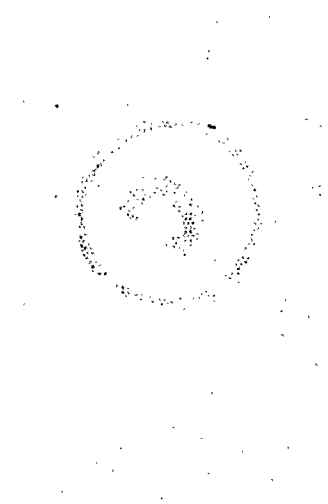




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Fourth Biennial Conference of Police Officers

January 12 to 16, 1933

REPORT

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**REPORT OF THE FOURTH ALL-INDIA CONFERENCE OF POLICE
OFFICERS HELD AT NEW DELHI FROM THE 12TH TO THE
16TH JANUARY 1933.**

The Conference of Inspectors General of Police met on January 12th at 10-30 A.M. Sir Harry Haig welcomed the delegates and emphasised the value set by the Home Department on these Conferences. The present one in view of the impending constitutional change had a special importance. In future he suggested that these Conferences might provide a method whereby the Government of India could maintain contact with and promote co-ordination in matters of law and order. He confined his other remarks to subjects not on the official agenda.

List of subjects discussed by the Conference.

- I. Lessons derived from the Civil Disobedience Movement.
- II. Terrorist Crime.
- III. Opening of a central training class for provincial Special Branch Officers.
- IV. Investigation of theft and burglary cases.
- V. Speeding up of trials.
- VI. Difficulties of securing conviction brought about by recent legislation.
- VII. Uniformity in the Finger Print Bureau
- VIII. Desirability of publishing a Central Criminal Intelligence Gazette.
- IX. Application of the Criminal Tribes Act to Persian nomads.
- X. Inter-provincial relief of escorts.

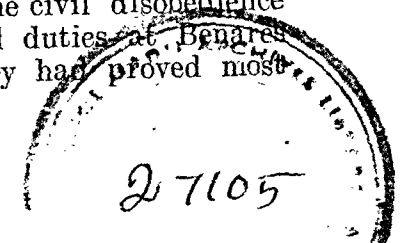
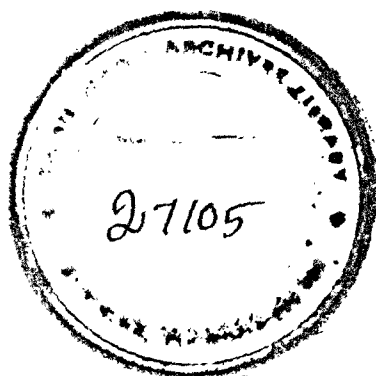
I.—LESSONS DERIVED FROM THE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT.

(a) The Bombay Inspector-General drew attention to the way in which the movement had drawn together Magistracy and Police by bringing out the responsibilities of the former for the preservation of law and order.

The difficulty arising from the fact that a sub-inspector cannot legally disperse an unlawful assembly unless he is an officer-in-charge of a police station was discussed and illustrated by an instance from the Central Provinces. Though no other province had experienced any practical difficulty from this limitation of power, the Conference agreed that it might have awkward consequences at any time and some remedy for it should be sought. The right of private defence would operate only in certain cases.

The Conference found that, except in the matter of women police, the time that had elapsed since the last Conference had not yielded any valuable lessons in methods of dealing with unlawful assemblies and picketers.

(b) *Women Police.*—The Conference listened with interest to reports from the U. P. and Delhi on the use of police-women. In the U. P. they had been used with advantage, in dealing with women picketers and unlawful assemblies containing women, at Allahabad, Lucknow, Cawnpore and Benares. At Delhi they had proved useful in the same situations. At Chittagong women had been enlisted temporarily as constables for searching women and had been of use. After the waning of the civil disobedience movement police women had been retained for general duties at Benares and Delhi. In the special conditions of Benares they had proved most useful.



The Conference agreed that police-women had established their usefulness in the special circumstances of the civil disobedience movement. Bombay, however, had found no need for them, and Burma could not use them. In Madras there would be difficulty in recruiting women of the right stamp. The only objection to their use in Bihar and Orissa is the difficulty of having them in the right place at the right time. Assam thought that the police would lower themselves by recruiting women of low caste, while the Punjab foresaw danger from the employment of such women.

II.—TERRORIST CRIME.

(a) *Training of Constables in the use of Revolvers.*—The Conference entirely condemns the automatic pistol. In some Provinces the .450 revolver has been given up in favour of the .380 Webley revolver.

For the training of subordinate police in the use of revolvers, plenty of target practice and a liberal supply of practice ammunition are necessary and in addition frequent practice in quick drawing, aiming and snapping off are essential. The Conference does not consider the assistance of the army for training purposes necessary as, in provinces where the arming of police with revolvers to any appreciable extent is necessary, it is preferable to arrange for training within the Police Department.

In the opinion of the Conference the rules for the protection of officers and the instructions to officers so protected, which have been framed in Bengal, might with advantage be circulated by the Government of India to other provinces for information and guidance.

In the Punjab the protection of magistrates, etc., has been largely provided by insisting that such officials should have as their own orderlies ex-soldiers or men of that type and by having these orderlies trained by the Police to use revolvers. The utilization of the existing staff of peons or orderlies in this way effects considerable economy in Police establishment. It is sometimes possible to arm such guards from confiscated arms deposited in the district malkhanas.

(b) *Protection Devices for Officers Searching Houses for Terrorists, Arms or Explosive Substances.*—Protective shields such as those in use in Calcutta have been supplied to the Criminal Investigation Department and to certain districts in the Punjab, but no practical use has as yet been made of them and officers to whom they have been supplied are not enthusiastic. They are said to have been of value in Calcutta, but the Inspector General of Police, Bengal, knows of no instances of their successful use. Their weight is a disadvantage and discourages officers from using them.

In the opinion of the Sub-Committee tear-gas, as now obtainable in the form of projectiles to be fired from a gun or pistol, should be useful. The Punjab Police are now trying to obtain a supply for experimental purposes and it is recommended that they should be asked to report results.

III.—A CENTRAL TRAINING CLASS FOR PROVINCIAL SPECIAL BRANCH OFFICERS.

After discussion with the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, the Conference found that a convenient and simple training ground for Intelligence officers and shadowers for those provinces which were first beginning to find a need for them could be provided by neighbouring provinces not so fortunate. For instance a few officers for the Central Provinces could be trained at Cawnpore. A central training class is not needed for Bengal, the Punjab, the United Provinces, Bombay and Bihar. Assam has already had officers trained in Bengal.

IV.—INVESTIGATION OF BURGLARY AND THEFT CASES.

The *modus operandi* system of recording burglaries is not used in Bombay and the N.-W. F. Province and has never been tried in Bengal. In Burma, after a thorough trial it has been discontinued except in Rangoon. In the U. P. and Bihar and Orissa it is used at police stations, without a central staff at headquarters, but has not proved a success. In Assam it is now used only for educative purposes, for which it has been found valuable. In the C. P. it is in use in a simple form and has yielded a few practical results, but is regarded as more useful educationally than otherwise. Only in Madras has it proved a real practical success, but there it is worked in combination with District Intelligence Bureaus. There a distinct improvement in detection has been registered in recent years. In the Punjab the attempt is being made to establish central investigating staffs in Districts, which both study crime on *modus operandi* lines and carry out certain classes of investigation. The results so far have been good. Mr. Adam drew attention to the fact that in the three provinces in which the percentage of detection in burglaries was high the incidence of burglary was low. Burma with a 41 percentage of conviction had only 3 cases per 10,000 of the population, Bombay with 21 had 2.75 and Madras with 21 had 1.75, as compared with 6 or 7 cases per 10,000 in other provinces. He suggested as an explanation that where the characteristic of the people is not to commit burglary, greater public assistance in the detection of cases may be expected.

The Conference noted with envy the superiority of Burma over other provinces in the matter of the strength of the police at stations, and found in this a clear explanation of the high percentage of detection in burglary cases in that province. An average police station, with 200 cognizable cases a year, has the following staff:—

For investigation	2 sub-inspectors and 4 constables.
For surveillance	1 sub-inspector and 2 constables.
For guards	1 head constable and 7 constables.
For escorts	1 head constable and 5 constables.
Station orderly	1 constable.
General duty	2 constables.
Station writer (a special rank)	1

(Total—3 sub-inspectors, 2 head constables, 1 writer and 21 constables.)

In addition there is a detective staff in every district. In a large district this staff would be as strong as 1 inspector and 8 sub-inspectors.

Beyond the detective staff each Range D. I. G. has a flying squad. An average squad would be 1 Deputy Superintendent, 2 Inspectors, 10 sub-Inspectors and 10 constables. These squads are in addition to the C. I. D.

Burma has a further advantage in its licensed pawn-shops, which are regularly inspected by the police (in towns by a specially appointed staff) and in which the pawnier has to give his thumb-print.

In Upper Burma surveillance by the special staff at each police station is assisted by a mounted constabulary, as constables who keep horses get a horse allowance. The military police also assist by patrolling.

In the opinion of the Conference the strength of the police in Burma amply accounts for the success in dealing with burglary. They regard district detective staffs in particular as indispensable for this purpose.

After discussing the usefulness of circle inspectors the Conference decided that they were an essential part of the police organisation and should on no account be abolished.

V.—SPEEDING UP OF TRIALS.

(a) After a comparison of the methods of fixing the date of trial followed in all provinces, the Conference came to the conclusion that the practice prevailing in Bihar and Orissa and Assam, where the police fix a

date far enough ahead to enable the Magistrate to warn those concerned of the change, if a change is found necessary, should be followed wherever local conditions permitted. Conditions in Burma, however, make it impossible to follow the practice in that province.

(b) The system of criminal courts are so varied between different provinces that a discussion on the disposal of the charge sheet, when it reaches court, was found to be unprofitable.

(c) The Conference recorded an emphatic protest against the practice prevalent in many places of paying witnesses only for the days on which they are examined and not also for the days on which they attend court in obedience to a summons or a direction from the police.

(d) The Conference decided that the question whether day-to-day adjournments should count as remands or not was from a police point of view too unimportant to merit discussion.

(e) The namukammal system of Bihar and Orissa was further explained to some members of the Conference.

(f) The maximum punishment which can be inflicted in the case of a summary trial should be increased from 3 months to 6 months.

VI.—DIFFICULTIES OF SECURING CONVICTION BROUGHT ABOUT BY RECENT LEGISLATION.

Mr. Ewart wished to withdraw this item. It was not discussed.

VII.—UNIFORMITY IN THE FINGER PRINT BUREAU.

The Conference considered a rule desirable that the record slips of persons convicted in one Province who are believed to have had their origin in another Province though not actually identified as residents thereof, should be placed on record in the Province of alleged origin. The addition of such slips to the record of the Bureau of a Province involved by this proposal would not be great and the result is likely to be advantageous.

As regards the question of the offences for which finger print slips should be kept on record and the manner in which slips should be eliminated, the Conference was of opinion that the differences which at present exist in the rules of different Provinces were not of sufficiently serious import to demand absolute uniformity.

VIII.—A CENTRAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE GAZETTE.

After discussion with the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, this proposal was rejected. The Director can continue, with convenience and economy, to use provincial gazettes for the publication of central intelligence matter and Provinces can continue to interchange their gazettes. There is, therefore, no need for a central gazette.

IX.—APPLICATION OF THE CRIMINAL TRIBES ACT TO PERSIAN NOMADS.

As this item concerned only Madras and Bombay, the Conference as a whole did not take it into consideration.

X.—INTER-PROVINCIAL RELIEF OF ESCORTS.

(a) There is no objection to a notice of 72 hours, instead of 48 as at present. Some provinces have already adopted a rule prescribing the longer notice. Uniformity is desirable and all provinces should give 72 hours notice.

(b) The giving of notice to all relieving stations, and not only to the first station, raises difficulties. The officer who dispatches the escort will seldom have the requisite local knowledge of routes and relieving stations in distant Provinces. Mistakes will be easy to make and will cause confusion. (For instance an officer despatching an escort from Bengal to Peshawar might easily warn the Delhi Police to have a relief ready, although the escort to be relieved would be travelling *via* Lucknow, Saharanpur and Umballa and would miss Delhi. There would be no relief ready at Umballa, as the better-informed relieving station in the U. P. would issue no warning, and the Delhi relief would turn out for nothing). Also if, as might well happen, the despatching station forgot to warn any but the first relieving station, the escort would have to travel through without further relief. The Conference is, therefore, of opinion that the present practice of warning only the first relieving station should continue. With sufficient warning it works without a hitch.

(c) The proposal to require the despatching officer to issue a warning when the prisoners are dangerous should be adopted. The strength of the escort to be relieved should also be intimated.

(d) It should be clearly understood that reliefs for inter-provincial escorts must always be provided. Sometimes a relief is refused or withheld on the ground that the men cannot be spared. Compliance with requisitions for relief must be strictly exacted.

R. J. HIRST

C. DE M. WELLBORNE.

S. T. HOLLINS.

C. C. CHITHAM.

D. A. SMYTH.

T. J. A. CRAIG.

W. A. P. SEALY.

T. P. M. O'CALLAGHAN.

G. S. WILSON.

O. E. WINDLE.

J. H. ADAM.

N. P. SMITH.

J. M. EWART.

