bulls purchased for workers' cattle improvement.

Pertabghur Division.—Three new tube wells. Old wells cemented around and concrete washing plinths being constructed at a safe distance from the wells.

ATTAREKHAT TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Forty-five new thatched houses built with water from standpipes. New school and Indian Staff Club built. Deep tube well boring commenced.

TITADIMORO TEA ESTATE

Twenty-three houses built and a Primary School started working. Every line house provided with its own bore-hole latrine.

THE BRAHMAPUTRA TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Negheriting Division.—Fifteen new houses. One new school and a night school. Seventeen houses reconditioned. Two hospital wards extended. Three new wells. Hook-worm treatment for every worker.

Socklatinga Division.—Nineteen new houses. Thirty houses rebuilt. Two improved pumps installed. Hook-worm treatment for every worker.

Rangamatty Division.—One new well and workers' houses programme continues (no figures).

DUAMARA TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Forty-four new houses erected and 200 repaired. Six new 100 feet deep tube wells. All adults treated for hook-worm.

EASTERN ASSAM TEA COMPANY LIMITED

Eighty-two new *pucca* houses. Thirty-nine new thatch and bamboo houses. Thirty-five houses renovated. Nine Indian Staff houses at a cost of Rs.2,500 each. Twenty-nine tube wells complete with plinths and washing places costing Rs.300 each. A new hospital of modern type constructed at Sealkotee costing Rs.35,000. Two septic tanks latrine (nine seats each) built at Balijan South Estate costing Rs.4,200.

THE CACHAR AND DOOARS TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Poloi Division.—Metalled roads and paths in lines extended. Certified Midwife employed. Morning school extra to the existing "B" Class School started.

Silcoorie Division.—Two *pucca* wells sunk in coolie lines and one open tank renovated. A new *pucca* well sunk for factory use.

MAJAGRAM TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Thirteen *pucca* wells repaired and one new *pucca* bridge built in 1939 and five more wells going in. Sixty-four bore-hole latrines put in and plan is to have one for each family. A "C" Class school installed during 1939.

BRITISH INDIAN TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

A 24-bed *pucca* Hospital completed with modern sanitation. Large Assembly House built for workers use for festivals, etc. *Pucca* school constructed. *Pucca* Staff Club constructed, complete with radio and furniture.

PATHEMARA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Class "C" School built. Bore-hole latrines for staff. Midwife employed.

CRAIGPARK TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

A three-ward and ancillary buildings Hospital built, with electric lights and fans. Modern sanitary arrangements going in. School built. Bore-hole latrine programme continued.

A CACHAR GARDEN

A "C" Class school built. Scout patrol started and Midwife engaged. Twenty-two bore-hole latrines put down.

CHANDYPORE TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

A new concrete ring well sunk. Three "B" Class schools opened.

PATRAKOLA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Two new wells sunk. Fourteen new houses built.

RUNGAMATTEE TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

A "C" Class school built. Separate Isolation Ward added to Hospital. Pumped water supply put in.

IRINGMARA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

New hospital built. Swings, etc., placed in children's playground. Four wells put in. All children receive Calcium Lactate daily.

WEST JALINGA TEA ESTATE

Welfare Committee started. Water piped throughout workers' lines.

THE DERBY TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Welfare Committee formed. Fifteen new houses built and 92 thoroughly repaired. Four new *pucca* wells put in.

KURKOORIE TEA ESTATE

Fourteen house latrines put in. Three *pucca* pump wells put in.

A CACHAR GARDEN

A well constructed creche built adjacent to factory. The creche is under the supervision of a woman (Silchar Nari-Sikhshasram) trained in child welfare. Swings, etc., installed in children's playground. Forty good type houses laid off in blocks with bore-hole latrines. A boys' club started with outdoor and indoor games.

JETINGA VALLEY TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Twelve new stand pipes put in. Two new tanks put in and all older tank plinths renewed. New power pumping plant put in, Rs.4,700. Forty-two new houses built each with about 3,000 square feet of own land for vegetable, etc. Flush sanitation system for all lines to be commenced in 1940.

DOOLOOGRAM TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Worker's Bazaar accommodation extended. Twenty bore-hole latrines put in and 18 more in hand. Seven pucca wells thoroughly repaired. An 8 acre new grazing ground cleared for workers' cattle.

SURMA VALLEY TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Rajkie Division.—One hundred thirty-five new houses built. Three new tube wells put in. Whole time anti-malaria Surveyor and Squad employed. New staff Quarters erected on new sites. School building.

THE CONSOLIDATED TEA AND LANDS COMPANY, LIMITED

Goombira Tea Estate.—Three gear pumps fitted to wells. One tube well sunk. Trained Midwife employed. Malaria staff employed. One school opened. Thirty-nine bore-hole latrines put in.

Jafflong Tea Estate.—Forty new houses built. Ten new pumps fitted to wells. Malarial control work carried on.

Rajghat Tea Estate.—Practically each house now has one bore-hole latrine. Factory latrine of latest type with pull plug and cleansing facilities.

Deanston Tea Estate.—Anti-malaria measures completed in 1939 and highly commended by Sir Malcolm Watson on his recent visit. Two schools with 5 teachers. One hundred twenty-seven 2-room houses built. Twenty-four tube well sunk. Overhead pipe system throughout the lines. Five large Assembly and Dance houses built. Twelve bazaar sheds with pucca plinths. One hundred seventy-seven bore-hole latrines. Two large shops opened.

RUTEMA TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Ruthna Tea Estate.—“C” Class school started. Welfare Committee working. Trained Midwife engaged.

BARAOORA (SYLHET) TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Rasidpur Tea Estate.—House reconstruction programme—145 done to date, having verandah and cowl ventilation. Power pumped water supply extension programme continuing, e.g., 10 wells put in, 3 with power supply. On out-gardens 8 wells put in, 3 with power. One hundred thirty bore-hole latrines put in. Trained malaria control squads. “B” Class school.

THE DHAMAI TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

Report says difficult to cope with demand of workers for bore-hole latrines. Water pipeline system considerably extended, costing Rs.2,500 over and above Rs.15,000 already spent. Trained anti-malaria staff. White “Anti-Sol” paint being tried for coolness effect on workers' houses' roofs.

THE NEW SAMANBAGH TEA COMPANY, LIMITED

New 3-room Hospital Ward built to each of 2 Hospitals. Certified Midwife engaged. Two trained anti-malaria squads employed. A school has been started.

THE LONGAI VALLEY TEA Co., Ltd.

One new 300 ft. tube well at Rs.7,000 put in.

THE BHUBRIGHAT TEA Co., Ltd.

Reinforced Concrete Settling Tank put in for treatment with alumina ferric prior to distribution to lines through steel tanks. Four tube wells put in. Rise in cost of piping has prevented further extension this year. Nine new lines of houses built on more spacious system. Malaria control which was started in 1934, is continuing. Spleen index fell from 76 per cent. to 30 per cent. Trained Midwife employed.

TARRAPORE TEA Co., Ltd.

Dewan Division.—Two hundred forty-five new houses of improved type built. Twenty four houses at Thailu outgarden built on new site. Two long barrack houses of 210'×20' replaced by 5 new houses of 30'×20'. Two new improved type houses erected for medical staff near new hospital.

A new hospital built with modern sanitation. Another trained Midwife employed at Lallong. The number of latrines provided totals 342.

A new school building erected. A "C" Class school opened at Thailu.

Labac Division.—Two hundred and fifty improved type houses erected. One hundred and eighty-nine bore-hole latrines installed for individual families. A new maternity hospital built. One "B" Class and one "C" Class school maintained: both buildings rebuilt. Staff Club.

Burtoll Division.—Twenty-five improved type houses removed to new site and reconstructed, 177 improved thatch houses reconstructed, 280 bore-hole latrines installed. A "B" Class school building rebuilt. Approximately Rs.2,600 is spent per annum for anti-malaria measures. A pucca segregation house attached to the main hospital reconstructed.

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN DIRECT TRADING Co., Ltd.

Two septic tank latrines for factory workers. One 3,200 gallons water-supply tank. One tube well. Bore-hole latrines made throughout the lines.

THE SYLHET TEA Co., Ltd.

Four new pucca wells constructed.

THE CHARGOLA TEA ASSOCIATION, Ltd.

Chargola Estate.—One new tube well at factory. Twenty one barrack type houses altered.

Singlacherra Estate.—Fourteen barrack type houses altered and 2 tube wells sunk.

Maguracherra Estate.—Five barrack type houses altered and two tube wells sunk.

Hingajea Estate.—Two tube wells sunk. Two bore-hole latrines erected for factory use. Eight new lines erected. A qualified Midwife and Nurse employed.

The Assam Oil Company, Limited preferred not to report as to Welfare measures as the programme was completely upset by the labour troubles of 1939. A very fine Hospital was opened early in the year by Lady Reid.

The Inspectorate is also obliged to the Indian Tea Association for the help it gave in making known this need for information and for a resume of information which it has itself supplied as follows:—

	Assam Valley	Surma Valley
<i>Medical personnel on Tea Gardens—</i>		
Medical Officers	35	14
Qualified doctors and Assistant Medical Officers	389	124
Compounders	405	241
Dressers	397	258
Midwives	363	85
	1,589	722
	Rs.	Rs.
Total Medical and Public Health Expenditure during year (including Maternity Benefits).	33,57,318	11,83,741
Anti-Malaria Measures	...	1,00,095
Number of Schools built and maintained by the Tea Industry	369	160

Water-Supply Schemes—

Capital expenditure during past 10 years	...	9,24,691
Annual cost of upkeep of these schemes	...	52,255

(N.B.—Assam Valley figures based on year 1937.

Surma Valley figures for the year 1938.

The Schools Item however is for 1939.)

Water analysis.—The Public Health Laboratory at the Pasteur Institute, Shillong, analyses samples taken by the Inspectorate from factory water supply sources— at the cost of the factory under the Rules.

It is perhaps not generally known that it will also analyse and report (both bacteriologically and chemically) if so desired, on fee, for any owner, occupier or management for water generally. An adequate sample is essential—at least 60 fluid ounces for each type of analysis desired. Winchester Quart bottles—containing 80 fluid ounces and costing say Rs.2 can be obtained from either Messrs. Smith, Stanistreet and Co., Ltd., 18, Convent Road, Entally, Calcutta or from the Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works Ltd., 94, Chittaranjan Avenue, Calcutta. These should be scrupulously cleaned and dried before putting in the sample and then be sealed to prevent tampering, and fully labelled and despatched “freight paid” carefully packed to the Laboratory. Obviously such a check may save considerable useless expenditure on well-sinking or subsequent erection of machinery, etc., in unsuitable localities.

EDUCATION OF WORKERS' CHILDREN

The children of factory workers share equally with those of non-factory workers on tea estates and in the oilfields.

The Inspectorate is again this year indebted to the Director of Public Instruction, Assam, for the following note concerning tea estate schools and the Boy Scout Movement:—

“The number of Tea Gardens Schools in Assam Valley during the year 1938-39 was 97 with an enrolment of 4,155, of these 6 were “A” Class, 19 “B” Class and 72 “C” Class Schools.

“In the Surma Valley there were 66 Tea Garden Schools during the year. Of them 4 were “A” Class, 49 “B” Class and 13 “C” Class Schools, with the total enrolment of 2,799.

“Both the number of Schools and enrolment increased considerably during the year.”

“ The figures regarding the Boy Scouts Movement for the year ending September 30th, 1939 are as follows :—

Assam Valley Tea Gardens :—

No. of Groups controlled	Sections of Groups Troops	Officers warranted and on probation Troop	Total Scouters	Number of		Total Scouts Cubs, Rovers	Grand Total all ranks
				Scouts	Cubs		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	14	14	14	328	78	406	420

“ The statistics of Boy Scout Movement in tea garden schools in the Surma Valley are not available separately.”

Vocational Education.—Nothing further has been done about the formation of an Advisory Council for Assam for this important matter mentioned in last year's Report where the hope was expressed that the Estate Schools could in due course find they would give useful handicraft instruction.

Canteens.—The Inspectorate is also again this year indebted to the Commissioner of Excise, Assam, for the following note covering the Canteens and Lessee Manager Liquor Shops on Tea Estates :—

“ During 1939 the number of canteens licensed to sell country spirit in the tea gardens remained the same as in the previous year and the number of lessee manager shops increased by three in Sibsagar and by one in Darrang and decreased by one in Sylhet. Thus the number of canteens and lessee manager shops in tea-gardens were 14 and 61 respectively during 1939. In cases of some of these shops liquor was supplied in sealed bottles. The retail prices charged remained the same as in the preceding year. The recommendations of the Excise Committee for further extension of the lessee manager system in the tea gardens and also for extension of the central bottling system as far as possible were accepted by Government. As in previous years lessee-manager shops proved a better success than canteens.”

Midwives.—Special mention was made in the previous Report on the Siva-Sundari Nari-Sikshasram at Silchar. As Mr. Emblen with whom the working of the Ashram was discussed in March 1940 is this year touring tea areas in other parts of the world he has not been able to send a brief note to the writer. The extracts from managers' reports given earlier in this Section show that the Ashram is continuing to supply trained Midwives to the Surma Valley Tea Estates.

Midwives and nurses are trained at the Church of England Mission Hospital, Chabua, the Baptist Mission Hospitals at Jorhat and at Gauhati in the Assam Valley.

Recreation.—Football and hockey continue to increase in popularity among the younger workers and Districts or Companies run competitions. Badminton, deck-tennis and such like are becoming more played by the Indian Supervisory and Clerical staffs at the Clubs provided by the employers.

V.—GENERAL HEALTH OF OPERATIVES

16. Until Factory Workers' Health Statistics are statutorily submitted to the Inspectorate any impression can only be a general one.

It is regretted that despite the collaboration of the British Medical Association in Assam there were still, again in 1939, far too many cases of Medical Officers on Tea Estates who also act as Certifying Surgeons under the Factories Act going on leave or transfer without notifying the Inspectorate as called for by Rule 10(3). Much trouble was caused in notifying the changes in the Gazette.

VI.—EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

17. The figures are given in Appendix 5. On the whole a healthy tendency. The figures have been discussed at length in Section I of this Report. The decrease in the number of both adolescents and children has proceeded for some years and will, it is trusted, continue to do so.

Notwithstanding this decrease, the percentage of women and Young Persons to Adult Male workers' strength is somewhat high, *viz.*, 14,589 against 52,003, a ratio of 28 per cent. although the ratio is less than that of 30 per cent. for 1938. This ratio is due to the increase in recent years of some 3-400 women every year: apparently an intake of adult female labour to replace the young persons dispensed with partly owing to the restrictions upon and the formalities connected with employment of young-persons and also due to an increasing realisation

that young-person labour is not really economical or efficient.

VII.—AGE CERTIFICATION OF ADOLESCENTS AND CHILDREN

18. See figures in Appendix 6. More Certifying Surgeons were gazetted during the year. The total is now 52 in the Assam Valley and 21 in the Surma Valley. Appendix 6 shows the Certifying Surgeons who have made returns. It is encouraging to see the small number of rejections on the grounds of under-age or unfitness.

The number of visits against the Surgeons' name does not in every case mean that the factory was visited but that the Surgeon was present at the Hospital adjacent to the factory on "so many" occasions. In some cases one Surgeon will cover a dozen or so tea estates and factories scattered over a considerable area often presenting great road difficulties in the wet season, which is the tea factory working season.

As far as possible the Inspectorate is trying to work through the local Branch of the British Medical Association, *i.e.*, when dealing with general as distinct from individual Certifying Surgeon matters.

More Surgeons this year rendered the return of visits, 40 as compared to 34. It is highly desirable that all make this (voluntary) Return.

VIII.—FENCING OF MACHINERY

19. The Factory Inspector, who has given particular attention to the smaller factories such as rice, oil and flour and tea, considers that the fencing standard has improved considerably in the past year or so as a result of special attention given to these types of premises. As a result of this special attention fencing orders were numerous.

The importance is emphasised of not taking chances with machinery, particularly prime-movers, by commencing to run it after overhaul before all fencing is replaced and in a sound condition. There is still far too much clumsy home-made wooden and wire-mesh fencing about. Owing to the rise in the price of steel the difficulty of replacing it in war time is recognised but this makes it all the more imperative to maintain existing wooden fencing in a proper condition.

ELECTRICITY IN FACTORIES

20. This is more fittingly dealt with in the Annual Electrical Report. There is great scope for extension of the use of electricity in the Assam factories, only some half in number of which are electrified.

The same remarks apply as to machinery fencing. The main fault is lack of adequate maintenance.

There is no objection to strong wooden aerial poles on distributing line systems provided they are properly looked after—the wooden, or preferably metal, cross arms security in particular, being liable to become loose. It is however still far too common to find small mills installing wooden switchboards. These cannot be approved and the cost of them is sheer waste.

Where the Indian Electricity Rules require the services of an "authorised person" the owner or occupier must appoint such a person in writing and produce the record to the Electrical Inspector on demand.

There should be at least two workers in every premises who know how to give artificial respiration treatment in case of electric shock. The Rule on this is being stiffened, no person being permitted to work alone where he may receive a shock. So compliance with it is essential. It is now nearly ten years since "Shock Cards" (of Instructions) were ordered to be displayed at Switchboards in Assam. Many of these are found to be dirty and dilapidated and at times hidden behind Almanacs or Battery Instruction cards. New Cards can be had from the Inspectorate for Re.1-7-0 including postage. Valuable Payable Parcel delivery can be made provided delivery is not refused. It is essential that management ensures the workers really know how to apply the treatment without having to find a card and imitate what it says even if they can read.

IX.—ACCIDENTS

21. The figures for all factories for the past 5 years are as follows:—

(I) All types of Factory

Year							Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
1935	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	91	446	541
1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	13	71	417	501
1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	74	451	528
1938	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	102	444	551
1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	66	435	504

The very considerable decrease in "serious" accidents is pleasing but the figure is still only slightly below that for the year 1936 and 1937 and it must be remembered that the "degree of assessment" is largely a matter of luck, *i. e.*, whether the period of disability for work exceeds 20 days or not. The ideal to be wished for is that fatal and serious accidents in particular should totally vanish. One can never hope for no "slight" accidents to be reported but one can hope and work for no serious ones.

To save detailed analysis by study of Appendix 8, the following figures are stated:—

(1) An encouraging decrease occurred in the following classification compared with 1938:—

(a) In the "Serious" category—

"Miscellaneous" machinery, in Tea Factories, a decrease of	...	...	4
"Miscellaneous" machinery, factories generally, decrease of	...	...	5
Persons falling,	"	"	8
Falling objects,	"	"	5
Hot substances and flames,	"	"	4

(b) In the "Slight" cases—

Tea Rolling Machines,	a decrease of	...	...	8
Transmission Machinery (belts),	" "	...	...	5
Hot substances and flames and fires,	" "	...	...	22
Miscellaneous Unclassified,	" "	...	...	29

(2) Turning now to the discouraging aspect of increases over the previous year's figures:—

(a) In the "Serious" category—

Prime Movers, an increase of	3
------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) In the "Slight" category—

Working machinery—unclassified,	an increase of	...	...	...	5
Persons falling,	" "	...	...	...	14
Falling objects,	" "	...	...	...	23
Corrosive substances,	" "	...	...	...	11

Summarising, there is an encouraging tendency to decrease in most risks connected with machinery which can be fenced or with risks which can be guarded against apart from the personal aspect, as the increases are almost entirely from personal causes due to momentary thoughtlessness, *e.g.*, falls, dropping objects and

carelessness with corrosive substances being handled. The considerable number of such "personal" incidence is given in Table (IV) below. There is however still great room for improvement as one must never adopt the fatal attitude of mind of accepting a given figure as normal and to be expected year after year.

Table (ii)—Seasonal Factories.—There are only some seven non-tea factories which are Seasonal Factories and only one of them has reported one accident (a serious one) in 1939 which is included in the Table below. Therefore the figures can be taken as *Tea Factory Accidents*.

Year							Fatal	Serious	Slight	Total
1935	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	32	79	113
1936	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	36	90	134
1937	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	40	136	178
1938	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	50	142	195
1939	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	37	131	171

The reduction is encouraging but is still above the figures for years prior to 1937. The existence of a "high" figure however is considered to be due to the continuance of the better standard of reporting which became evident a few years ago. Let us know the true facts however bad the figures may appear on paper.

Nevertheless, though this scarcely requires stressing in the remarks below every Table in the Report, no management should rest until every effort is made to reduce accidents. In this the formation of numerous Welfare Committees for the Tea Estate Labour as a whole should help provided the danger of careless practice both in outside and in factory work is emphasised.

Table (iii)—Showing the incidence in the main type of specialised Tea Factory Machinery:—

	Fatal					Serious					Slight					Total				
	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
Tea Rolling Machines.	2	1	8	3	10	12	13	21	18	23	37	29	29	21	33	51	43
Tea Sorting Machines.	4	3	4	5	3	13	6	11	13	12	17	9	15	18	15
Tea Drying Machines.	3	4	6	3	2	4	11	7	9	2	7	15	13	12
Tea Miscellaneous	1	..	4	1	1	..	11	4	3	1	1	11	9	4
																49	38	74	91	74

The total due to this specialised Tea Machinery shows a considerable decrease over 1938 but is still the same as in 1937. As in all previous year since these figures were recorded, the Tea Rolling Machine again proves the most dangerous of the lot with its revolving cranks and hoppers capable of giving fatal blows to the bodies of the workers, as occurred in one fatal case (*see Fatal Accident Detail*).

Even in the Tea Factories, where there are not the number of odd occupations not concerned with Machinery that there are in general engineering works,

the incidence proportion of accidents in the above Table for Tea Factories which are not due to machinery is also relatively high, *viz.*—

Persons falling	...	...	...	23
Falling objects	...	...	...	22
Hand tools	...	...	...	5
Hot substances	...	...	...	1
Miscellaneous unclassified	...	...	...	21, a total of 72 out of 170.

Quite obviously appreciation of the need for care could reduce these sorts of accidents.

As usual, and as remarked in previous Reports, the accident figures show the relatively heavy incidence of accidents not due to machinery, *viz.*, 355 cases out of the grand total of 504 as shewn below—

Table IV

	1936	1937	1938	1939
Persons falling	64	63	47	54
Falling objects	94	120	114	130
Hand tools	68	62	39	40
Hot substances and flames	30	36	54	30
Miscellaneous unclassified	111	84	132	101

These accidents are largely a matter of chance and momentary carelessness. Under tropical conditions mental alertness is liable to flag. The Tea Sales Development Organisation has been drawing attention to the need for rest periods and refreshment and the latter by the free issue of cups of tea to workers. Some tea concerns do make free issues of tea in beverage form and it is obvious that the tea industry itself can do so more cheaply than can non-tea concerns, so it should not cost much to make the practice more general. Safety Committees can do a great deal to reduce these accidents, particularly in seeing that worn or dangerous tools, ladders or scaffoldings are not used, and by pulling up a careless worker. Inspection can have little effect on these sorts of risks: the remedy is in the hands of the employer and the worker.

It is to be hoped that a rise in prices due to war conditions will not check the growing custom of wearing shoes at work: a custom which prevents or minimises foot injuries.

Mention was made in the previous Report of eye injuries due to welding work—particularly electric welding. Garages and small engineering shops were specially visited during the year concerning these operations and several such small workshops were found to do welding and were warned to maintain efficient goggles or hand-shields and to see that not only the operator but also the assistants invariably use them. Fortunately in such small premises the operation is generally only on odd jobs of work, not a continuous production process involving increased risk to the eyes.

It has been previously suggested that Electric Welding requires an all-India classification of its own and that the "accident" is more really an "occupational disease" (inflammation of the eyes) than an accident in the real sense. At present they are classed under "Hot substances."

Special visits were also paid to Garage Workshops to see if cellulose spraying is being carried out, in order that the special precautions of the Hazardous Occupation Rules should be enforced.

Even in Assam there may be small unregistered premises not falling under the Factories Act and consequently the special Rules, where this and similar "dangerous" work is done, but this is less likely to escape notice than in the large cities of other provinces.

Table V

Districts	Number of factories	Average number of workers	Total accidents reported	Reported accidents as a percentage of the number of factories	Reported accidents as a percentage of the number of workers	Average workers per factory	Remarks
Cachar	80	4,628	21	26	·45	58	} Slight increase. Attributed mainly to better reporting.
Sylhet	126	8,258	19	15	·23	66	
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	4	378	..	..	..	95	
Goalpara	17	1,626	3	17·6	·18	96	This district mainly Rice and Oil Mills. Reporting standard considered poor.
Kamrup	42	1,076	1	2·4	·09	26	
Darrang	94	6,003	24	25·5	·40	65	Considerable decrease.
Nowgong	30	1,195	2	7	·17	40	
Sibsagar	173	10,955	61	35·3	·56	63	
Lakhimpur	205	17,390	372	181·5	2·1	85	Largest industrial district with heavy engineering concerns and large Tea Companies which report accidents very strictly.
Sadiya Frontier Tract ..	2	394	1	50	·25	197	

The conclusion as in previous years is that whilst accident reporting by managements has improved it is unlikely that some "Districts" are always happy in having an unduly low incidence compared to other comparable areas and an improvement in reporting is what it really needed in such "low" areas. The Districts fairly comparable are Cachar with Sylhet and Sibsaagar with Darrang: the former two consisting almost entirely of Tea Factories with few general workshops or oil and rice mills and the two latter mainly of tea factories with reasonable comparability as regards general workshop and small mills.

First aid.—Special attention was given to this on inspections and a considerable improvement in maintenance standards was evident. This provision is not intended to remove the need for injured workers proceeding or being taken to the adjacent factory or estate hospital. It is merely an additional protective measure for emergency use in such cases.

Accidents to Women.—One serious and two slight accidents were reported.

The Notes on Welfare sent in by Managements show that suitable clothing is more widely issued than in previous years but the number of factories doing this is still very small indeed and the practice should be increased: particularly for women whose long hair and customary *saries* are dangerous.

Accidents to Young Persons.—Here again the accidents were only one serious, female adolescent, and none at all to children.

FATAL ACCIDENTS—DETAIL

As Table (i) at the commencement of this Chapter shows these were lower than in most years.

West Jalinga Tea Factory.—The experienced oiler mistri attempted to oil a bearing on a line shaft in the Sorting Room which was close to the floor and protected by fencing. He climbed inside the fencing and a *dhoti*—which he should not have been wearing—became entangled in the projecting head of a key securing a pulley adjacent to the bearing. He was pulled round and smashed between the shaft and the floor. This accident would never have happened had he not climbed inside the fencing and, even then, if he had been wearing suitable clothing as prescribed by the Rules.

Moncotta Tea Factory.—A worker cleaning a window in the Engine Room was working with one foot on the window-ledge and another on an oil drum. His foot slipped off the ledge and his arm went through the window resulting in a

cutting of the artery in the armpit. A tourniquet, etc., was at once applied and he was taken to the Government Hospital in Dibrugarh—only a couple of miles away. He however died shortly afterwards of loss of blood.

Sangsua Tea Factory.—A worker on a Tea Rolling Machine was struck on the head by the hand-wheel controlling the door on a double-action Roller and killed.

All these fatal accidents were investigated by the Chief Inspector personally as soon as possible after the occurrence.

Attention is once more drawn to the existence of the Safety First Association of India with its Headquarters at Electric House, Fort, Bombay, and its extensive series of "Industrial Safety Service Pamphlets." This series now number some four dozen broadsheets. The series includes some upon the Protection of Factories from aerial bombing.

The Association also publishes a periodical "Safety News" priced at 4 annas. These publications are supplied free to all Members of the Association (Agency Houses, Factories, Power Stations and Government Departments which are subscribing Members). The annual subscription is only a few rupees and it would assist the work if factories give the Association their support. The literature, with its illustrations, would be particularly interesting to Safety Committees as giving them something to criticise and discuss for application in their own cases.

Recently the question of the safety "pressure-vessels," *i.e.*, tanks, containers, portable cylinders used for air compression for oil-engine starting and gas work pressure and other purposes has come up for consideration. New Rules have recently been promulgated in the Gazette of India and in Provincial Gazettes. The Chief Inspector of Explosives (India) whose office has recently been removed from Calcutta to New Delhi is the responsible authority in these matters.

It cannot be too strongly emphasised that the onus for safe use and maintenance is upon the owner of such apparatus although in the case of the filling of portable containers for transit to "users," *e.g.*, oxygen and acetylene gas cylinders, considerable responsibility is also put upon the "filler" of such containers. In the case of fixed containers, *e.g.*, oil-engine compressor plant, the risk is that of weakening through corrosion in the course of time, particularly of internal and therefore unseen corrosion.

X.—PROSECUTIONS

Many could have been taken for technical breaches of requirements but the normal policy was pursued, namely only to prosecute where warnings had proved useless except in cases of detected illegal employment of women and children in particular where prosecutions were called for without exception.

Several cases for the latter reason were started towards the close of the year and in one case a conviction was obtained after an adjournment well over into 1940.

Statement VII only shows actual convictions obtained in 1939.

It cannot be too strongly pointed out to the local officials handling prosecutions in the Subdivisions of Districts under the arrangement made by Government whereby the Inspectorate merely addresses the District Magistrate to prosecute under such and such a Section of the Act or Rule, that it is only fair to a defendant employer or manager to have the offence notified to him and also the case taken as quickly as possible. In one District there has been a repetition of delay which some years ago caused the Inspectorate to withdraw the cases in fairness to the defendant managers. In one case arising late in 1939 the defendant Manager, a European, left his engagement with an Indian Company and went to a new place several hundred miles away, resulting in the local officer requesting dropping the case. It was pursued however and a conviction obtained.

XI.—GENERAL SECTION

There is nothing requiring particular mention in this Section of the Report beyond expressing the obligation to the Inspectorate is under the Indian Tea Association and its Assam officials and Chairmen of local Sub-Committees for assistance in making known requirements and in helping the writer and the Inspector when out on tour duty. The Assam Valley Branch drafted a well-got out explanatory memorandum on the Factories and also the Payment of Wages Act for circulation to its constituent factories.

CAMP JORHAT :

W. ALLSUP,

The 28th August 1940.

Chief Inspector of Factories, Assam.

APPENDIX 1

Comparative statement showing the number of factories under the operation of the Act during the past two years

Class of factory		1939	1938	Increase	Decrease
1		2	3	4	5
Perennial	...	118	113	5	...
Seasonal	...	671	670	1	...
Total	...	789*	783†	6	...

*Includes 16 closed factories.

† Includes 18 closed factories.

APPENDIX 2

Factories brought onto the register during the year

District	Type of factory		Number of factories
1	2		3
Goalpara	Match	...	1
	Total	...	1
Sibsagar	Car repairing	...	1
	Tea	...	1
	Total	...	2
Nowgong	Rice Mill	...	1
	Oil Mill	...	1
	Total	...	2
Gachar	Printing Press	...	1
	Total	...	1
Sylhet	Tea	...	3
	Total	...	3
	Grand total	...	9

APPENDIX 3

Factories crossed off the register during the year

District			Type of factory			Number of factories
1			2			3
Sibsagar	...	...	Tea	...	...	2
			Total			2
Kamrup	...	...	Rice Mill	...	...	1
			Total			1
			Grand total			3

APPENDIX 4

Comparative statement showing the average daily number of workers in registered factories during the past two years

			1939	1938	Increase	Decrease
1			2	3	4	5
Perennial	...	...	7,709	7,477	232	...
Seasonal	...	...	44,294	43,200	1,094	...
Total		...	52,003	50,677	1,326	...

APPENDIX 5

Number of women, adolescents and children employed in registered factories during the past three years

Women			Adolescents			Children		
1939	1938	1937	1939	1938	1937	1939	1938	1937
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
11,009	10,681	10,203	2,550	3,394	3,916	1,030	1,062	1,141

APPENDIX 6

Certification of adolescents and children

Certifying Surgeons	Number of visits	Number of children certified as having completed their 12th year of age and as being physically fit	Number of children rejected—		Number of adolescents certified as having completed their 15th year of age and being physically fit to work as an adult	Number of adolescents rejected—	
			Being either under legal age or unfit	Owing to absence at the time of certification		Being either under legal age or unfit	Owing to absence at the time of certification
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Civil Surgeon, Darrang .. ..	..	..	..	..	16	..	..
Civil Surgeon, Cachar .. ..	..	3	..	..	18	..	1
Dr. J. O. Gordon	113	..	..	..	63	..	..
Dr. H. B. Sen	17	6	1	1	24	..	1
Dr. D. Gibson	20	..	..	..	36	..	..
Dr. F. C. McCombie	15	15	..	..	115	9	..
Dr. P. C. Das	5	..	..	..	17	..	..
Dr. H. L. Slaughter	15	17	2	1	40	2	1
Dr. D. M. Bertram	16	..	..	..	99	5	3
Dr. G. G. King	7	10	..	..	17	..	..
Dr. Fraser .. ..	..	35	..	..	82	4	1
Dr. A. D. Hutchison	14	19	..	..	34	..	..
Dr. J. R. Robertson	5	5	..	..	4	..	..
Dr. A. B. Lindsay	8	..	..	..	11	..	..
Major S. J. Vere Fox	312	4	..	..	2	..	..
Lt.-Col. W. Tarr	36	2	..	..	3	..	..
Dr. C. G. Terrell .. ..	..	..	..	..	38	2	..
Dr. P. Das	4	4	..	..	7	..	..
Dr. J. N. Sen	1	9	..	..	9	..	..
Dr. D. C. Sen Gupta	40	..	..	..	11	..	..
Dr. P. K. Das	26	6	1	..	1	..	..
Dr. B. B. Sen Gupta .. ..	..	..	..	..	9	1	..
Dr. E. C. Dymond	52	..	..	..	17	..	..
Dr. S. Banerjee	52	..	..	..	..	4	..
Dr. B. Gangopadhaya	3	7	..	..	5	1	2
Dr. H. McNair	14	17	4	..	25	..	..
Dr. D. J. Lapping .. ..	..	14	..	..	32	1	..
Dr. A. C. Bagchi	24	..	..	..	3	..	..
Dr. W. B. Anderson	6	34	..	..	27	..	..
Dr. B. Chatterjee	2	2	..	..	5	..	..
Dr. R. R. Chowdhury	75	2	..	..	1	..	..
Dr. S. K. Gupta	6	20	4	1	7	2	1
Dr. P. N. Barua	7	58	..	..	..	..	..
Dr. H. Berlie	832	3	8	..	39	5	..
Dr. W. Thompson	48	2	..	..	8	1	..
Dr. H. Flack	264	263	7	5	159	..	3
Dr. L. B. Dhar	26	8	..	..	2	..	..
Dr. D. Manson	26	4	..	..	22	..	..
Dr. W. H. J. Davis	52	..	..	..	2	..	..
Dr. M. E. T. Burke	12	28	..	..	..	..	..

APPENDIX 7

Statement showing the number of persons injured in accidents during the past ten years and the percentage of accidents on the total number employed in registered factories

Year	1930		1931		1932		1933		Number of persons injured	Percentage
	No. of accidents	No. of persons injured	No. of accidents	No. of persons injured	No. of accidents	No. of persons injured	No. of accidents	No. of persons injured		
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3
1930	179	0.39
1931	403	0.92
1932	382	0.84
1933	438	0.98
1934	591	1.29
1935	541	1.14
1936	501	1.06
1937	528	1.08
1938	551	1.09
1939	504	0.97

APPENDIX 8

Accidents

	Fatal		Serious		Minor		Total	
	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938	1939	1938
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Machinery—								
Prime movers .. .. .	..	..	3	..	5	9	8	9
Lifting tackle .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2
Tea machinery—								
Rolling machine	1	2	13	12	29	37	43	51
Sorting machine .. .. .	..	..	3	5	12	13	15	18
Drying machine .. .. .	..	..	3	6	9	7	12	13
Miscellaneous machinery .. .. .	..	..	1	5	3	4	4	9
Match machinery .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1
Transmission machinery—								
Mill gearing, shafts and pulleys	1	..	..	1	..	1	1	2
Belts .. .. .	..	..	1	1	4	9	5	10
Lifting machinery .. .. .	..	..	3	2	3	2	6	4
Working machinery—								
Machine tools .. .. .	..	..	2	2	9	10	11	12
Circular saw .. .. .	..	..	3	4	2	3	5	7
Miscellaneous machinery unclassified .. .. .	..	..	2	7	10	5	12	12
Transport—								
Rolling stock on lines .. .. .	..	..	..	2	3	..	3	2
Rolling stock not on lines .. .. .	..	..	..	..	7	5	7	5
Persons falling—								
from altitudes	1*	..	4	9	26	14	31	23
into excavations, pits, etc. .. .. .	..	..	..	..	1	3	1	3
On level .. .. .	..	..	1	4	21	17	22	21
Falling objects—								
Handled by injured persons .. .. .	..	1	15	20	100	77	115	98
Not handled by injured persons .. .. .	..	1	1	1	14	14	15	16
Hand tools (including flying particles set in motion by tools)—								
In hands of the injured persons .. .. .	..	..	2	3	35	32	37	35
In hands of other persons .. .. .	..	..	..	2	3	2	3	4
Electricity .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Poison, corrosive substances and occupational diseases.	..	..	..	..	12	1	12	1
Explosions and fires—								
Boilers and steam pressure equipment .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Other explosions .. .. .	..	..	..	..	3	1	3	1
Fires .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1
Fires (match) .. .. .	..	..	..	1	1	3	1	4
Hot substances and flames .. .. .	..	1	1	5	29	48	30	54
Miscellaneous—								
Unclassified .. .. .	..	..	8	10	93	122	101	131
Total	3	5	66	102	435	444	504	551

* Primarily very serious.

ASSAM—STATEMENT I

Totals of Factories

District					Factories as defined in section 2(j) of the Act	Factories notified under section 5(1) of the Act	Total	Total for 1938
1					2	3	4	5
Cachar	...	...	...	...	76	4	80	79
Sylhet	...	...	...	...	117	9	126	121
Khasi and Jaintia Hills	...	...	...	...	4	...	4	4
Goalpara	...	...	...	...	14	3	17	16
Kamrup	...	...	...	...	23	19	42	42
Darrang	...	...	...	...	87	7	94	94
Nowgong	...	...	...	...	26	4	30	29
Sibsagar	...	...	...	...	153	20	173	173
Lakhimpur	...	...	...	...	197	8	205	205
Sadiya Frontier Tract	...	...	...	...	2	...	2	2
Total					699	74	773	765
Seasonal					629	36	665	660
Perennial					70	38	108	105

ASSAM—STATEMENT II
Enumeration of Factories

	Cachar	Sylhet	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Goalpara	Kamrup	Darrang	Nowgong	Sibsagar	Lakhimpur	Sadiya Frontier Tract	Total	Total for the year 1938
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I.—GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL FUND FACTORIES												
Printing presses .. ..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Railway workshops .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Industrial and Technical School workshops.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	2	2
General Engineering workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
Total .. ..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	6	6
II.—ALL OTHER FACTORIES (PERENNIAL)												
<i>Engineering</i>												
Coach building and car repairing	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	4	..	8	7
Electrical generating and transforming stations.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	1
General engineering	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	4	..	9	9
Kerosene tinning and packing..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Railway workshops .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2	2
Industrial and Technical School workshops.	..	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
Total	3	1	2	..	3	1	..	4	9	..	23	22
<i>Minerals and metals</i>												
Petroleum refineries .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2
Total .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	2
<i>Food, drink and tobacco</i>												
Rice mills .. ..	..	..	..	2	21	4	10	3	5	..	45	44
Ice manufacturing .. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
Total .. ..	..	..	..	3	21	4	10	3	5	..	46	45
<i>Chemical, dyes, etc.</i>												
Matches .. ..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	..	3	2
Oil mills .. ..	..	1	..	1	4	1	1	3	2	..	13	13
Total .. ..	..	1	..	3	4	1	1	4	2	..	16	15
<i>Process relating to wood, stone and Glass</i>												
Cement, lime and potteries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	1
Saw mills .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	1	6	6
Total .. ..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	7	7
<i>Paper and printing</i>												
Printing presses	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	..	8	8
Total	1	1	..	..	2	..	..	2	2	..	8	8
SEASONAL												
<i>Gins and presses</i>												
Cotton ginning and baling	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
Total .. ..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
<i>Food, drink and tobacco</i>												
Sugar .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1	..	4	4
Tea	76	121	..	8	12	88	19	154	179	1	658	653
Total	76	121	..	8	12	88	19	157	180	1	662	657
Grand total	80	126	4	17	42	94	30	173	205	2	773	765

ASSAM—STATEMENT III
Average daily number of workers in different industries

	Cachar	Sylhet	Khasi and Jaintia Hills	Goalpara	Kamrup	Darrang	Nowgong	Sibsagar	Lakhimpur	Sadiya Frontier Tract	Total	Total for the year 1938
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
I.—GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL FUND FACTORIES												
Printing presses .. ..	..	..	234	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	234	236
Railway workshops .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	94	..	..	94	87
Industrial and Technical School workshops.	..	95	..	..	..	..	..	109	..	..	204	211
General Engineering workshops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	18	..	..	18	18
Total .. ..	..	95	234	..	..	..	..	221	..	..	550	552
II.—ALL OTHER FACTORIES (PERENNIAL)												
<i>Engineering</i>												
Coach building and car repairing	..	..	55	..	37	..	..	17	190	..	299	251
Electric generating and transforming stations.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	52	..	..	52	52
General engineering	23	113	..	..	..	..	..	111	559	..	806	779
Kerosene tinning and packing..	51	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	51	64
Railway workshops .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	38	..	..	402	..	440	491
Industrial and Technical School workshops.	..	..	89	..	43	..	..	..	..	..	132	125
Total	74	113	144	..	80	38	..	180	1,151	..	1,780	1,762
<i>Minerals and metals</i>												
Petroleum refineries .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,178	..	2,178	2,025
Total .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,178	..	2,178	2,025
<i>Food, drink and tobacco</i>												
Rice mills .. ..	..	..	..	47	323	44	185	128	99	..	826	958
Ice manufacturing .. ..	..	..	..	9	..	..	..	..	..	..	9	14
Total .. ..	..	..	..	56	323	44	185	128	99	..	835	972
<i>Chemical, dyes, etc.</i>												
Matches .. ..	..	..	..	561	..	..	..	34	..	..	595	463
Oil mills .. ..	..	109	..	20	241	41	12	111	74	..	608	603
Total .. ..	..	109	..	581	241	41	12	145	74	..	1,203	1,066
<i>Process relating to wood, stone and glass</i>												
Cement, lime and potteries ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151	..	151	149
Saw mills .. ..	..	196	..	..	..	..	..	..	306	338	840	775
Total .. ..	..	196	..	..	..	..	..	..	457	338	991	924
<i>Paper and printing</i>												
Printing presses	10	15	..	..	54	..	..	31	62	..	172	176
Total	10	15	..	..	54	..	..	31	62	..	172	176
SEASONAL												
<i>Gins and presses</i>												
Cotton ginning and baling ..	..	..	..	486	..	..	..	..	..	..	486	503
Total .. ..	..	..	..	486	..	..	..	..	..	..	486	503
<i>Food, drink and tobacco</i>												
Sugar .. ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45	7	..	52	88
Tea	4,544	7,830	..	503	378	5,880	998	10,205	13,362	56	43,756	42,609
Total	4,544	7,830	..	503	378	5,880	998	10,250	13,369	56	43,808	42,697
Grand total	4,628	8,358	378	1,626	1,076	6,003	1,195	10,955	17,390	394	52,003	50,677

ASSAM—STATEMENT IV

Average daily number of workers

District	All Industries									Total average daily number of workers
	Adults			Adolescents			Children			
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Cachar	2,754	1,531	4,285	200	73	273	37	33	70	4,628
Sylhet	5,156	2,665	7,821	400	76	476	49	12	61	8,358
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ..	259	..	269	29	..	29	80	..	80	378
Goalpara	1,127	446	1,573	14	9	23	..	30	30	1,626
Kamrup	855	169	1,024	..	..	..	52	..	52	1,076
Darrang	4,416	1,378	5,794	54	23	77	97	35	132	6,003
Nowgong.. ..	826	311	1,137	36	22	58	..	..	..	1,195
Sibsagar	7,987	2,269	10,256	409	155	564	114	21	135	10,955
Lakhimpur	13,748	2,140	15,888	838	194	1,032	396	74	470	17,390
Sadiya Frontier Tract ..	276	100	376	10	8	18	..	..	..	394
Total	37,414	11,009	48,423	1,990	560	2,550	825	205	1,030	52,003
Seasonal	30,344	10,766	41,110	1,738	547	2,285	695	204	899	44,294
Perennial	7,070	243	7,313	252	13	265	130	1	131	7,709
Total for the year 1938 ..	35,540	10,681	46,221	2,593	801	3,394	835	227	1,062	50,677

ASSAM—STATEMENT V-A
PERENNIAL FACTORIES
Intervals, holidays and hours

District	Number of Factories—																		
	Total	In which intervals are			In which holidays are granted on—		In which normal weekly hours are—						In which majority of workers are exempted from—						
		One hour or more	Two-half hours	One-half hour	Sundays only	Week days and Sundays	For men			For women			Employing children	Section 34	Section 35	Section 36	Section 37	Section 38	
							Not above 42	Above 42 and not above 48	Above 48	Not above 42	Above 42 and not above 48	Above 48							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Cachar	4	1	..	3	2	2	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sylhet	5	3	..	2	3	2	1	2	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ..	4	2	..	2	3	1	2	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goalpara	6	4	..	2	1	5	..	..	6	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Kamrup	30	26	..	4	12	18	1	10	19	..	10	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Darrang	6	6	..	..	3	3	..	3	3	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Nowgong	11	10	..	1	3	8	1	1	9	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sibsagar	16	14	..	2	11	5	3	9	4	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Lakhimpur	25	19	..	6	19	6	5	14	6	1	6	4	4	..	..	..	..	..	..
Sadiya Frontier Tract ..	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	108	85	..	23	58	50	14	45	49	2	25	7	5	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total for 1938 ..	105	89	2	14	58	47	12	41	52	6	27	9	7	..	..	..	..	..	..

ASSAM—STATEMENT V-B
SEASONAL FACTORIES
Intervals, holidays and hours

District	Number of Factories—																		
	Total	In which intervals are			In which holidays are granted on—		In which normal weekly hours are—						In which majority of workers are exempted from—						
		One hour or more	Two-half hours	One-half hour	Sundays only	Week days and Sundays	For men			For women			Employing children	Section 34	Section 35	Section 36	Section 37	Section 38	
							Not above 48	Above 48 and not above 54	Above 54	Not above 48	Above 48 and not above 54	Above 54							
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
Cachar	76	64	9	3	5	71	59	12	5	72	2	1	7	..	76	..	76	..	..
Sylhet	121	95	9	17	9	112	99	19	3	115	1	2	7	..	121	..	121	..	..
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Goalpara	11	9	1	1	2	9	7	1	3	8	1	1	1	..	11	..	11	..	..
Kamrup	12	10	..	2	1	11	10	2	..	12	..	..	..	..	12	..	12	..	..
Darrang	83	73	6	9	5	83	71	11	6	82	4	1	10	..	88	..	88	..	..
Nowgong	19	15	1	3	3	16	15	1	3	18	1	..	..	..	19	..	19	..	..
Sibsagar	157	130	2	25	12	145	134	17	6	139	10	1	6	..	157	..	157	..	..
Lakhimpur	180	166	1	13	4	176	148	23	9	160	6	..	26	..	180	..	180	..	..
Sadiya Frontier Tract ..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	..
Total	665	563	29	73	41	624	544	86	35	607	25	6	57	..	665	..	665	..	..
Total for 1938 ..	663	568	34	58	37	623	543	72	45	602	22	12	74	..	660	..	660	..	..

ASSAM—STATEMENT VI

Accidents

District	Fatal	Serious	Minor	Total
1	2	3	4	5
Cachar	1	3	17	21
Sylhet ... ..	...	3	16	19
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ... ..	...	...	...	...
Goalpara ... ..	...	1	2	3
Kamrup ... ..	...	1	...	1
Darrang ... ..	...	5	19	24
Nowgong ... ..	...	...	2	2
Sibsagar	1	9	51	61
Lakhimpur	1	44	327	372
Sadiya Frontier Tract ... ..	...	...	1	1
Total	3	66	435	504
Seasonal	3	37	131	171
Perennial ... ..	...	29	304	333
Total for 1938	5	102	444	551

ASSAM—STATEMENT VII

Convictions

Offences relating to—	Number of convictions		Remarks
	Perennial	Seasonal	
1	2	3	4
1. Employment and hours of work—			
Men ... ..	...	...
Women ... ..	...	...
Adolescents and children	1*	1*	*Children.
2. Notices, Returns and Registers	1*	2*	*Items 3 and 4 also apply.
3. Safety ... ..	...	1	
4. Health and Sanitation (including welfare) ... ..	...	...
5. Others ... ..	...	...
Total	2	4	

ASSAM—STATEMENT VIII

Inspections

District	Number of factories inspected during the year					Not inspected	Grand total
	Once	Twice	Thrice	Over three times	Total inspections		
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Cachar	29	23	6	3	66	14	80
Sylhet	74	20	7	1	102	24	126
Khasi and Jaintia Hills ...	1	1	2	...	4	...	4
Goalpara	6	...	...	...	6	11	17
Kamrup	25	2	...	...	27	15	42
Darrang	35	3	...	...	38	56	94
Nowgong	13	8	3	...	24	6	30
Sibsagar	56	33	17	6	112	61	173
Lakhimpur	72	24	2	...	98	107	205
Sadiya Frontier Tract ...	2	...	...	...	2	...	2
Total ...	313	119	37	10	479	294	773
Seasonal ...	264	105	29	9	407	258	665
Perennial ...	49	14	8	1	72	36	103
Total for 1938 ...	420	83	13	1	517	248	765

RETURN I.—DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES
For the Calendar year 1939

1 Industries	2 Average number of persons employed daily	3 Total wages paid, including deductions under clauses (d) to (j) of sub-section (2) of section 7 but not other deductions	4 Deductions on account of—			
			Fines	Breach of contract	Damage or loss	Total
I.—GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL FUND FACTORIES						
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Printing presses	234	1,03,208 0 0	..	..	..	..
Railway workshops	94	24,247 7 0	..	9 3 0	..	9 3 0
Industrial and technical school workshops.	204	26,530 0 0	2 10 0	..	26 14 0	29 8 0
General engineering workshops ..	18	3,978 12 0	..	..	..	..
Total	550	1,57,964 3 0	2 10 0	9 3 0	26 14 0	38 11 0
II.—ALL OTHER FACTORIES (PERENNIAL)						
<i>Engineering</i>						
Coach building and car repairing	299	97,646 14 0	..	..	..	..
Electrical generating and transforming stations.	52	16,764 10 0	..	..	..	..
General engineering	806	2,55,074 9 0	7 11 0	..	16 1 0	23 12 0
Kerosene tinning and packing ..	51	26,940 7 0	..	..	..	..
Railway workshops	440	1,46,126 13 0	..	..	..	..
Industrial and technical school workshops.	132	1,770 0 0	..	..	..	..
Total	1,780	5,44,323 5 0	7 11 0	..	16 1 0	23 12 0
<i>Minerals and metals</i>						
Petroleum refineries	2,178	6,66,118 1 0	9 5 0	..	58 4 0	67 9 0
Total	2,178	6,66,118 1 0	9 5 0	..	58 4 0	67 9 0
<i>Food, drink and tobacco</i>						
Rice mills	826	1,38,189 11 0	..	..	..	..
Ice manufacturing	9	2,106 9 0	..	..	..	..
Total	835	1,40,296 4 0	..	..	..	..
<i>Chemical, dyes, etc.</i>						
Matches	595	1,19,382 7 0	..	..	..	..
Oil mills	608	1,07,330 10 0	..	..	..	..
Total	1,203	2,26,713 1 0	..	..	..	..
<i>Process relating to wood, stone and glass.</i>						
Cement, lime and potteries ..	151	30,147 10 0	..	..	..	..
Saw mills	840	1,78,434 5 0	..	..	..	..
Total	991	2,08,581 15 0	..	..	..	..
<i>Paper and printing</i>						
Printing presses	172	38,535 6 0	..	..	..	..
Total	172	38,535 6 0	..	..	..	..
Total (Perennial)	7,709	19,82,532 3 0	19 10 0	9 3 0	101 3 0	130 0 0
SEASONAL						
<i>Gins and presses</i>						
Cotton ginning and baling ..	486	28,090 9 0	..	..	..	..
Total	486	28,090 9 0	..	..	..	..
<i>Food, drink and tobacco</i>						
Sugar	52	1,829 12 0	..	..	..	..
Tea	43,737	38,07,382 15 0	20 10 0	..	..	20 10 0
Total	43,789	38,09,212 11 0	20 10 0	..	..	20 10 0
Total (Seasonal)	44,275	38,37,303 4 0	20 10 0	..	..	20 10 0
Grand Total	51,984	58,19,835 7 0	40 4 0	9 3 0	101 3 0	150 10 0



