

the three elements only to which Mr. Amery referred, the ninety million Moslems, the scheduled castes who stand outside the main Hindu community represented by Congress, and thirdly, the Indian princes whose territory covers a third of all India. These differences are based upon a long and powerful tradition rooted in religious belief and social regulation. They are, Mr. Amery said in speaking more particularly of the Muhammadans, "as deep as, if not deeper, than any similar differences in Europe". Because they impinge upon what is most vital in the life of the people, namely, their religious beliefs and cultural beliefs, and because they are faced with the familiar urge of Hinduism to absorb and assimilate, they emerge in the form of a profound mistrust of majority rule.

Mr. Amery himself does not despair of the situation. As he told the House, he does not regard the differences between these conflicting elements in India, which have been the subject of negotiation since October last, as unbridgable. That in actual practice they may be bridged is shown by the co-operation of individual members of the Moslem community, who have taken an active part in the work of the Congress party. In the main, however, he relied upon two factors. In the first place, whatever may be the barriers between the component elements, India is a distinct cultural unity, a self-contained and distinctive region of the world, boasting an ancient civilization and a long history common to all her peoples, of which all Indians were equally proud; and secondly, all parties are at one in their detestation of Nazi aggression and their endorsement of our common cause. Common effort in the present emergency and the opportunity for discussion and the promotion of understanding pending post-War deliberations cannot but strengthen these two forces making for unity, and help to bring about that readiness to accept agreement based upon compromise of rule by consent which is "the foundation of all free government and of all true democracy". By India's aptitude in displaying these qualities in the immediate future will her full and free acceptance of the democratic ideal be judged.

Causes of Accidents in Factories

EVIDENCE submitted by the National Federation of Professional Workers before the Royal Commission on Workmen's Compensation on May 16 calls for a revision of the maximum benefits payable and attaches great importance to replacing the flat rate maximum by payments proportionately related to earnings already recognized in the payments for partial incapacity. It was also urged that there is no justification for such a salary limit as exists at present. The Federation expressed the opinion that extension of the salary limit or its entire elimination would not upset the structure or balance of the Act. It was further urged that compulsory insurance should be extended to all classes of employment and the doctrine of common employment abolished as a defence against claims under the common law.

In a memorandum of evidence submitted it was stated that the majority of accidents in factories

occur owing to the negligence of employees, and in an examination on this memorandum the representatives of the National Federation of Professional Workers stated that in many engineering concerns most of the accidents are due to negligence or, what was worse than negligence in a sense, some breach of statutory regulations or statutory duties. The failure of the material is often a matter of negligence at some more remote period and the Federation's conception of negligence was that it began in the Board Room. Breakdown of material, for example, could generally be attributed to failure to inspect sufficiently frequently, and in very busy works a good deal was taken for granted without inspection. It is considered that many safeguards could be arranged as an integral part in the design of the machine, and that is increasing in many makes of machinery. It was urged that much could be done in the drawing office rather than after the machine is installed to prevent accidents.

In explaining that the majority of accidents in factories occur owing to the negligence of employees, it was held that accidents are not caused by the negligence of the injured employee and this was linked up with the doctrine of common employment according to which where an injury arises owing to the negligence of a fellow employee the injured man cannot take an action. Apart from what one might call natural accidents it was safe to say that every accident occurs through some human agency. Much negligence, it was brought out in further evidence, was not necessarily culpable but might be due to fatigue. The Federation did not agree to a distinction between accidents due to the negligence of a manager or someone in special authority under a manager and accidents due to the negligence of the ordinary fellow worker. It is considered reasonable to hold the employer responsible for damages even when the negligence was not on the part of any official but on that of a fellow worker.

Blow-Guns for Clearing Away Dust in Factories

ACCIDENTS occur every year as the result of attempts to clear away dust, etc. by hand from moving machinery or electrical apparatus. Using rags or brushes for this purpose is often very dangerous. According to *Engineering* of July 26, pneumatic blow-guns are proving very useful for this purpose. They weigh only half a pound and are easily handled even in very awkward positions. The blow-gun is intended for use in workshops where compressed air is available, and below the hand-grips it has a hose connexion. The body is of aluminium and the renewable nozzle is of bronze. The nozzle can have a bore of $\frac{1}{16}$ in., $\frac{1}{8}$ in. or $\frac{5}{32}$ in., as desired. If used near live electrical fittings, it is made of insulating material so that safe operation is assured if accidental contact is made. Control of the air jet is effected by a push button actuated by the forefinger of the hand holding the gun. The valve is readily renewable.

It is stated that the blow-gun has proved most useful in blowing dust from foundry moulds and is particularly effective in getting rid of the dust