

## THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1923

(See Chart No. 2.)

In the monsoon charts the green lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the monsoon and are based on information supplied by the Director General of Observatories, Simla. Excess means more than 120 per cent. of the normal. The normal for divisions is the mean of normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations.

'Normal' in the charts is a variation from 80 to 120 per cent. of the true normal, 'fair' 40 to 79 per cent. of this normal, and 'scanty' is less than 40 per cent. The whiter the statement, the more the satisfactory nature of the monsoon; the redder it is, the worse the monsoon. The rainfall in other provinces also has been shown, as these (e.g., the United Provinces which exports to us bajri and jowari for our millworkers) have an influence in the long run on future price levels of food.

In Sind, the monsoon scarcely counts; it is the level of the Indus that does. The rise of the river up till the end of September is shown in the charts; after this date the rise is of little material importance. The table below shows the rainfall up to 27th September 1923, in Bombay, the Deccan (Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur and Poona), Gujarat (Surat and Ahmedabad) and in Kathiawar (Rajkot and Bhavnagar).

Station.	Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.	Station.	Rainfall in inches.	Departure from normal.
	(1st June to 27th Sept.)			(1st June to 27th Sept.)	
Bombay ..	77.45	+ 11.40	Surat ..	25.95	- 12.23
Ahmednagar ..	17.02	- 0.01	Ahmedabad ..	13.36	- 13.96
Sholapur ..	19.40	- 1.67	Rajkot ..	10.32	- 14.30
Bijapur ..	7.77	- 3.62	Bhavnagar ..	17.53	- 1.82
Poona ..	15.77	- 3.84			



## THE MONTH IN BRIEF

### Employment

#### THE COTTON INDUSTRY—BOMBAY

**D**URING the month ended 12th October 1923, the supply of labour in the Presidency was generally plentiful. In Bombay City and Island, 12 mills out of a total of 32 reporting mills reported a slight deficiency in the supply of labour. The average absenteeism in 32 representative mills in Bombay, for which reports have been received, showed a slight increase over the figures of the previous month. The average absenteeism was 14.53 per cent. during the month ended 12th October as compared with 12.53 per cent. in the previous month, and 12.71 per cent. two months ago. Twenty-one out of the total reporting mills reported an increase of absenteeism, and this was stated to be due, in many cases, to ill-health and in others to the comparatively large number of holidays during the month. Absenteeism was reported to be highest in spinning departments, and lowest in weaving departments, during the month under review. After the monthly pay day, which was on the 13th of September in most mills, absenteeism rose from 12.88 per cent. to 23.35 per cent. on the 15th September. This increase was larger than that in the preceding month when absenteeism rose from 9.62 per cent. to 15.01 per cent. for the same period. Although, in some mills, looms and spindles have been stopped owing to trade depression, the prospect for employment in the cotton mill industry in Bombay shows signs of slight improvement as compared with the previous month.

#### AHMEDABAD

In Ahmedabad, the supply of labour was, as in the last month, reported to be equal to the demand during the month under review. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been

received from representative mills in this centre. These reports show an average absenteeism of 8.81 per cent. during the month as compared with 4.64 per cent. last month. This increase was stated to be due to an increase in sickness. The highest absenteeism was reported to be in spinning departments.

#### SHOLAPUR

In Sholapur, the supply of labour was adequate but absenteeism, although recording a slight decrease in the month under review, was still high due to holidays during the month. The average absenteeism was 12.79 per cent. in the present month as compared with 13.64 per cent. last month and 9.65 two months ago. Absenteeism was lowest in weaving departments. Absenteeism rose from 11.45 per cent. before the pay day to 13.07 after the pay day which was on the 18th of September in most mills.

#### BROACH

In Broach, the supply of labour was adequate in two of the reporting mills; in the remainder it was insufficient. Absenteeism showed a considerable improvement as compared with the preceding month, the figures being 9.18 per cent. in the present month as compared with 19.57 last month and 23.89 per cent. two months ago. The low figure in the month under review is due to the termination of two protracted strikes in this centre.

#### SURAT

In Surat, the supply of labour was normal in the month under review. Absenteeism showed practically no change as compared with last month, the average absenteeism being 12.09 per cent. in the present month as compared with 12.75 per cent. in the preceding month.

## THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY—BOMBAY

In the engineering industry in Bombay the supply of labour was quite equal to the demand. The average absenteeism in representative engineering workshops (based on the returns from three large workshops) showed an increase, the figures being 15.73 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 12.25 per cent. last month and 13.38 per cent. two months ago. On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism decreased to 5.0 per cent. as compared with 8.0 per cent. in the preceding month, but was slightly higher than the figure of 4.5 per cent. two months ago. On the construction of *chauls* (tenements) at Naigaum and DeLisle Road, absenteeism remained at 3 per cent. the level of the previous month. At Worli, on the construction of *chauls* in connexion with the Development Directorate, absenteeism showed an increase to 8 per cent. as compared with 5 per cent. last month but remained at the level of July 1923. The supply of unskilled labour employed for loading, removing, storing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was more than equal to the demand. The percentage of absenteeism was 11.49 in the month under review, as compared with 6.8 last month and 15.8 two months ago. The increase in absenteeism in the present month was due to labourers returning to their villages to attend to the crops and owing to the resumption of coastal passenger service after the monsoon. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust, the supply of labour was plentiful, but a slight increase in absenteeism was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism was 10.65, as compared with 9.8 last month and 7.82 two months ago.

## KARACHI

In Karachi, the supply of all types of labour was plentiful. The average absenteeism, based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshop of the Karachi Port Trust, recorded a slight decrease, it being 5 per cent. as compared with 6 per cent. in the preceding month.

## The Cost of Living

In September 1923, the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was the same as in the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City and Island of Bombay (100 represents the level of July 1914) was 154 for all articles and 149 for food articles only. There was a fall of 6 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 20 per cent. below the high water mark (October 1920).

The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living, because an index number purporting to combine movements in prices with movements in consumption would present great difficulties in construction, interpretation and application. Moreover, such an index would not be materially different from a simple index of the general movement of prices in the case of the working classes. A further reference to the cost of living index will be found on page 9 and a note on the scope of the index will also be found on page 14 of this issue.

## The Wholesale Index Number

In September 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay rose by more than two per cent. as compared with the previous month. With the exception of a few items which remained stationary, there was a general rise in all the principal groups during the month. The general level is now 75 per cent. above the pre-war level. The movement by groups will be found on page 14 in the article on wholesale prices in September. The fluctuations in the price of foods, non-foods and all articles will be seen in the following table:—

	Increase per cent. over July 1914.				
	May 1923.	June 1923.	July 1923.	August 1923.	September 1923.
Foods ..	76	79	78	76	82
Non-foods ..	75	73	70	68	71
All articles ..	75	75	73	71	75

## Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes decreased from 15 in August to 8 during September. The number of disputes involving stoppage of work as beginning in September was 5. During September 9,112 workpeople were involved as compared with 6,160 in the previous month and 2,578 in September 1922. The aggregate duration of all disputes during September 1923 was about 55,934 working days as compared with 25,244 in August 1923, and 20,709 in September 1922.

## Cotton Mill Production

Cotton mill production in August 1923, as compared with the corresponding months of the two previous years, is shown in the table below. The salient features are that, during August 1923, production of yarn and woven goods in Bombay and the production of woven goods in Ahmedabad decreased as compared with the two previous years. The production of yarn in Ahmedabad showed a decline as compared with the last year but was the same as in the year before last. In other centres of the Presidency the production of both yarn and woven goods decreased as compared with the preceding year.

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun.			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced.		
	August.			August.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	30	29	27	18	18	17
Ahmedabad ..	7	8	7	7	7	6
Other centres ..	5	5	4	3	2	2
Total Presidency ..	42	42	38	28	27	25

The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations at the end of September 1922 and August and September 1923 are as follows:—

	Net rate per lb. in annas.		
	September 1922.	August 1923.	September 1923.
Longcloth ..	23½	19½	20½
T. Cloths ..	22	18½	19½
Chudders ..	22½	18½	19½

## The Outlook

The most salient feature of the month under review is a distinct improvement in the business outlook. Trade generally—and the cotton mill industry particularly—is experiencing a revival. Stocks of unsold cloth held by the Bombay mills are now considerably lower than they were a month ago and the position as regards yarn is said to be satisfactory. The up-country demand for cloth has increased and it is now moving in fairly large quantities. All things considered, the cotton mill industry is experiencing, what has been patiently awaited for the last six months, a return to more normal trade conditions. In the woollen industry of Bombay considerable activity is reported and the demand for Indian-made woollen goods and woollen cloth is good. One Bombay mill is completely booked with orders for woollen blankets and shawls for at least a year ahead. In other business circles a slightly more hopeful feeling is evident.

In Europe, political disturbances still restrict business generally. In Great Britain, the number of unemployed for the week ending September 24th was 1,232,000—an increase of 3,847 on the previous week. This situation is a depressing one, especially in view of the large volume of unemployment. The prospects for the winter, too, are far from satisfactory. There is, however, a better demand in the iron and steel, boot and jute industries. There is also an increased demand from India for cotton goods, but no definite improvement in the position of the spinners and manufacturers can so far be recorded. The industry is still crippled by the high price of raw cotton. Organised short time continues in the American section of the spinning trade, and the Master Cotton Spinner's Federation have recommended their members to continue to limit production to 50 per cent. The manufacture of cotton is second only to agriculture in industrial importance in Great Britain, and normally the various branches of the cotton trade are responsible for about one-third of the value of the annual exports of manufactured goods. The demand abroad for cotton goods is now less than it was before the war and this in itself explains the restricted demand and



consequent unemployment in the cotton industry. The production of pig iron in July amounted to 655,100 tons or 37,800 tons less than in June. There was a slight increase in the production of foundry and forge iron.

Other countries in Europe such as Sweden, Belgium and Italy appear to be improving so far as trade conditions are concerned, while Holland and Norway are still in the dumps. Germany during the last three months has experienced a fall in both imports and exports as well as a great increase in unemployment. Latest reports show that harvest conditions in Canada and Australia are good.

In the United States, according to cable information received by the Acting Trade Commissioner, Calcutta, production in the steel industry was slightly lower during September as compared with the previous month. Production in the textile and boot industries is, however, increasing. Money rates are higher but investment markets are reacting. The labour situation is encouraging and the outlook for the winter indicates a large volume of business. Data published by the Department of Labour show that increases in the rates of wages for the month ending August 15th were reported by 156 establishments in 38 of the 51 industries.

### The Balance of Trade

During September 1923, the visible balance of trade including securities *in favour of* India amounted to Rs. 1.99 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1922 was a favourable balance of Rs. 10 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below :—

India							
In lakhs of rupees							
	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923	September 1923	
Exports (private merchandise)	30.98	30.00	29.89	26.12	23.42	23.44	
Imports do.	28.10	19.28	17.98	16.38	16.96	18.72	
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 2.88	+ 10.72	+ 11.91	+ 9.74	+ 6.46	+ 4.72	
Balance of transactions in treasure (private)	- 7.97	- 4.53	- 3.82	- 3.95	- 3.20	- 3.10	
Visible balance of trade including securities	+ 2.37	+ 7.27	+ 7.84	+ 5.48	+ 3.22	+ 1.99	

Bombay							
In lakhs of rupees							
	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923	September 1923	
Exports (private merchandise)	12.23	10.69	8.79	7.61	4.38	3.95	
Imports do.	8.68	7.40	7.05	6.23	6.49	6.68	
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 3.55	+ 3.29	+ 1.74	+ 1.38	- 2.11	- 2.73	
Imports of treasure	7.70	4.20	3.59	3.52	3.07	3.42	
Exports of treasure	9	13	15	13	12	3.9	
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 7.61	- 4.07	- 3.44	- 3.39	- 2.95	- 3.03	

Karachi							
In lakhs of rupees							
	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923	September 1923	
Exports (private merchandise)	2.49	3.47	5.26	3.49	1.49	1.42	
Imports do.	2.07	1.16	1.92	1.72	2.26	2.41	
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 42	+ 2.31	+ 3.34	+ 1.77	- 77	- 99	
Imports of treasure	6	6	1	7	2	1	
Exports of treasure	..	..	2	..	..	11	
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 6	- 6	+ 1	- 7	- 2	+ 10	

NOTE.—Plus (+) signifies net export and minus (-) signifies net import.

### Business conditions

The rates for telegraphic transfers in Bombay on London in the first week of the last twelve months are as follows :—

	s.	d.		s.	d.
November 1922	..	1 3 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	May 1923	..	1 4 <sup>5</sup> / <sub>32</sub>
December "	..	1 3 <sup>15</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	June "	..	1 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>
January 1923	..	1 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	July "	..	1 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>32</sub>
February "	..	1 4 <sup>15</sup> / <sub>32</sub>	August "	..	1 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>32</sub>
March "	..	1 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	September "	..	1 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>32</sub>
April "	..	1 4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>16</sub>	October "	..	1 4 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>16</sub>

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 26th October, exchange on London was s.1 d.4 <sup>21</sup>/<sub>32</sub>.

There was a decrease of 23 crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in September as compared with the preceding month. In



Karachi and Rangoon, the Bank clearings decreased by 1 and 2 crores respectively, while the clearings in Calcutta increased by 28 crores. The figures for the last three months are as follows :—

In crores of rupees *				
	July 1923	August 1923	September 1923	Total January to September 1923
Bombay	46	55	32	370
Karachi	3	4	3	28
Calcutta	63	54	82	656
Rangoon	8	10	8	84
Total (four ports)	120	123	125	1,138

\* 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India at the close of the month of September 1923 was about 68 as against 67 in August and 65 in July 1923.

The average market quotations of 65 cotton mill companies for which quotations are available are as follows :—

October 1922	..	Rs. 1,433	April 1923	..	Rs. 1,193
November "	..	1,266	May "	..	1,215
December "	..	1,222	June "	..	1,042
January 1923	..	1,255	July "	..	1,123
February "	..	1,216	August "	..	1,007
March "	..	1,125	September "	..	1,005

The average amount paid up was Rs. 371 per share throughout the period.

### CONSUMPTION OF SALT

#### DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT

On 14th June 1923, during the debate in the House of Commons on the India Office vote, references were made to the consumption of salt, and the percentage expenditure on salt, among working class families in Bombay. These references were based on the data contained in the *Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay*, recently published by the Labour Office.

Mr. Herbert Fisher in referring to the Under Secretary of State's speech and the effects of the increased tax on salt said :—

"I was looking the other day at a Report on the family budgets of 3,000 families in Bombay. The Report showed that only 0.4 per cent. of the

expenditure of the families concerned went on salt. It is, therefore, the case that this grievance is apt to be exaggerated."

Sir John Hewett in referring to the same subject remarked :—

"I was rather surprised not to find some denunciation of the tax when it was discussed in the Legislative Assembly. It was quite true that one hon. Member said that the effect of it would be that 'the people would die like flies,' but those who criticised the tax did not make any very great point of its oppressive character or prove that it would be severely felt. . . . Some figures have been given by the Noble Lord as to the extent to which the expenditure on salt affects the Budget of the common people. The right honourable Gentleman, the Member for the English Universities (Mr. Fisher) has referred to some figures which have been prepared by Mr. Findlay Shirras about the Budgets of the working people of Bombay, and one of the most interesting things in these budgets is that . . . the amount which an ordinary labouring man will spend on tobacco is some six or seven times the amount which he spends upon salt. There is another luxury, that of betelnut, and a man will spend four times as much on that as he will do upon salt."

\* Extracts from Parliamentary Debates Official Report, Fifth Series, Volume 165, House of Commons, Sixth Volume of Session, 1923.

### WOMEN LABOUR IN BENGAL

A useful bulletin (No. 31) published by the Department of Industries and Labour, Government of India regarding women's labour in Bengal has recently been received. The bulletin contains the results of an investigation conducted by Dagmar F. Curjel, M.D., D.P.H., of the Women's Medical Service of India into the influence of industrial work on women especially during child-bearing ages. The enquiry was conducted between November 1921 and October 1922 corresponding, approximately, with the period of the Bombay enquiry conducted by Dr. Mrs. Barnes, M.D., the results of which were published in the September 1922 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The bulletin deals with women labourers in the jute and cotton mills, tea gardens and coalfields of Bengal. It emphasizes the importance of creches, maternity benefits, medical attendance and sanitary conveniences. The average woman in Bengal earns Rs. 2-8-0 per week in the jute mills, Rs. 4 to 9 per month in the tea estates and 8 to 12 annas per day in the coal fields.



Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India (Bombay).	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Italy (Rome) (c).	Belgium.	Norway.	Switzerland.	South Africa.	France (Paris).	Germany.	U. S. of America.
Items included in the index.	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, light, rent, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, rent and miscellaneous.	Food, clothing, light, fuel, and household utensils.	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent, tax, etc.	Food, heating and lighting.	Food, fuel, light, and rent.	(g)	Food, heating and lighting, clothing and rent.	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent, fuel, and miscellaneous items.
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	(b) 100	(d) 100	100	(f) 100	100	100	100	(h) 100
1915	125	97	119	107	107	99	..	(e) 117	119	103	..	..	(i) 100
1916	148	102	115	113	113	116	..	146	140	106	..	..	118
1917	180	130	116	119	119	146	..	190	180	114	..	..	142
1918	203	146	118	128	128	197	..	253	229	118	..	..	174
1919	238	155	132	133	133	205	..	275	261	126	238	..	177
1920	189	252	190	149	149	313	453	253	253	155	..	842	177
1921	177	219	152	157	157	387	379	..	209	133	..	11,124	221
1922 February	165	188	149	..	150	426	380	..	177	120	..	2,410	..
March	165	186	148	137	148	415	371	257	167	120	291	2,879	167
April	162	182	146	..	146	420	367	..	167	122	..	3,436	..
May	163	181	145	..	146	427	365	..	157	122	..	3,803	..
June	163	180	145	140	145	425	366	249	158	121	302	4,147	167
July	165	184	146	..	144	429	366	..	158	120	..	5,392	..
August	164	181	147	..	144	431	366	..	156	120	..	7,705	..
September	165	179	148	143	144	437	376	249	157	120	289	13,319	166
October	162	178	147	..	143	443	376	..	160	121	..	22,066	..
November	160	180	147	..	143	439	384	..	160	122	..	44,610	..
December	161	178	148	142	143	438	384	238	161	121	300	68,506	170
1923 January	156	178	150	..	142	412	383	..	160	120	..	112,027	..
February	155	177	150	..	143	413	397	..	158	120	..	264,300	..
March	154	176	152	136	143	411	408	240	161	119	324	285,400	169
April	155	174	149	..	143	411	409	..	160	120	..	295,400	..
May	153	170	147	..	144	449	413	..	163	120	..	381,600	..
June	151	169	146	..	145	..	419	239	166	120	324	765,000	170
July	153	169	146	..	145	..	429	..	166	119	..	3,765,100	..
August	154	171	149	..	..	..	439	..	..	..	..	58,604,500	..
September	154	173	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial. (d) April 1914. (e) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (f) June 1914. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base. (i) Note—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (Paris)	Italy (a)	Belgium	Finland	Germany	Holland (g)	Norway	Sweden (h)	Denmark	Switzerland
No. of articles.	17	20	29	18	46	59	43	13	9	22	37	..	27	..	51	..	..
No. of stations.	Bombay	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris	Rome	1,025 budgets	20	47	Amsterdam	30	44	100	21
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(d) 100	(e) 100	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100
1915	132	105	107	131	112	98	95	..	..	..	..	..	114	114	124	128	119
1916	161	114	116	130	119	109	111	..	..	..	..	..	117	160	142	146	141
1917	204	157	128	126	127	143	137	..	..	..	..	..	146	214	181	166	179
1918	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	..	176	279	268	187	222
1919	239	186	139	147	144	186	206	..	..	..	..	..	204	289	310	212	250
1920	258	227	187	194	167	215	373	318	459	982	1,156	210	319	297	253	299	299
1921	174	200	148	139	161	145	306	402	410	1,278	1,491	180	295	232	236	207	207
1922 February	160	179	143	119	140	145	139	307	399	1,115	3,620	150	245	189	..	175	175
March	161	177	142	119	141	141	136	294	446	382	3,602	143	238	185	..	162	162
April	157	175	138	121	143	144	136	304	455	378	3,556	137	234	182	..	153	153
May	156	172	138	120	147	145	136	317	455	379	3,092	136	230	178	..	152	152
June	156	170	137	118	146	143	137	307	454	384	..	5,119	137	227	179	..	153
July	156	169	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	381	1,105	6,836	144	233	179	184	153
August	156	175	141	116	149	141	137	289	463	377	1,127	9,746	144	232	181	..	152
September	161	172	139	117	149	139	137	291	472	386	1,129	15,417	145	228	180	..	151
October	156	172	138	119	146	139	140	290	462	406	1,121	26,623	148	220	178	..	153
November	157	176	139	120	145	139	142	297	477	452	1,108	54,982	141	216	170	..	155
December	157	178	140	118	146	138	144	305	476	429	1,092	80,700	142	215	168	180	155
1923 January	151	175	142	117	145	139	141	309	460	426	1,080	136,600	145	214	166	186	155
February	150	173	142	117	144	140	134	316	478	439	1,090	318,300	145	214	166	..	154
March	149	171	145	117	145	141	139	321	480	439	1,066	331,500	145	214	166	..	156
April	148	168	142	117	152	142	140	323	481	417	1,012	350,000	143	212	164	..	159
May	148	162	140	118	156	143	140	325	491	414	..	462,000	139	214	161	..	161
June	148	160	138	118	162	143	142	331	..	426	1,004	934,000	141	213	161	..	165
July	148	163	142	115	165	143	144	321	..	459	..	4,851,000	..	218	160	188	164
August	149	165	142	115	165	143	..	328	..	478	..	67,848,500	..	220	161	..	..
September	149	165	142	115	165	143	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) Unofficial. (d) January to June 1914. (e) 15th Apr. 1914. (f) Figures from 1914 to 1916 are annual averages. Note—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.



THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR SEPTEMBER 1923 Stationary Prices

All articles .. 54 per cent. Food only .. 49 per cent.

In September 1923 the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay was the same as in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was 154 in August and September 1923. The general index is 20 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 11 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921 and 6 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922. The cost of living index has fallen nearly to the level of August 1918.

The articles included in the index are cereals, pulses, other articles of food, fuel and lighting, clothing and house-rent. The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the total aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living since July 1914.

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in August and September 1923 as compared with that for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer on page 10.

Articles.	July 1914.	August 1923.	September 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in September 1923 over or below August 1923.
Rice	100	121	122	+ 1
Wheat	100	126	126	..
Jowari	100	121	124	+ 3
Bajri	100	135	135	..
Gram	100	114	114	..
Turdal	100	119	119	..
Sugar (refined)	100	246	231	- 15
Sugar (raw)	100	167	167	..
Tea	100	178	178	..
Salt	100	199	199	..
Beef	100	158	148	- 10
Mutton	100	222	226	+ 4
Milk	100	191	191	..
Ghee	100	185	185	..
Potatoes	100	227	232	+ 5
Onions	100	446	460	+ 14
Cocconut oil	100	113	113	..
All food articles (weighted average)	100	149	149	..

NOTE.—A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the index number is published in the Labour Gazette for September 1923.

In food articles there was very little change during the month. With the exception of rice and jowari which rose by one and three points respectively, the prices of all other food-grains remained stationary. In other food articles, a slight rise in potatoes and onions was counterbalanced by an appreciable fall of 15 points in refined sugar. The price of salt, tea, ghee, milk and cocoanut oil did not change during the month.

The fluctuations in the prices of food and in the general average of all articles, are much less than in the corresponding period of the previous two years.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914.

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
	Per cent.					
January	34	82	83	69	73	56
February	34	76	81	62	65	55
March	36	72	77	60	65	54
April	44	67	72	60	62	55
May	47	68	73	67	63	53
June	48	74	81	73	63	51
July	49	86	90	77	65	53

Oct., 1923

## BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores.)	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	August 1923.	September 1923.	July 1914.	August 1923.	September 1923.
<b>Cereals—</b>								
Rice .. ..	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 6.781	Rs. 6.823	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 474.67	Rs. 477.61
Wheat .. ..	"	21	5.594	7.047	7.047	117.47	147.99	147.99
Jowari .. ..	"	11	4.354	5.281	5.385	47.89	58.09	59.24
Bajri .. ..	"	6	4.313	5.818	5.818	25.88	34.91	34.91
<b>Total and Average—Cereals</b> .. ..	—	—	100	123	124	582.82	715.66	719.75
<b>Pulses—</b>								
Gram .. ..	Maund	10	4.302	4.922	4.922	43.02	49.22	49.22
Turdal .. ..	"	3	5.844	6.974	6.974	17.53	20.92	20.92
<b>Total and Average—Pulses</b> .. ..	—	—	100	116	116	60.55	70.14	70.14
<b>Other food articles—</b>								
Sugar (refined) .. ..	Maund	2	7.620	18.714	17.583	15.24	37.43	35.17
Sugar (raw) .. ..	"	7	8.557	14.287	14.287	59.90	100.01	100.01
Tea .. ..	"	40	40.000	71.109	71.109	1.00	1.78	1.78
Salt .. ..	"	5	2.130	4.234	4.234	10.65	21.17	21.17
Beef .. ..	Seer	28	0.323	0.510	0.479	9.04	14.28	14.28
Mutton .. ..	"	33	0.417	0.927	0.943	13.76	30.59	31.12
Milk .. ..	Maund	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Ghee .. ..	"	1½	50.792	94.120	94.120	76.19	141.18	141.18
Potatoes .. ..	"	11	4.479	10.156	10.391	49.27	111.72	114.30
Onions .. ..	"	3	1.552	6.927	7.141	4.66	20.78	21.42
Cocconut Oil .. ..	"	½	25.396	28.568	28.568	12.70	14.28	14.28
<b>Total and Average—Other food articles</b> .. ..	—	—	100	194	194	381.18	739.38	740.00
<b>Total and Average—All food articles</b> .. ..	—	—	100	149	149	1,024.55	1,525.18	1,529.89
<b>Fuel and lighting—</b>								
Kerosene oil .. ..	Case	5	4.375	7.500	6.969	21.88	7.50	34.85
Firewood .. ..	Maund	48	0.792	1.281	1.281	38.02	1.49	61.49
Coal .. ..	"	1	0.542	0.297	0.292	0.54	0.30	0.29
<b>Total and Average—Fuel and lighting</b> .. ..	—	—	100	164	160	60.44	99.29	96.63
<b>Clothing—</b>								
Chudders .. ..	Lb.	27	0.594	1.188	1.188	16.04	32.08	32.08
Shirtings .. ..	"	25	0.641	1.359	1.380	16.03	33.98	34.50
T. Cloth .. ..	"	36	0.583	1.188	1.188	20.99	42.77	42.77
<b>Total and Average—Clothing</b> .. ..	—	—	100	205	206	53.06	108.83	109.35
<b>House rent</b> .. ..	Per month	10	11.302	18.700	18.700	113.02	187.00	187.00
<b>Grand Total and General Average</b> .. ..	—	—	100	154	154	1,251.07	1,920.30	1,922.87

NOTE.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,251.07 crores, the aggregate expenditure in September 1923 at September price levels was Rs. 1,922.87, i.e., an increase of 54 per cent. (Rs. 1,251.07 = 100; Rs. 1,922.87 = 154).

## BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

B

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight × Index Number.	
		August 1923.	September 1923.	August 1923.	September 1923.
<b>Cereals—</b>					
Rice .. ..	31.4	121	122	3,799.4	3,830.8
Wheat .. ..	9.4	116	126	1,184.4	1,184.4
Jowari .. ..	3.8	121	124	459.8	471.2
Bajri .. ..	2.1	135	135	283.5	283.5
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	46.7	123	124	5,727.1	5,769.9
<b>Pulses—</b>					
Gram .. ..	3.1	114	114	353.4	353.4
Turdal .. ..	1.3	119	119	154.7	154.7
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	4.4	115	115	508.1	508.1
<b>Other food articles—</b>					
Sugar (refined) .. ..	1.2	246	231	295.2	277.2
Sugar (raw) .. ..	4.8	167	167	801.6	801.6
Tea .. ..	0.1	178	178	17.8	17.8
Salt .. ..	0.9	199	199	179.1	179.1
Beef .. ..	0.7	158	148	110.6	103.6
Mutton .. ..	1.1	226	244.2	248.6	248.6
Milk .. ..	10.3	191	191	1,967.3	1,967.3
Ghee .. ..	6.1	185	185	1,128.5	1,128.5
Potatoes .. ..	4.0	227	232	908.0	928.0
Onions .. ..	0.4	446	460	178.4	184.0
Cocconut oil .. ..	1.0	113	113	113.0	113.0
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	30.6	194	194	5,943.7	5,948.7
<b>Fuel and lighting—</b>					
Kerosene oil .. ..	1.8	171	159	307.8	286.2
Firewood .. ..	3.0	162	162	486.0	486.0
Coal .. ..	0.1	55	54	5.5	5.4
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	4.9	163	159	799.3	777.6
<b>Clothing—</b>					
Dhories .. ..	1.3	200	200	260.0	260.0
Shirtings .. ..	1.3	212	215	275.6	279.5
T. Cloth .. ..	1.7	204	204	346.8	346.8
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	4.3	205	206	882.5	886.3
<b>House rent</b> .. ..	9.1	165	165	1,501.5	1,501.5
<b>Grand total of weights</b> .. ..	100				
<b>General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)</b> .. ..	154	154	154	15,362.1	15,392.1

### THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COST OF LIVING INDEX

Professor Irving Fisher of Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, has recently published a book on "The Making of Index Numbers." This has been criticised in various quarters, notably in a review in the Economic Journal of March 1923 by Professor Bowley, in the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society for May 1923 by Mr. Udney Yule, F.R.S., and in the columns of the Statist.\* Professor Irving Fisher has been in correspondence with the Director of the Labour Office in regard to the ideal index number and the following extracts of the correspondence are published as they will be of interest from the point of view of those interested in the cost of living index numbers, especially in India.

A

(From Professor Irving Fisher)

I am very anxious to have you read this book and to give me among other things, authoritative information as to what formula is used by some of the officers listed on pages 433-8. Where the formula was known to me, I have indicated its formula number in my system of numbering (as "Formula 1" or "Formula 53", etc.).

I also have the ambition to bring about changes in the formula used where it fails at present to conform to fundamental tests. Such changes have already been made in the cases of at least two important Governmental offices. I particularly hope that the common Formula No. 1 (simple arithmetical average) may be universally abandoned as "biased".

B

(From the Director, Labour Office, Bombay)

The Bombay cost of living index referred to on page 435 might be amplified. The Bombay cost of living index pays special attention to accuracy in the collection of prices. The index including food, clothing, heating, light and rent is very carefully compiled and the price of each article is collected twice a week from about ten retailers in that commodity in Bombay. The index is weighted according to the aggregate expenditure of the whole of India in July 1914 based on production, imports and exports during five years before the war. It may be said to follow Formula No. 3 of your book, there being slight difference that the quantities are not of the base month but the

\* See the issues of January 27th, February 3rd, 10th, March 31st, April 7th, 14th, and May 26th.

average of the five pre-war years. In this connexion I should like you to refer to the September 1921 issue of the *Labour Gazette* published by this office a copy of which was sent to you, and also my remarks on this index number in my report on family budgets. I sent you a copy of this report, but in case that you have not received it I send it under separate cover. Will you please refer to paragraphs 48-51? The wholesale index number was described in the *Labour Gazette* for November 1921. In this case too, we are very careful to obtain actual market prices.

The time reversal test presents some difficulties which may, I think, be briefly stated as follows:—

If the formula employed is a weighted arithmetic average, the weights being the quantities for the base year and the index number for May 1923 on the base July 1914 is 153, then if it is required to calculate the index number for July 1914 on the base May 1923 the formula will turn out to be the weighted arithmetic average with the quantities in May 1923 and not the quantities in July 1914 as weights. If the original formula is to pass the test, this should give the reciprocal of 153 or 65 as the index number for July 1914. As the prices in both the formulæ are identically the same while the quantities are not so, the two formulæ cannot yield the same result. If the time reversal test is to be valid the two formulæ should yield the same result and therefore the quantities in both the base year and the current year should be the same. But as the prices of commodities change with time, the quantities consumed also change at the two periods. The quantities, therefore, differ in the two formulæ and therefore the time reversal test does not appear to be valid. In the cost of living of the working classes in Bombay, the increase in the cost of the pre-war budget is more representative and nearer the truth than the increase in the cost of the post-war budget. The pre-war budget is that of a normal period while the post-war budget is the budget of a period when people are forced to cut down their expenditure slightly owing to the rise in prices and therefore in some ways, the post-war budget is not so good or typical as the pre-war budget would have been.

In regard to the factor reversal test, the importance of a commodity is determined not by its price but by the purpose it serves in a particular problem. Ghee (Clarified butter) is more costly than rice in the working class budget of Bombay but is of less importance in arriving at the cost of living index. The factor-reversal test requires that the quantity index multiplied by the price index should give the value index. This seems to be true only if the quantity and price are quite independent of each other which is generally not the case. But both your tests are concerned with

minor differences in weighting and as I have pointed out in the Family Budget Report, weighting is not so important as the use of accurate price data or even the selection of the good base period. Too much stress should not be laid on them. I quite agree with you in what you say regarding the ideal index number but the data, of course, are almost impossible to collect. I also agree with you that in the domain of index numbers the average of ratios is always to be preferred to the ratio of averages.

C

(From Professor Irving Fisher)

I am glad that you agree as to the ideal index number. Of course ordinarily the necessary data are not available. In this case the aggregative, such as formula 53, or the weighted arithmetic formula 3 which is the same thing can be used.

Now as to your query regarding the time reversal test. I assume you mean to use formula 3 or formula 53, i.e., you calculate the index number for May 1923 relative to July 1914 by using the price relatives of the various commodities for May 1923 relatively to July 1914, weighting each price relative by the value (price times quantity) for July 1914; or, what gives the same result, using the aggregative, i.e., you divide the aggregate value found by multiplying the price of May 1923 by the quantities of July 1914 by the aggregate value found by multiplying the price of July 1914 by the quantities of July 1914.

Of course this formula does not exactly fulfil the time reversal test nor the factor reversal test, although it comes close to fulfilling both. If, as you say, you use this method in the reverse direction you get a slightly inconsistent result. The ideal method splits the difference.

You say that it is better to use the pre-war budget than the post-war budget. Undoubtedly this is true if you ought to use one budget for a series of years. But for the individual index number, if you wish to compare 1914 with 1923 as above indicated most perfectly, it would seem to me that the abnormality of 1923 should have equal voice with the normality, so to speak, of 1914 assuming this is feasible. Similarly, for any other similar inter-year comparison.

I have not yet seen any criticism of my book which raises any real presumption against the validity of the test, especially from a practical point of view.

D

(From the Director, Labour Office, Bombay)

With reference to the penultimate paragraph I should like to state the following criticism. If you

wish to compare the cost of living or wholesale prices in 1914 with the cost of living or wholesale prices in 1923 the aim of the index is definite and, therefore, the systems of weighting to be adopted are limited in range, because, as there is a special purpose in view, arbitrary weights cannot be adopted. Thus a cost of living index weighted according to the present standard of living (which has changed to some extent as compared with 1914 on account of the rise in prices) would require weights based on the quantities of the current year. If, on the other hand, a cost of living index is constructed without changing the standard of living, obtaining in 1914, notwithstanding the rise in prices since that date, it will be necessary to weight by the quantities consumed in the pre-war period. The purposes of the two indexes differ and, therefore, the results also may differ. In short the two indexes do not satisfy the Time Reversal Test. It cannot be said that the two indexes are incorrect, nor can it be said that one is better than the other unless the purpose of the index number is specified.

The Professor of Mathematics, Wilson College (Professor J. Maclean), who agrees with these criticisms of the Labour Office, writes:—"The worth of the test of his formulæ by varied applications to a set of unusually complete values collected in the U.S.A. is for economists to judge. But to a mathematician it is not obvious that an interchange of two such essentially different things as prices and quantities in a homogeneous expression of the second degree (the common type of formula for an index number) has an immediate interpretation nor is it sound to reason from what is true in individual cases to what is true for the average, as is done in interpreting the product of the price index and the quantity index in the factor reversal test as the value ratio."

E

The following letter addressed to the Secretary General of the International Institute at the Hague has been received. It will be remembered that Professor Irving Fisher was one of the correspondents of the Commission d'Etudes. It will be seen from the letter below that he suggests the construction of the cost of living index on the lines of the

aggregate expenditure method followed by the Bombay Labour Office :—

I have recently received word from the United States Department of State in relation to the meeting of the International Institute of Statistics in October.

I greatly regret that I will not be able to be present, owing to University duties. I am especially sorry because, as a member of the Advisory Committee on index numbers, I have been greatly interested in the reports sent me for criticism by Lucian March, Charles Pribram, Duge de Bernonville, and others. I sent my criticisms and suggestions in regard to these reports to the Secretary of the Institute International de Statistique at The Hague, and you have doubtless received them.

It has occurred to me, and I am reminded of it by a letter from G. Findlay Shirras of Bombay, to suggest that the Institute pass a resolution favouring the aggregative type of index number, somewhat similar to the resolution mentioned in my book, "The Making of Index Numbers", page 241, passed by the British Imperial Statistical Conference in 1920. The resolution is as follows :—

That the index numbers should be so constructed that their comparison for any two dates should express the proportion of the aggregate expenditure on the selected list of representative commodities in the quantities selected as appropriate, at the one date, to the aggregate expenditure on the same list of commodities, in the same quantities, at the other date.

### THE COST OF LIVING INDEX ITS SCOPE

The attention of the Labour Office has been drawn to the desirability of making it clear that the cost of living index published monthly does *not* seek to fix a poverty line or to say how much money an individual or a family requires for a reasonable subsistence. It is concerned, as other cost of living indexes in other countries, with the changes in prices and *not* with the standard of living proper to workers or any other classes in India. It aims at showing how the prices of commodities such as food, fuel and lighting, clothing, and house rent have varied since the pre-war month July 1914 and thus indicates the average increase in the cost of maintaining unchanged the pre-war standard of living of working class families. In short, it does not purport to show whether in 1914 wages were sufficient to maintain the cost of living of a working class family at that date. It was to this point

that Mr. Joseph Baptista referred in his Presidential Address at the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Conference when he said that the cost of living was deceptive, and in view of his remarks the Labour Office discussed this with Mr. Baptista who expressed his perfect satisfaction with the explanation contained above.

### WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY

#### PRICES RISING

In September 1923 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay rose by more than two per cent., as compared with the previous month. With the exception of a few items, there was a general rise in all the principal groups during the month. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by 3 per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1922 being about 5 per cent.

The present index number is based on carefully collected market prices and is indirectly weighted. Food articles number 15 and non-food 28. The base is the pre-war month, July 1914. The index is published at the request of business firms in Bombay, in such a way as to show the relative level of average wholesale prices, and the groups have been selected primarily with a view to suit the conditions of Bombay's trade.

In comparison with the previous month there was a general rise in the price of food articles. With the exception of pulses which remained stationary, all the food-groups rose by about three per cent. each. The index number for food articles was 182 in September as against 176 in August, thus showing a rise of more than three per cent.

The rise in the non-food groups was more pronounced than in the food-groups. Hides and skins rose by 8 per cent., oilseeds by 4 per cent., and cotton manufactures by 3 per cent. There was, however, a fall of 5 per cent. in "other raw and manufactured articles" and one per cent. in metals. The average for non-food articles showed a rise of nearly two per cent.

The net result of movements in the groups is set out on the next page :—

### Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay\*

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent. in September 1923 as compared with	
		the preceding month (August 1923).	the corresponding month of last year (September 1922).
1. Cereals .. ..	7	+ 3	- 24
2. Pulses .. ..	2	....	- 33
3. Sugar .. ..	3	+ 3	- 1
4. Other food .. ..	3	+ 3	+ 47
<b>Total food .. ..</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>+ 3</b>	<b>- 2</b>
5. Oilseeds .. ..	4	+ 4	+ 1
6. Raw cotton .. ..	5	....	+ 10
7. Cotton manufactures .. ..	6	+ 3	- 6
8. Other textiles .. ..	2	....	....
9. Hides and skins .. ..	3	+ 8	+ 5
10. Metals .. ..	5	- 1	- 3
11. Other raw and manufactured articles .. ..	3	- 5	- 27
<b>Total non-food .. ..</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>- 4</b>
<b>General average .. ..</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>+ 2</b>	<b>- 3</b>

\* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 42-44

The subjoined table compares September 1923 prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year.

100 = average of 1922

Groups.	Sept. 1922.	Dec. 1922.	Mar. 1923.	June 1923.	Aug. 1923.	Sept. 1923.
I. Cereals .. ..	99	78	77	78	73	75
II. Pulses .. ..	90	75	66	65	60	60
III. Sugar .. ..	98	100	112	108	93	96
IV. Other food .. ..	104	115	128	130	148	153
<b>Total, food .. ..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>98</b>
V. Oilseeds .. ..	96	96	99	96	94	97
VI. Raw cotton .. ..	106	102	118	117	116	117
VII. Cotton manufactures .. ..	94	91	93	87	86	88
VIII. Other textiles .. ..	100	100	100	100	100	100
IX. Hides and Skins .. ..	100	86	94	101	97	105
X. Metals .. ..	97	100	100	99	95	95
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles .. ..	95	96	76	75	74	70
<b>Total, non-food .. ..</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>93</b>
<b>General average—all articles .. ..</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>95</b>

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The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices :—

### Annual wholesale prices July 1914 = 100

	Food.	Non-food.	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average 1918 ..	170	270	237
" " 1919 ..	202	233	222
" " 1920 ..	206	221	215
" " 1921 ..	193	198	196
" " 1922 ..	186	183	184
Nine-monthly " 1923 ..	176	174	174

### COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

#### BOMBAY, KARACHI, AHMEDABAD, SHOLAPUR AND POONA

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in August and September 1923 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the retail price levels in all the four centres are below the level in Bombay.

#### Bombay prices in August 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
<b>Cereals—</b>					
Rice .. ..	100	100	118	115	131
Wheat .. ..	100	68	95	88	90
Jowari .. ..	100	69	73	72	77
bajri .. ..	100	69	106	86	95
<b>Average—Cereals .. ..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Pulses—</b>					
Gram .. ..	100	73	116	86	83
Turdal .. ..	100	88	82	87	113
<b>Average—Pulses .. ..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>98</b>
<b>Other articles of food—</b>					
Sugar (refined) .. ..	100	86	106	122	100
Jagri (Gul) .. ..	100	70	90	70	74
Tea .. ..	100	80	115	90	105
Salt .. ..	100	73	79	103	99
beef .. ..	100	116	74	74	74
Mutton .. ..	100	74	81	67	74
Milk .. ..	100	44	57	76	83
Chee .. ..	100	81	97	81	89
Potatoes .. ..	100	100	98	131	104
Onions .. ..	100	45	72	55	83
Cocunut oil .. ..	100	91	112	93	103
<b>Average—Other articles of food .. ..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>90</b>
<b>Average—All food articles .. ..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>93</b>

Bombay prices in September 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay, Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
<b>Cereals—</b>				
Rice ..	100	98	117	109
Wheat ..	100	66	95	96
Jowari ..	100	68	68	66
Bajri ..	100	69	106	84
Average—Cereals..	100	75	97	89
<b>Pulses—</b>				
Gram ..	100	74	116	86
Turdal ..	100	88	86	91
Average—Pulses ..	100	81	101	89
<b>Other articles of food—</b>				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	91	101	104
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	70	91	70
Tea ..	100	98	129	90
Salt ..	100	73	79	110
Beef ..	100	128	91	78
Mutton ..	100	80	96	66
Milk ..	100	46	61	76
Choe ..	100	77	94	85
Potatoes ..	100	88	110	119
Onions ..	100	62	76	70
Coconut oil ..	100	93	112	93
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	82	95	87
<b>Average—All food articles ..</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>88</b>

On page 46 will be found statistics of food prices in August and September 1923 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona. These are official prices supplied through the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office, and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shop-keepers patronised by the labouring classes.

#### Other Important Centres

It is of interest to compare the prices of the main staple in Bombay, Karachi, Calcutta, Madras and Rangoon. The price in July 1914 at each centre is taken as the base or standard period (100). The increase or decrease in price is seen in the following table. In Bombay (City), Calcutta, Madras, Rangoon the price refers to the main staple—rice and in Karachi to the main staple—wheat.

(100 = price in July 1914)

	August 1921.	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.
Bombay (City) ..	145	133	125	121
Karachi ..	211	168	114	114
Calcutta ..	109	114	99	97
Madras ..	138	142	133	133
Rangoon ..	181	163	146	142

The base (100) is thus the price only at each centre, and as the price of rice (and of wheat

in Karachi) was not identical in all the centres in July 1914, the table compares only the rise in each centre since July 1914.

The rise has been greater in Rangoon and Madras than in Bombay, but less in Karachi and Calcutta as compared with Bombay.

### BOMBAY CLERICAL WAGES

The rates of clerical wages in Bombay City (1) in Government service and (2) in the Municipality are given below:—

Table showing clerical scale of pay.

Service.	Grade.	Scale of pay in rupees.
Government ..	Secretar at grade ..	60—4—180
Do. ..	Outside the Secretariat grade ..	60—4—100—3—160
Municipality of Bombay ..	Lower grade ..	60—5—150

In both Government service and the Municipality of Bombay, the pay of the grade is a consolidated one and no allowances are given in addition.

### WAGES IN THE CENTRAL PROVINCES AND BERAR

The Labour Office has received a copy of a "Statement of Rural and Urban Wages prevailing in the Central Provinces and Berar for the year ending 30th June 1923" compiled by Mr. N. J. Roughton, Director of Industries of the Central Provinces. The statement contains a short prefatory note to the following effect:—

**Rural**—There has been a slight increase in the wages of agricultural labourers in Jubbulpore, Nimar, Chhindwara, Wardha, Amraoti and Buldana districts, and a fall in Saugor, Narsinghpur, Balaghat and Raipur. The fall in the price of agricultural produce has generally resulted in a decrease in the cash value of agricultural wages in undeveloped tracts where payments are partly made in kind. The wages of carpenters and masons have remained steady with an upward tendency.

**Urban**—Urban wages have remained firm with a distinct upward tendency particularly in the cotton producing districts. This class of labour suffered more by the rise and is now

gaining more by the fall of prices than agricultural workers."

#### RURAL WAGES

Since the time when Sir Reginald Craddock was Chief Commissioner, the wage statistics of the Central Provinces have been of special interest. Rural labourers are divided into six classes, viz., (1) agricultural, (2) sowing, etc., (3) harvesting, (4) earth-work, (5) carpenters and (6) masons. The wages are tabulated by districts and separate rates are given, on the one hand, for wages in "developed", "Haveli" (town), "very advanced", or "moderately prosperous" tracts and, on the other, for "undeveloped", "jungly", or "very backward" parts of each district. This division into two main groups is similar to the division adopted by the Labour Office, Bombay, into agricultural wages paid in or near the district headquarter town and on the other hand to wages paid in or near one other carefully selected town typical of rural areas in that district. In the classification of labour the Labour Office, Bombay, groups the agricultural, sowing and harvesting classes of the Central Provinces report under one head (Field Labour) as these occupations in Bombay are done by the same workers at different periods of the year. The Central Provinces classification of (a) earth-work labourers and (b) carpenters and masons are in the Bombay enquiry classified as (a) 'ordinary labour' and (b) 'skilled labour'.

The Central Provinces enquiry shows (1) the daily wage, (2) the monthly wage and (3) the annual wages, each in (a) cash, (b) grain (in seers and decimals) and (c) the cash value of the grain.

The report under review frequently shows the variations and not the predominant rate or rates. Thus on the maximum rates, carpenters' wages show a fall of 25 per cent. in some districts and a rise of 60 per cent. in others in comparison with the previous year, while the prefatory note says that these have remained steady with an upward tendency. In Nagpur, Ramtek Tahsil, the cash annual wage both for sowers and harvesters is given as "Rs. 84 to Rs. 144" which is not so helpful as the predominant rate. Similarly, the daily cash wage paid to masons in Damoh Haveli is stated as being from 8 annas to Re. 1.

In the Labour Office Report the predominant or average rates of daily wages (1) in the villages round the headquarter town of the district and (2) in the more rural villages have been shown.

In the case of the monthly wage and the annual wage it is not very clear how these are arrived at, e. g., whether the monthly rate has been arrived at by multiplying the daily rate by 30 and the annual rate by multiplying the monthly rate by 12 or whether labour is definitely engaged on a monthly or annual contract of so many days. Here the question of continuous employment or unemployment comes in. In many cases the annual rate is a figure arrived at by multiplying the monthly rate by 12, but in some cases a different figure is presented. For instance, the monthly cash wages of sowing labour in the developed tracts of Hoshangabad are shown as from Rs. 8 to Rs. 17 (a wide variation) while the annual wage is given at Rs. 200.

The Report shows that cash wages are replacing, to an increasingly greater degree, wages paid partly in cash and partly in kind or wages paid wholly in kind. In the Nimar district grain rates are shown as prevailing only in the undeveloped tract of the Harsud Tahsil for harvesters and earth-workers. No other grain rates are shown in the district. Similarly in the districts of Nagpur, Wardha, Raipur, Akola and Amraoti cash rates of pay are much more prevalent than grain rates.

The wages of all classes of labour in rural areas are higher in Berar than in the Central Provinces. Sowers and harvesters both in the developed and undeveloped tracts of the Akola district get as much as Re. 1 and Re. 1-4-0 per day. Earth-workers or ordinary labourers receive up to Re. 1 per day in the developed tracts and 12 annas per day in the undeveloped tracts in the same district. Carpenters and masons in the Yeotmal district of Berar get as much as Rs. 2-8-0 per day. On the whole, wages of ordinary labourers or earth-workers are slightly higher than those of the other three classes of field labour.

#### URBAN WAGES

Statistics of Urban wages have been collected for the headquarter town in each of the 22 districts of the Central Provinces and Berar and in some cases for two towns in each district.



Town labour has been classified into (1) workers in iron and hardware, (2) brass, copper and bell-metal workers, (3) carpenters, (4) cotton weavers, hand industry, (5) masons and builders and (6) general labourers, who are in turn divided into (a) common labourers and (b) unskilled mill-hands. Where available the number of workers in each class for which wages have been given is stated and wages are shown as daily and monthly rates. The same method of presenting varying rates as used for rural wages has also been adopted for urban wages. The wages of carpenters in Raipur, for example, are shown as varying from 8 annas to Rs. 1-8-0. As is to be expected, urban wages are highest in Nagpur, where wages of skilled artisans vary from Rs. 1-4-0 to Rs. 2-8-0 and those of general labourers from 8 to 12 annas per day. No averages for divisions or economic circles are given and no comparison is made with the rates paid in previous years.

### WAGES IN PRINCIPAL INDUSTRIES IN INDIA A COMPARISON

The following table showing the wages paid in certain principal industries in India is of considerable interest. The wages shown are monthly wages, except where otherwise stated.

Statement of wages paid to workmen in certain industries (per month unless otherwise specified)

Place.	Industry.	Class of Workmen.	Year.	Wages.
				Rs. s. p.
Bombay City and Island	Cotton Mills	Weavers 1 loom	1921	49 13 6
		2 looms	"	49 1 0
		3 "	"	67 0 6
		4 "	"	77 0 6
		Spinners—Mule	"	58 2 0
		Spinning Department	"	21 14 0
		Engine Drivers	"	106 6 0
		Ropemen	"	47 10 0
		Coal coolies	"	32 13 0
	Engineering Works	Blacksmiths	1923	75 0 0
		Tinmiths	"	71 0 0
		Carpenters	"	65 0 0
		Turners	"	45 0 0
		Machinemen	"	40 0 0
		Hammermen	"	30 0 0

Statement of wages paid to workmen in certain industries (per month unless otherwise specified)—contd.

Place.	Industry.	Class of Workmen.	Year.	Wages.
	Foundries (Iron)	Blacksmiths, First Grade	1923	75 0 0
		" Second Grade	"	45 0 0
		Riveters	"	45 0 0
		Moulders	"	45 0 0
		Coolies	"	26 0 0
	Motor Engineering	Motor Drivers	"	75 0 0
		Motor Cleaners	"	26 0 0
		Fitters	"	41 0 0
	Electric Engineering	Wiremen	"	45 0 0
		Machinemen	"	39 0 0
		Oilers	"	23 0 0
	Railway Works	Crane and Engine Drivers	"	77 0 0
		Blacksmiths	"	71 0 0
		Riveters	"	73 0 0
		Machinemen	"	45 0 0
Bengal	Paper Mill	Machinemen	1922	40 8 0
		Vicemen	"	45 0 0
		Coolies	"	18 0 0
Murree	Brewery	Enginemen	"	27 0 0
		Head Coopers	"	45 0 0
		Masons	"	30 0 0
Bengal	Coal Mining	Miners	"	19 0 0
		Coolies	"	18 0 0
Cawnpore	Boot Manufacturing	Foremen	"	41 0 0
		Machine Operatives	"	32 0 0
		Saddlers	"	35 0 0
		Cutters	"	15 5 0
		Carriers	"	15 5 0
	Harness and Saddle Industry	Tanners	"	25 0 0
		Lascars	"	7 0 0
Bengal	Woolen Mill	Weavers	"	28 2 0
		Coolies	"	13 4 0
		Dyers	"	16 4 0
	Jute Mill	Spinners (weekly)	"	5 0 0
		Rovers	"	5 12 0
		Weavers	"	2 3 3
		Carders	"	2 13 6
Rangoon	Rice Mill	Engine Driver	"	65 0 0
		Turner	"	70 0 0
		Coolies	"	22 8 "



## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

### Disputes in September .. 8

On page 48 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during September 1923, with the number of workpeople involved, the date when the dispute began and ended, the cause and the result. The word "dispute" in the official sense means an interruption of work and it is here used in that sense as virtually synonymous with "strike". A dispute, as counted by the Labour Office, is an interruption of work involving ten or more persons and of not less than twenty-four hours' duration. Detailed statistics have been collected since 1st April 1921, the date on which the Labour Office was instituted.

Summary tables have been constructed in order to show the position at a glance. Table I shows the number, magnitude and duration of strikes in September 1923.

### I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in September 1923.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in September 1923.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in September 1923.*
	Started before 1st September.	Started in September.	Total.		
Textile	2	4	6	8,763	55,081
Engineering	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	1	1	2	349	853
Total, September 1923	3	5	8	9,112	55,934
Total, August 1923	3	12	15	6,160	25,244

\* i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, an allowance being made for workers replaced by others.

There were 8 industrial disputes in September 1923, six of which occurred in cotton mills and two in miscellaneous concerns. The number of workpeople affected was about 9,100

### Workpeople involved .. 9,112

and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 55,934 which is a large increase on the August 1923 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

### II.—Industrial Disputes—Results May to September 1923

	May 1923.	June 1923.	July 1923.	August 1923.	September 1923.
Number of strikes and lock-outs	11	7	9	15	8
Disputes in progress at beginning	5	1	1	3	3
Fresh disputes begun	6	6	8	12	5
Disputes ended	10	6	6	12	8
Disputes in progress at end	1	1	3	3	..
Number of workpeople involved	44,894	49,111	3,097	6,160	9,112
Aggregate duration in working days	1,169,930	159,837	35,363	25,244	55,934
Demands—					
Pay	4	4	5	10	4
Bonus	2	..	..	..	..
Personal	2	2	3	4	3
Leave and hours	..	..	..	..	..
Others	3	1	1	1	1
Results—					
In favour of employees	1	..	..	1	..
Compromised	..	2	..	3	3
In favour of employers	9	4	6	8	5

The last summary table shows, among other things, the proportion of strikes settled in favour of the employers, the employees, or compromised.

## III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled			
			In favour of employ-ers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employ-ees. (Per cent.)	Com-promised. (Per cent.)	In pro-gress. (Per cent.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
May 1921 ..	11	227,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921 ..	10	79,804	70	10	..	20
July 1921 ..	10	12,268	60	10	10	20
August 1921 ..	14	192,001	36	36	7	21
September 1921.	21	256,498	80	10	..	10
October 1921 ..	15	231,896	27	13	27	33
November 1921.	31	62,009	29	42	19	10
December 1921.	9	26,321	78	11	11	..
January 1922..	17	33,389	65	18	..	17
February 1922.	12	32,087	67	8	17	8
March 1922 ..	8	300,829	75	..	25	..
April 1922 ..	15	18,352	54	13	20	13
May 1922 ..	15	54,930	80	..	7	13
June 1922 ..	10	4,250	70	20	10	..
July 1922 ..	14	58,809	93	..	..	7
August 1922 ..	13	87,927	62	15	8	15
September 1922.	7	20,709	71	..	..	29
October 1922..	24	62,372	29	25	13	33
November 1922.	21	60,287	67	14	10	9
December 1922.	10	22,806	80	..	10	10
January 1923..	6	14,908	50	17	..	33
February 1923..	22	68,590	64	32	4	..
March 1923 ..	9	37,298	22	67	11	..
April 1923 ..	14	1,111,103	40	7	13	40
May 1923 ..	11	1,169,930	82	9	..	9
June 1923 ..	7	159,837	57	..	29	14
July 1923 ..	9	35,363	67	..	..	33
August 1923 ..	15	25,244	53	7	20	20
September 1923.	8	55,694	63	..	37	..
Totals or totals to 7 Average	388	4,522,866	59	14	11	16

## A General Review of Disputes

During September 1923 there were eight industrial disputes in progress in the Presidency, as compared with fifteen in the preceding month, six of which occurred in the cotton mill industry. Four disputes were due to the question of pay, out of which three were compromised and one was settled in favour of the employers. The remaining strikes were due to minor personal grievances.

## BOMBAY

In Bombay City and Island there were, in September, five disputes three of which were in cotton mills, one in a Rubber Factory and one among the Toddy Drawers in Dadar. On 15th September 117 women winders of the Bradbury Mills struck work over the question of an increased rate of wages. Three hundred weavers of the same mill joined the strike on the 17th on the same grounds. The female strikers demanded 5½ annas per bundle of yarn wound, and the weavers 13 pies per pound of cloth produced as against 3¼ annas and 10 pies respectively, fixed by the management. All the rates were revised by the management but they were still considered as unacceptable by the strikers. Subsequently, many of the strikers resumed work on the new rates and the rest were paid off and discharged. The strike came to an end on the 28th of September. In the Kastoorchand Mill 516 weavers and 362 women winders struck work on 20th September demanding the removal of the Sizing Master on the ground of his alleged assault on a weaver. An enquiry showed that there was no fault on the part of the Sizing Master. The Agents put up a notice to the effect that unless the strikers returned to work without delay they would be paid off and discharged. Thereupon the strikers resumed work and the strike ended on 24th September. The strike in the Century Mill over the removal of the Assistant Weaving Master, which was in progress at the close of August, continued in September. In pursuance of a decision arrived at on 31st August, the management declared a lock-out for four days from 1st September in the Century and the Zenith Mills, both belonging to the same

## ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

## STATISTICS FOR SEPTEMBER 1923

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 37 and 38 of this issue, contain details of the accidents reported during the month of September in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During September, in Bombay City and Island, there were in all 140 factory accidents of which one was fatal, 6 were serious and the remainder 133 minor accidents. Of the total number of accidents 56 or 40 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 84 or 60 per cent. to other causes. As in previous months, by far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the percentages classified according to class of factory being 58·6 per cent. in workshops, 37·9 per cent. in textile mills and 3·5 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad, there were in all seven accidents six of which occurred in cotton mills and one in a Match Factory. All of these were minor accidents and were due, with one exception which was due to other causes, to machinery in motion.

In Karachi, there were six accidents five of which were in workshops and one in a Flour Mill. One of the five accidents in workshops and the accident in the Flour Mill were due to machinery in motion and the others were due to other causes. Of these six accidents, one in a workshop was serious and the rest were minor accidents.

In other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 34, of which seven were in cotton mills, twenty-five in workshops and two in other industries. Four accidents were due to machinery in motion and thirty to other causes. All these accidents were minor except one in a cotton mill, which was a serious accident.

## Prosecutions

Two prosecutions were instituted in Bombay during the month. The first was against a cotton mill under section 41 (f) for breach of former Factory Rule 21 (viii), the Calender Master of the mill being convicted and fined

Company. On the 5th all the workers except the strikers resumed work but the mills had to be closed again till the 10th for want of work. On the 9th the strikers communicated in writing to the Manager their intention to resume work on the 11th, the 10th being a holiday. They resumed work by batches and the strike came to an end on 16th September. On 20th September 75 workers of the Pioneer Rubber Factory struck work demanding the payment of half wages for the days on which the factory remained closed every month. The strikers resumed work on 21st September on a promise made by the Manager to pay 8 annas per head for each compulsory closed day.

## AHMEDABAD

Of the three strikes in progress during September, the one in the Ahmedabad Ginning and Manufacturing Company, which was in progress in August, ended on 5th September, the strikers having resumed work unconditionally. Two hundred and fifty workers in the Rajnagar Spinning and Weaving Company struck work on 5th September against the dismissal of the Head Jobber for unsatisfactory work, but they resumed work unconditionally the next morning.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN OTHER PROVINCES

## MADRAS

According to the Labour Commissioner, Madras, about 50 workmen in the Frame Department and 180 in the Spinning Department of the Kaleeswarar Mills, Ltd., Coimbatore, struck work on 17th September 1923 against the discontinuance of an allowance for regular attendance. The allowance had been given since 1920 purely as an experimental measure. The workmen, thinking that the discontinuance of the allowance would affect them, represented their disapproval to the Manager who promised to bring the matter to the notice of the proprietor before 22nd September 1923. Meanwhile a few workers in the mill instigated others, mostly irresponsible children, to stop work. The Manager obtained permission to continue the allowance and the strike ended on 20th September 1923. Some of the strikers returned to work and the rest were replaced by new hands.

Rs. 150. The amount of the fine was ordered to be paid to the operative injured. The other prosecution was against a Metal Factory under section 41 (a) in respect of the employment of a boy. The contractor in this case was convicted and fined Rs. 25.

In Ahmedabad, one prosecution was instituted against an iron works, under section 41 (f), for breach of section 18 (1) (a) of the Factory Act in not guarding fly-wheels. The proprietor was convicted and fined Rs. 100.

There were no prosecutions in Karachi and in other centres.

#### A UNION FOR CLERKS

A meeting of clerks in various Government offices in Poona was recently held under the Chairmanship of Mr. R. B. Konkar, Deputy Assistant Controller of the Military Accounts Department. Mr. V. M. Joshi, Secretary of the All-India Clerks' Association, Nagpur, delivered a lecture on the necessity of organisation among Government clerks throughout India. Mr. Joshi said they wanted a central Association for clerks all over India and the method of organisation should be simple and economical. Every office, the speaker added, should have its own Union, which should be federated into departmental unions which should, in turn, be amalgamated into a district Association. The district Association should be centralised into a provincial Association and finally amalgamated into an All-India Clerks' Association. The object of the organisation should be to create a common platform to deliberate on all questions of a general nature affecting service regulations, co-operation, and social and economic intercourse.

#### TRADE UNIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Annual Congress of Trade Unions in Great Britain took place recently at Plymouth. The proceedings of the Congress show that labour in England is by no means unanimous. The Boiler Makers' Union put forward a suggestion that a general strike as a protest against the Ruhr occupation should be organised. This was strongly opposed by Mr. Thomas of the Railwaymen's Union.

#### PROVINCIAL TRADE UNION CONFERENCE

As stated on page 27 of the September issue of the *Labour Gazette*, the Bombay Provincial Trade Union Conference assembled at Parel on 29th and 30th September under the Presidency of Mr. Joseph Baptista. The Conference was attended by about 350 delegates and other persons interested in trade unionism. The President of the Reception Committee, Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., in the course of his opening speech, said:—

"On behalf of the Reception Committee of the Bombay Presidency Trade Union Conference, I offer you most hearty welcome. You have come here to represent the organised workers of this Presidency at this joint deliberation, but I feel that it will be our duty not only to represent the interests of the organised workers but we shall have also to do our very best to protect the interests of those who are unorganised. It will be a sad day for our movement when the organised workers of the country will only confine their sympathies and support to their own group and will not extend them to their brethren who, on account of their ignorance or poverty, have not yet joined the ranks of the organised. If the organised workers do not voluntarily undertake the duty of safeguarding the interests of the disorganised, parties interested against organisation will not fail to take advantage of that fact to create a gulf between them. I, therefore, hope that, although this Conference unavoidably consists of all representatives of the organised workers, it will not fail to keep before it the interests of the working classes as a whole. I am glad that a large number of the Trade Unions in the Presidency have joined this Conference. In fact, the only Unions which have not joined are those of Ahmedabad. We regret very much that the Ahmedabad Unions, which are undoubtedly the strongest Unions in the Presidency, should have thought it premature for them to join us. I admit that a Conference of Trade Unions in the Presidency without them loses a great deal of its importance. But, in spite of our repeated offers, as they have chosen not to join us, we must go on with our work without their help and support. We hope that they will soon give the other Unions in the Presidency the benefit of their support and strength. You will all agree with me that by the starting of this Conference which, I hope, will continue to be held year after year we are taking an important step in the work of the organisation of the working classes in the country. For some years past there have been Unions in this City. They have passed through various difficulties and several crises; but they have always persisted in their existence and are even growing in

numbers and solidarity. At present there are 21 Unions in the Presidency and their membership is over 51,276. Their annual income amounts to about Rs. 1,35,360, and their annual expenditure amounts to about Rs. 45,210. You also know that about three years back, in October 1920, the first Session of the All India Trade Union Congress was held in Bombay and since then it has met at Jharia and Lahore. I feel that, defective in some respects though its organisation may be, it will be admitted that the formation of the central organisation for the country has done much for the solidarity of the movement. If there are defects, and there are many of them, it is up to us to remove them. The strength or the weakness of the central organisation will be determined by the strength or the weakness of the constituent units. What is, therefore, necessary for the strength of the central organisation is that it should be supported by properly organised primary unions as well as by the intermediary organisations. It is for the purpose of supplying this intermediary organisation that this Conference is called on this occasion. In Bengal, a Conference such as this was started two years back and they have also brought into existence the Bengal Federation of Trade Unions. I am glad that Bombay is following the example set by Bengal in the matter of Trade Union organisation.

While conducting our deliberations, it will be necessary for us to keep in mind the times and circumstances through which we are passing. During the war and even for some time after, the industries and commerce of the world were blooming with abnormal prosperity. Now we are either reaching the normal state or, in some industries, are even below normal, on account of the post-war troubles. People who have tasted high and abnormal profits find it difficult to be satisfied with the normal rate and they have lost all capacity to wade through even a temporary adversity. They did not make use of the abnormal prosperity to put industries on a solid footing. The war profits of the industries would have been more than sufficient to improve the conditions of the workers, to provide for their education and training as well as for the better organisation of the industry itself. But the war profits were frittered away in speculative dividends and, when the normal or even the sub-normal times are coming, the industrialists of the world want only the working classes to bear the burden. All over the world attempts are being made to reduce wages and in most cases they have succeeded. Near at home, at Ahmedabad, they have done the same thing and, in Bombay, notices have been issued for the non-payment of bonuses which, in effect, is the same thing as the reduction of wages. Not only are the wages being reduced but there is a distinct change in the attitude of Government and industrialists towards the working

classes. During the war the work of the life of a human being had begun to be properly assessed and it seemed that the time had come for full recognition of the human rights of labour. The International Labour Conference held at Washington, soon after the signing of the Peace Treaty, made a good beginning. Labour in India had also gained something. But as one who had opportunities of watching the position both in this country and outside, let me warn my friends in the labour movement that a distinct change for the worse is now beginning. The change in the attitude of the Government of India towards the decisions of the Washington Conference and towards those of the succeeding ones is worth noting. But I am glad to state it as my conviction that, although we may expect some set-back, still nothing will succeed in dislodging labour from some points of advantage gained as a result of war. Some gain as regards the standard of life and the recognition of their rights will permanently continue hereafter. The right of Association, right for a minimum living wage and for a voice in the settlements of the conditions of work cannot be hereafter seriously challenged. The full realisation of these rights may not take place everywhere immediately. But their principle will always be accepted. In India, we may not reach the full realisation of these rights for some time to come. But while conducting the deliberations of our organisations it will be always useful that we should not, fully recognising the limits of the present, lose sight of the ideal of the future.

We are meeting at a time when the elections for the Central and Provincial Legislatures are being fought. We cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that the working classes of the country are not practically represented on them and it will be our duty to demand boldly what is due to labour. Even a modest demand will be seen extravagant to those who do not recognise the worth of human life as being incapable of being measured in terms of money and property. But we must continue to agitate for the recognition of the principle that there is no stake higher than that of life. We must, therefore, ask for representation for the working classes in proportion to their numbers. We must also demand adequate representation for the working classes on the Municipalities and other Statutory Bodies. Strangely enough, on the Advisory Committee for the Development Department, one of the main functions of which is to provide housing for industrial workers, there is only one nominated member to represent the working classes.

We have also to remember that when the country is on the eve of fast industrial development it is our duty as the representatives of the working classes in the country to insist that these classes will be adequately protected against the evils of industrialism by the provision against unemployment, uncared for old



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age and sickness and others. The working classes not only need not be against Industrialism, but should welcome it, if it is established on right lines and with full recognition of the human rights of labour.

Before concluding, let me pause for a while to consider the nature of the work that lies before us as regards the organisations themselves. Under the peculiar economic conditions through which we are passing, the times are not favourable for the extension of the movement. Trade Unions come into existence or grow in membership generally either when industry is prospering or when deep despair stares the working classes in the face. At present we are in neither of these conditions. The present is the time very much suited for defensive attitude and for the work of consolidation. We must make a great effort at this time to educate the members in the principles of the labour movement and we must teach them the value of discipline and the need for co-operation amongst themselves as well as with other working class organisations. Much has to be done in this direction and the work of education and propaganda should be seriously undertaken. I do not wish to occupy any more of your time and encroach upon the scope of the presidential speech. I again welcome you here in this Conference. Fortunately for us, we have for our guide on this occasion our veteran leader, Mr. Baptista. His sympathy for the cause of labour, his experience, his boldness and the sacrifices made by him are well-known and our deliberations conducted under his wise and safe guidance will not fail to bear fruitful results.

The President, Mr. J. Baptista, referred in his speech, among other things, to loyalty among the workers, legislation regarding the registration of trade unions, statistics of prices and family budgets, the currency problem, coinage and credit, industries and agriculture. The following extracts from his speech are of interest:—

#### Loyalty

"The next requisite is loyalty. Workers must cultivate a healthy Trade Union *esprit de corps*. We must inculcate this spirit into them. Without loyalty unions will not flourish and will achieve little. There must be loyalty all round—loyalty to Members, Unions, Provincial Conferences and All-India Congress. These institutions may not be perfect. It is our duty and business to improve them. I rejoice to observe that you propose to call upon all workers' organisations to make every effort to increase the efficiency and the strength of All-India Trade Union Congress. Whatever its present defects, no friend of labour is justified in ignoring it or acting disloyally towards it. It would be disloyal to accept nominations

by Government as a Labour Delegate to the Geneva Conference without being recommended by the All-India Congress as in the past two years. Such acceptance would only sow the seed of division and disaster, and lower us in the estimation of the Labour Delegates assembling at Geneva.

On the other hand, all officials who are entrusted with authority in the Trade Union Hierarchy must scrupulously conform to the rules and regulations, give no cause for doubt or jealousies, and, by their sincerity and integrity, make all realise that they are animated by a disinterested devotion to the cause of labour, which is after all also the cause of Liberty, Justice and Humanity.

#### Legal Enactment

But, while workers do not prize the value of Unions, and while Unions are in their infancy, we cannot wait and see. We must help the cause in the best way we can. I believe the best way is to make use of the method of the legal enactment. For this purpose we have a valuable weapon in the Labour Organisation of the League of Nations. We can, through their instrumentality, bring pressure to bear upon the Government of India. Their resolutions carry weight with Government. And though Government may not have proved quite as responsive as Mr. Joshi expected, the spirit of responsive co-operation was visible and active. The services actually rendered to Labour by Mr. Joshi in the Legislative Assembly and by Mr. Kanji Dwarakadas in the Bombay Council demonstrate the utility of this method. On the other hand, there is grave danger that in the coming Trade Union legislation letters may be forged which do not exist at present more through ignorance than design. The mischief will be done by imitating English Legislation. English Legislation had to smash the chains previously manufactured by law-givers. There are no such chains in India except the Anglo-Indian Act XIII of 1859 which punishes Civil breaches of contract as criminal offences. It is, therefore, imperative that our Legislatures should contain Labour representatives to promote their cause and safeguard their liberties. It is but fair that employees' organisations should be placed on a par with employers' organisations in the election of members to the Legislative Bodies or at least for Government to nominate in consultation with Labour Organisations. Personally, I trust, they will not forget our friends, Mr. Joshi and Mr. Kanji Dwarakadas."

#### THE COST OF LIVING INDEX

In regard to the cost of living index published monthly by the Labour Office, the President commented that the index was deceptive. He said that the Labour Office takes the



year 1914 as the standard and compares subsequent rises or falls with this standard (100). This criticism has been referred to in an explanatory note on the applicability of the cost of living index which appears on page 14 of this issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

#### RESOLUTIONS

On the second day of the Conference the following Resolutions were passed:—

I. This Conference requests the Government of India and the Government of Bombay to nominate, in consultation with the organisations of the employees, at least 5 representatives of Indian Labour in the Legislative Assembly, two of whom should represent Labour in the Bombay Presidency and at least 5 Members in the Local Legislative Council to represent the Labour organisations in the Presidency; 10 representatives on the Municipal Corporation of Bombay, 2 on the Board of the Improvement Trust and 2 on that of the Port Trust.

II. This Conference is of opinion that, on account of the industrial development that has already taken place and bids fair to take place very fast in the near future, it has become necessary to provide Old Age Pensions, Sickness and Unemployment Benefits for all workers in organised industrial and commercial undertakings in the Country and request the Government to appoint a Committee to devise adequate Schemes.

III. This Conference requests the Government of India to immediately introduce legislation to prohibit the employment of women in factories, mines and other plantations, six weeks before and six weeks after child-birth and provide adequate maternity benefits during the period of absence thus caused.

IV. This Conference requests the Government of India and the Government of Bombay immediately to repeal all legislation that makes breach of contract of service a criminal offence, as well as all legislation that compels only the labouring classes to render service under some emergencies.

V. This Conference requests the Government of India and the Government of Bombay to prohibit without delay the production and sale of intoxicant liquors and drugs which are harmful both to the health and economic condition of the working classes in the country.

VI. This Conference commends to the Government of Bombay as well as to the Municipal Corporation of this city to make adequate provision of facilities such as open spaces, Gymnasiums, theatres for the recreation of the working classes, in this City and other industrial towns.

VII. This Conference emphatically protests against the want of facilities for ordinary human comfort

during railway and steamer journeys for third class passengers and requests the Government of India to effect improvement in this respect without delay.

VIII. (a) This Conference, while commending the Government of Bombay for undertaking a scheme for the housing of industrial workers in the City, deplores several important defects in the plan of the buildings at present being built and suggests that the working classes should be consulted as to how the plan should be improved to meet their needs. It also further suggests that the working classes should have at least 5 representatives on the Advisory Committee of the Development Department, who should be appointed in consultation with the Labour Organisations in Bombay.

(b) This Conference also requests the Government of Bombay not to allow any new factory to be erected or the present factories to be extended, without adequate provision being made for the housing of the employees.

IX. This Conference protests against the unjustifiable action of the mill-owners of Bombay in issuing notices for the non-payment of Bonus for 1923 and requests the mill-owners to cancel these notices.

X. This Conference, while thanking the members of the Bombay Legislative Council for having obtained the extension of the Bonus Act up to the end of the year 1924, is emphatically of opinion that the period is too short and that the end of the year 1928 should be the period up to which the Act should be extended.

XI. This Conference requests the Government of Bombay to undertake legislation to regulate the hours of work, the weekly rest days and holidays, payment of over-time and for work on holidays, in commercial undertakings.

XII. (a) This Conference agrees with serious concern the prevailing unemployment among the employees of commercial and industrial undertakings and urges upon the Government of India and the Government of Bombay to take immediate steps to investigate the problem and to devise means to relieve the distress.

(b) This Conference also protests against the method of retrenchment adopted both in industrial and commercial undertakings by which the burden of retrenchment falls more heavily upon the low-paid sections than upon highly paid officers.

(c) It further protests against the practice of dismissing old servants in the name of retrenchment and engaging new men in their place.

(d) It also suggests that while making retrenchment in the staff and among men the organisations of the employees should be previously consulted.

XIII. This Conference demands the granting of equal pay for equal work and strongly condemns



the difference that exists between the salaries of Indian and European employees for the same work in the same office or department.

XIV. (a) This Conference urges upon the Government of India and the Government of Bombay the formation of National, Central and Local Joint Councils in all organised industries and commercial undertakings including Railways, Post Office, etc.

(b) This Conference claims that it is necessary for the protection of the interests of the workers employed in industrial and commercial undertakings that their representatives should have a place on the Advisory Committees and the Managing Boards of those concerns.

XV. (a) This Conference resolves that the complete prospectus showing rules, regulations and privileges allowed by Railways to their old and new employees be notified to every employee in a booklet.

(b) That the Government of India be requested to recommend to the Railway Administrations in India and Burma to recognize the Unions of Railwaymen on their respective lines.

(c) That the daily rated staff be brought on to the monthly establishment with equal privileges of that system and no Railwaymen be required to work for more than 8 hours a month and in the case of the clerical staff total hours of work in a month should be only 144.

(d) That the leave Rules in force on State-managed Railways should also apply to Railways worked by Companies.

(e) That all Indian subordinates on Railways be provided with decent house accommodation according to their position and provided with necessary conveniences as are at present afforded to European and Anglo-Indian Staffs, and when such quarters are not provided the men be allowed 25 per cent. of their respective salaries in lieu of house accommodation.

(f) This Conference urges that employees in Subordinate grades who have necessary qualifications should be allowed to rise to the position of officers on Railways in preference to outsiders who are often taken direct from school with no previous Railway experience and engaged on probation and thus live on taxpayers' money while they learn their future duties.

(g) That the representatives of the employees on Railways should be appointed on the Central and Local Advisory Councils that have been formed or are being formed.

(h) This Conference urges upon the Government of India to extend the benefit of the recent decision of the Secretary of State regarding the payment of gratuities even to those who have retired or resigned or to the families of those who have died before 12th July 1922.

(i) This Conference protests emphatically against the B. B. & C. I. Ry. Administration for not granting

the gratuities to those of their retiring employees, nor to the heirs and dependants of those deceased employees who had taken part in strikes before 1922, although such strikes have been condoned by H. E. the Governor-General-in-Council with the sanction of the Secretary of State for India.

XVI. This Conference protests against the practice followed in the Port Trust of superseding the claims of dock-clerks of long standing while filling up permanent posts and suggests that such clerks should be invariably made permanent at least after three years' service.

XVII. This Conference requests the Government of India to raise the status of menials serving in the Postal and Telegraph Departments, on Railways and in other Government Departments by giving them all the privileges regarding leave and pension as are given to the other classes of Government servants.

XVIII. This Conference requests the Government of India to adequately raise the salaries of Postmen, menials in the Postal Department, delivery Peons, Havaldars and Munshi clerks in the Telegraph Department and to reduce their hours of duty as asked by the Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union and the Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.

XIX. This Conference protests against the action of the Government of India in nominating Mr. K. C. Roy Chaudhari as the workers' delegate for India though his nomination was not supported by a majority of the Workers' organizations in the country.

XX. This Conference calls upon the Workers organizations in the country to make every effort to increase the efficiency and strength of the All-India Trade Union Congress in order that it should be able to fulfil the purpose as the Central organ of the organized workers of India.

XXI. This Conference resolves that the following persons to form "The Bombay Provincial Committee of Trade Unions" for the purpose of taking such steps as may be necessary in the interests of the working classes in the Province.

## JAPAN AND THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

### GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE

On page 7 of the *Labour Gazette* for September 1923 reference was made to the Government of Japan's attitude towards the first six Recommendations of the Third Session of the International Labour Conference. The attitude in regard to the remaining two Recommendations is as follows:—

7. *Recommendation concerning social insurance in agriculture.*—There is no objection in



principle to this Recommendation. In the first instance, however, the Japanese Social Insurance Act is to be applied to industrial workers; when it has been established upon a solid basis as regards industry, appropriate measures will be taken to include agricultural workers.

8. *Recommendation concerning the application of the weekly rest in commercial establishments.*—The custom of the weekly rest has not yet been generally adopted in Japan, and the Japanese Government therefore considers that it would be difficult to adopt the present Recommendation. The majority of commercial establishments accord, however, one or two rest days per month and certain undertakings have established the system of the weekly rest. Moreover, the general tendency is towards an increase of rest days. Appropriate measures, therefore, will be taken at the favourable moment.

### EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN MINES IN JAPAN

It is reported that the Government intends shortly to amend the regulations concerning conditions of labour in mines. It is expected the restrictions will be introduced with regard to the age of commencing work, hours of work, night work, and the employment of women in underground work.

As the prohibition of underground work for women in coal mines will increase the cost of working, efforts are being made by important organisations representing the mine owner's interests to prevent, or, at least, reduce to a minimum the increase in the price of coal which will result from the changed conditions. These organisations insist that the present prosperity of the Japanese coal industry is to be attributed to the fact that the price of the coal produced in Japan is low enough to allow of successful competition with coal imported from abroad. They also declare that most of the married miners are willing that their wives should assist them. It is estimated that the substitution of male for female labour in underground work in coal mines would increase the cost of production by about 21,047,000 yen per annum or 1.06 yen per ton of coal. It is, however, expected that the employment of male in place of female labour would result in an increase in output.

According to figures published by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce, the total number of coal miners in Japan in 1921 was 267,614 of whom 192,544 were underground workers. The total number of women employed underground in coal mines was 38,323, most of whom assisted male hewers belonging to their own families.

### GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF FACTORY INSPECTION

#### QUESTIONNAIRE OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

On page 7 of the August issue of the *Labour Gazette* the names of the delegates, selected by the Government of India to attend the Fifth Session of the International Labour Conference, were published. The Conference which assembled on the 22nd of this month at Geneva examined the questionnaire, published below, drawn up by the International Labour Office.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE Preliminary Question

Do you consider it desirable to indicate common principles for the supervision of the enforcement of the laws regulating conditions of labour in the different forms of economic activity? Or do you consider that special method and particular principles for the supervision of labour laws are required for the different forms of activity?

##### 1.—Object of Factory Inspection

A. Do you consider that the work of factory inspection should be restricted to the supervision of the enforcement of the laws regulating conditions of labour?

B. What classes of labour laws do you consider should be brought under the supervision of factory inspection?

C. Do you consider it advisable to give factory inspection officials other work?

In particular, do you consider it advisable, as has been done in some States, to give factory inspectors additional work of the following nature?

(1) Technical supervision of functions of industrial police as regards new buildings, alterations, etc., protection of the public against the dangerous, unhealthy or harmful effects of certain industrial establishments, supervision of the construction or testing of steam boilers, etc.?

(2) Intervention in social questions (industrial disputes, collaboration with employment exchanges, social insurance institutions, workers' welfare work, etc.)?



## II.—Nature of the Functions and Powers of Factory Inspectors

### A. Right of Entry.

(1) In what way do you consider that the right of inspectors to enter establishments under their supervision by day and night should be laid down and defined?

(2) Do you consider it advisable to affirm the principle that factory inspectors should be bound not to disclose manufacturing secrets and working processes in general which may come to their notice in the course of their work?

### B. Judicial Powers.

Do you consider that after an infringement of the law has been ascertained the inspector should only be authorised to submit a simple statement of fact to other authorities competent to take proceedings?

Or do you consider that inspectors should be authorised to prosecute before the Courts of Law?

### C. Administrative Powers.

(1) Do you consider that the laws and regulations concerning conditions of labour should authorise the inspectors themselves to issue orders in given cases?

To what cases do you consider this power should be restricted (e.g., safety)?

(2) Do you consider that such orders should take the form of—

(a) warnings or summonses against which an appeal to other administrative authorities may be allowed or not but which are in any case subject to examination by the Courts of Law, or

(b) orders on which appeal to other administrative authorities may be allowed or not but non-observance of which is considered as an infringement of law and regulations?

(3) Do you consider that factory inspectors should be authorised to grant exceptions for which provision is made in the laws regulating conditions of labour?

How do you consider this power should be restricted?

### D. Moral and Social Aspect of Inspectors' Duties.

Do you consider it desirable to insert in a Recommendation some indications as to the general conceptions of the functions of the factory inspector? In particular, do you consider it desirable to define how the inspector may assist in the improvement of the laws? What should be his duties in enquiries into accidents? How can he assist in preventing accidents?

### E. Reports.

Do you consider it desirable that factory inspectors should regularly submit reports on the results of their work?

In this connection, do you consider it desirable that the Conference should recommend the different Governments to give these reports a form which would render them easily comparable internationally?

## III.—Organisation of Factory Inspection

A. If it is considered that the general principles of factory inspection hold good for all forms of activity, do you consider it desirable to organise a single inspectorate for the supervision of all classes of establishments coming within the scope of the laws regulating conditions of labour and for the enforcement of all these laws?

B. Do you consider it desirable to organise special independent services for certain classes of establishments (industrial establishments, mines, agricultural undertakings, commercial establishments, mercantile marine, railways, State industrial establishments, establishments connected with national defence)?

C. Do you consider it desirable that special inspectors should be entrusted with the application of certain provisions of the law which are of a technical character (e.g., hygiene, electrical installations, etc.)?

Where such special officials may exist, what, in your opinion, should be their relations with the general inspection service?

D. What should be the general rules for the organisation of the factory inspectorate?

(1) By what Government Department should the inspectorate be administered?

(2) Do you consider it desirable to put the staff of inspectors directly under the central administration or to institute one or more intermediate grades?

In the second case, what should be the distribution of functions between the different grades?

E. What rules and methods do you consider the best for the recruitment and training of factory inspectors?

F. How do you consider women should be employed as factory inspectors?

(a) On exactly the same conditions as men?

(b) Should they inspect all establishments employing women? or

(c) Should they be detailed to deal with particular classes of establishments?

G. Do you consider that representatives of the workers may be called upon to take part in the supervision of the enforcement of the laws regulating conditions of labour?

If so, what methods do you consider the most appropriate to secure their collaboration?

H. Do you consider it advisable that the ordinary police authorities and local authorities should collaborate with the factory inspectors?



## WELFARE WORK IN MILLS

### THE TATA GROUP OF MILLS

According to the Lady Doctor's Report on the female operatives treated by her during the month of September 1923, at the mills controlled by Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd., there were 199 cases in all including injuries. The following table gives the details of the diseases together with the number of operatives treated by the Lady Doctor:—

Diseases.	Number of cases treated in September 1923.
1. The Alimentary System (Dyspepsia, Diarrhoea, Constipation, Dysentery and Intestinal worm) .. .. .	53
2. The Urinary System— Muscular and Articular System (Myalgia, Arthritis) .. .. .	14
3. The Nervous System (Headache) .. .. .	18
4. The Respiratory System (Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Bronchopneumonia, Phthisis and Asthma) .. .. .	20
5. The Blood, Lymphatic and Ductless glands .. .. .	11
6. Eye, Ear, Throat and Skin .. .. .	33
7. Infectious nature (Malaria, Dengue) .. .. .	39
8. Gynaecological .. .. .	4
9. Injuries .. .. .	7
Total .. .. .	199

Of the 39 patients treated for infectious fevers 33 were attacked with malaria and 6 with dengue.

## UNTOUCHABLE CLASSES

### RESOLUTION

It will be remembered that at a meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council on 4th August 1923 a Resolution by Mr. S. K. Bole, M.L.C., was passed to the following effect:—

"This Council recommends that the untouchable classes be allowed to use all public watering places, wells and dharamshalas (rest houses) which are built and maintained out of public funds or are administered by bodies appointed by Government or created by Statutes as well as public schools, courts, offices and dispensaries."

In pursuance of the foregoing Council resolution the Government of Bombay are pleased to direct that all Heads of Offices should give effect to the resolution so far as it relates to the public places and institutions belonging to and maintained by Government. The Collectors should be requested to advise the local public bodies in their jurisdiction to consider the desirability of accepting the recommendation made in the resolution so far as it relates to them. The Chairmen, Bombay and Karachi Port Trusts, the Chairman, City of Bombay Improvement Trust, and the Municipal Commissioner for the City of Bombay should be requested to take similar steps with the consent of the Trustees and the Corporation to give effect to the resolution with regard to the places controlled by them. From the point of view of the working classes this is significant.

## INDIAN NATIONAL BABY WEEK

The September number of the Quarterly Journal "Maternity and Child Welfare in India" contains the announcement of a forthcoming Indian National Baby Week which it is hoped may do much to arouse public interest in this important subject. There are in addition three papers by correspondents in England and America, three papers by correspondents in India and a number of smaller contributions. This publication is recommended to all who are interested in Child Welfare.

## SOCIAL WORKERS' CONFERENCE

It is proposed to hold the Fourth Session of the All-India Social Workers' Conference in Bombay from 8th to 11th December 1923. The Conference is intended (1) to secure an exchange of ideas and experience between social workers working in various fields in different parts of India and (2) to offer opportunities for co-operation and co-ordination to social workers in their efforts and activities. The Honorable Mr. Lalubhai Samaldas, C.I.E., has been appointed Chairman. Mr. P. A. Wadia, Vice-Chairman, and Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., General Secretary of the Executive Committee, and representatives of no



less than twenty-two Associations and Welfare Societies have been appointed to make arrangements for the holding of the Conference.

### HUMIDITY IN INDIAN COTTON MILLS

#### REPORT OF AN INVESTIGATION

The Labour Office has received a copy of an interesting and comprehensive Report on an enquiry into *Humidification in Indian Cotton Mills* by T. Maloney, M.C., A.M.C.T., late Adviser on Humidification to the Government of India. The Report is published by the Government of India in the Department of Industries which has issued a Resolution, as below, in regard to the Report:—

"The question of the satisfactory ventilation of cotton mills in India is one that has engaged the attention of Government and of employers for many years. The climatic conditions in the leading centres of cotton manufacture make it essential to employ artificial humidification in some departments for the greater part of the year. It is indisputable that in many cases the extent to which artificial humidification is now employed affects the comfort, and not infrequently the health, of the operatives employed. But it has not hitherto been found possible to devise means of regulating and controlling artificial humidification which might not involve considerable injury to the industry.

2. The Government of India accordingly instituted a special enquiry in 1921. The investigation which was entrusted to Mr. T. Maloney, M.C., A.M.C.T., was designed

(1) to obtain accurate observations regarding the method of humidification and ventilation employed in cotton mills and their effect on working conditions; and

(2) to evolve recommendations designed to effect a marked amelioration in conditions without serious detriment to the industry.

3. Mr. Maloney began his investigations in June 1921 and concluded them in December 1922. As a result of continuous and systematic enquiries he was able to collect an immense mass of data bearing on the temperature, humidity and chemical purity of the air in cotton mills and the effect of the atmospheric conditions on the health and sickness, the efficiency and fatigue of the operatives at every season of the year. These data were subjected to careful analysis as a result of which Mr. Maloney has been able to put forward definite recommendations for the control of ventilation and humidification in cotton factories.

He has also made valuable suggestions on numerous other points of importance such as the construction of mills, the introduction of devices for the reduction of temperature in existing mills and the system of humidification to be employed.

4. Mr. Maloney has drawn up a detailed report which, in addition to containing full information regarding existing conditions, offers the prospect of a satisfactory solution of the problem. He believes that the introduction of regulations, based, as he suggests, on the measurement of the cooling power of the air, will add greatly to the comfort of the operatives, very materially increase their efficiency and probably improve their general health. The Government of India direct that the report be published for general information. The report is accompanied by 82 statistical tables and 25 plates and the Government of India are convinced that those who are interested in the welfare of labour and in the cotton mill industry will find it of great interest and value. Mr. Maloney's recommendations will be taken into consideration by the Government of India in consultation with Local Governments and those concerned in the industry.

5. It would have been impossible for Mr. Maloney to carry out his investigations without the active co-operation accorded to him by mill agents and managers throughout India. Their assistance and that of a number of operatives proved invaluable in the collection of statistical data from about 80 cotton mills, and in acknowledging the valuable services rendered by Mr. Maloney the Government of India desire also to express their thanks to all who have contributed towards the result."

The Report is the result of very extensive observations made to estimate the effect of present conditions upon the health of operatives. While it has not been definitely proved that health is materially affected in every case, it is significant, the Report adds, that the physique of the average cotton operative is much lower than that of workers of similar castes and wage-earning capacity in other trades, and that weight decreases after a few months' continuous service in a mill. The Report also states "that the more uncomfortable conditions, which usually existed in weaving departments on account of the higher percentage of humidity used, did not seem specially to affect the physique of weavers, who usually showed a higher average height and weight than in other departments, but this was probably due to selection. Even at very high wet bulb temperatures, the body temperatures of factory



workers at the end of a day's work did not show any especially large increase, and were certainly not higher than in other trades, where atmospheric conditions were better; but at such times efficiency fell very considerably and fatigue was apparent. From a detailed study of sickness rates in a large number of mills, there is reason to believe that the conditions existing in weaving sheds in the hot weather have an adverse effect on the sickness rate for that department which must be accounted for to some extent by the enervating atmospheric conditions due to the high humidity. There is also abundant evidence to show that, when high temperatures were combined with a high degree of humidity, conditions were most distressing and uncomfortable, and, on humanitarian grounds, even though health may not be permanently affected, something should be done to improve conditions. Since, at many times when these distressing conditions exist, the degree of humidity obtaining is hardly sufficient for effective production, it would be inadvisable to improve conditions by enforcing the use of a still lower percentage of air saturation and the two methods of obtaining better conditions are:—

(1) Reducing temperatures by more effective ventilation, roof-spraying, prohibition of the use of live steam.

(2) Increasing the velocity of air in the department and thus increasing its cooling powers."

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

The following are the recommendations made in the Report:—

1. It is desirable to fix a standard of ventilation for all Factories and Workshops in India on the basis of the cooling power of the air as measured by the wet Kata-thermometer.

2. The standard of ventilation demanded for different trades should take cognisance of the class of work performed, and the degree of atmospheric cooling power demanded should be increased in accordance with the degree of muscular activity demanded by the work.

3. For cotton mills throughout India, the ventilation should be such as to give a minimum

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cooling power of 11 milli calories per square centimetre per second at a height of 5 feet, in positions usually occupied by an operative in the performance of his ordinary duties. This standard is very much lower than that recommended for sedentary workers in other countries but would be sufficient to prevent visible perspiration in the majority of cases, and would represent a vast improvement in the cooling powers usually found in weaving sheds during the greater part of the year.

4. Such a standard be equally applicable in all departments, and in all processes of cotton manufacture, irrespective of whether humidity is artificially introduced into the room in which the particular process is carried on or not.

5. In order to give sufficient time for mills to fit arrangements capable of producing the required standard of cooling, the adoption of a ventilation standard measured by atmospheric cooling powers should be postponed until July 1st, 1925.

6. In the interim, atmospheric conditions in those departments in which artificial humidification is practised should be regulated in accordance with the readings of approved wet and dry bulb thermometers according to a given schedule.

7. Artificial humidification by the introduction of live steam should be prohibited when the dry bulb temperature of the department reaches 85° fahr.

8. In shed buildings, in which any process of cotton manufacture is carried on, the use of corrugated and galvanised iron as a roofing material should be prohibited unless—

(a) covered by tiles, slates or other roofing material, or

(b) underdrawn by wooden boards at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in thickness, or similar non-conducting material, or

(c) the average height of the room is more than 20 feet, or

(d) roof arrangements are made whereby the roof is kept cool by spraying with water whenever the shade temperature exceeds 95° fahr.



9. It is not essential to make the white-washing or water spraying of roofs of all shed buildings compulsory during the hot weather, but mill agents and managers are recommended to adopt generally these methods of reducing room temperatures.

10. In cases where the Factory Inspector deems it advisable, he may be given powers to order roofs of shed buildings, or the roofs of storey buildings to be whitewashed or sprayed with water.

11. The system of ventilation and humidification adopted in Mill LI should be more extensively adopted in new mills of suitable construction owing to its very great advantages as a cooling plant.

These recommendations, although somewhat difficult for the uninitiated reader to understand, are, from a technical point of view, of much value, especially if read in conjunction with the Reports of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board and the Institute of Medical Research on ventilation. These reports may be consulted in the Labour Office Library. It may be said that ventilation standards based on the  $\text{CO}_2$  content are out of date and they would be unsatisfactory in a tropical country like India, where chemical purity is of very minor importance compared with cooling power which depends, to a very great extent, upon temperature and relative humidity. The Report also recommends a lower standard of cooling power for Indian than has been suggested for English operatives. The prohibition of the use of live steam for the purpose of humidifying when the temperature of a department exceeds  $85^\circ$  fahr. would seem to err on the side of leniency, since many mills in India, at the present time, do not use wet steam at all for the purposes of humidification. The recommendations as regards corrugated iron buildings might be extended to factories other than cotton mills. It is noticeable that the Report definitely establishes that—

(1) atmospheric conditions in Ahmedabad Mills are worse than in any other mills in India,

(2) conditions in cotton mills generally, and weaving sheds particularly, are worse than in other mills and workshops,

(3) the standard of physique among cotton mill operatives is low.

The experiments made would appear to prove that very great improvements in atmospheric conditions are possible, at a small cost, by roof-spraying, air renewal, and by increasing air movement. The excellent conditions of the Mill LI in the Central Provinces seem to indicate that the problem of satisfactory ventilation in Indian mills, at least in those situated in hot dry climates, is not impossible of attainment. The temperature figures for this mill compare favourably with the temperatures found in some English mills in summer. Other points of interest in the Report are (1) the recuperative effect of holidays on the weight of Bombay Mill workers; (2) the incidence of sickness in different months; (3) the high rate of sickness in September and October in Bombay; (4) the interesting experiments made with reference to the effect of atmospheric conditions on output and fatigue.

#### PROPOSED REGULATIONS

In addition to the Recommendations referred to above, the Report contains proposed detailed regulations regarding (1) the introduction of artificial humidity into any room, (2) the construction and maintenance of hygrometers in mills and (3) the maintenance by mills of a humidity register. These regulations, based on the results of an exhaustive study of working conditions and the effect of working conditions in India, deserve the most careful consideration. They are not slavish imitations of legislation in Europe adopted without due consideration of their applicability to India.

Appended to the Report are (1) a list of mills from which records were obtained; (2) a useful bibliography of publications regarding humidity, health, wages and factory conditions; (3) 82 statistical tables and (4) 25 charts. The extent and detailed nature of the Report precludes the possibility of a comprehensive review in this issue of the *Labour Gazette*. It is therefore proposed to deal with the individual sections of the Report in a series of articles in subsequent issues of this Journal.



## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVOLVING WOMEN WORKERS

It is of interest to examine the frequency and the causes of strikes which have taken place among women operatives in the Presidency during the last two and a half years. Since the month April 1921 there have been no less than 19 strikes in the Presidency, in which women workers were involved. Six of these occurred in the year ended March 1922, five in the corresponding period ended March 1923 and eight since April 1923. The total number of women involved in these strikes was 2,293 and the time loss amounted approximately to 12,000 days. Of the 19 strikes, 12 were due to the questions of pay and bonus, five to personal causes and two to other causes. With but two exceptions, all these strikes occurred in cotton mills, the exceptions being, one strike in a silk mill and one among women coolies employed in connexion with work on the Mahalaxmi Race Course. Of the total strikes, 16 occurred in mills in Bombay, one in a mill at Ahmedabad and one in a mill at Bandra. The results of the strikes show that 16 were settled in favour of the employers, two in favour of the employees and one was compromised. The very large proportion of strikes settled in favour of the employers is noticeable.

### WOMEN FACTORY INSPECTORS

#### THE NEED FOR APPOINTMENT

In reviewing the frequency of strikes among women workers in mills and factories, a reference to which is made in the preceding article, the question of the appointment of women factory inspectors is a matter of considerable importance. The need for the appointment of these women inspectors is a question which is being discussed at the present session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva referred to on page 27 of this issue. Item F of the Questionnaire relating to factory inspection reads as follows:—

How do you consider women should be employed as factory inspectors—

- on exactly the same conditions as men?
- should they inspect all establishments employing women? or
- should they be detailed to deal with particular classes of establishments?

The Government of Bombay, in reply\* to a question at the last session of the Legislative Council on this subject, replied that they were in sympathy with the object of appointing women factory inspectors and that they would consider the matter in framing the budget proposals for 1924-25. Such women factory inspectors, however, would have to be in addition to, not in lieu of, the present sanctioned staff which is barely sufficient for the work. In this connexion, the following article written by Miss G. M. Broughton, M.A., late Lady Adviser, Labour Bureau, in the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, is of special interest. The views expressed by Miss Broughton are her private views:—

#### NEED FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF WOMEN FACTORY INSPECTORS

Before dealing specifically with the need for the appointment of women factory inspectors in India I propose to point out the necessity that exists for increasing very considerably the present staff. I shall then pass on to show why, in my opinion, the increased staff should consist of women as well as men inspectors.

The present staff of men inspectors have not been able to cope adequately with the work. This is obvious if the figures given in the foot-note† are studied.

Many factories are left uninspected and many are inspected only once. The new Indian Factories Act (Act II of 1922) will in great many provinces double the number of factories that have to be inspected. If the Act is not to be a dead letter, Local Government will have to appoint additional inspectors in order to see that the Act is being observed in the smaller factories which have hitherto never come under the scope of any Factory Act, and which are therefore not likely to make any great efforts to meet the requirements, unless they see from the start that it is essential to do so.

Besides the large increase in the number of factories that have to be inspected, the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 will also add considerably to the work of the inspectors. At present, according to the Annual Report of the Inspectors of Factories (see in this connexion Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories in Bengal for 1921 and Report for Bihar and Orissa for 1921), a certain number of accidents are not reported and others cannot be investigated at once owing to shortage of staff. Such a state of affairs

\* Vide page 27 of the "Labour Gazette" for August 1923.  
† Vide table at the end of the article.



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will make it difficult both for employers and employees to see that the provisions of the Act are equitably carried out. There should be a sufficiently large number of inspectors in order to see that accidents are duly reported and to enquire into all reported accidents.

Further special steps need to be taken to safeguard the health of factory employees owing to the fact that they are not on the whole possessed of very strong physique to start with, and also find it difficult to adapt themselves to the factory environment which is very different from what they have been accustomed to in their villages. Dr. Nair, a member of the Indian Factory Labour Commission of 1908, pointed out that a great many factories in different parts of India have a complete labour turnover of their factory staff once in 18 months.

In his opinion, the instability of mill labour was due to "the physical breakdown of the labourer which unfits him for any further mill work". (Indian Factory Labour Commission, 1908, page 89.)

This need was also emphasised at the International Labour Conference at Washington in 1919 when Governments were urged to establish "a Government service especially charged with the duty of safeguarding the health of the workers".

At present in India Inspectors of Factories are mainly chosen for their knowledge of engineering and have no special medical qualifications. It is true that in some provinces Directors of Public Health are *ex-officio* Inspectors of Factories and that, in some cases, Civil Surgeons also act in this capacity. Both these classes of officials are, however, already fully occupied and so cannot have much time available for inspection of factories.

When the staff is being increased to meet these needs women inspectors should be appointed in each province. In 1920 there were 184,922 women and 11,553 girls employed in factories in India. (Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for 1920, page 17.)

This number will be increased when the smaller factories are brought within the scope of Act II of 1922.

At present there is no woman official with the Government of India charged with the specific duty of advising the Government on all matters relating to the welfare of women and children in industrial employment.

Such an appointment was made in 1920 and existed till December 1922 when it was abolished "owing to the urgent need of retrenchment". Apparently there is also no woman employed by any of the Local Governments in this capacity, for in answer to a question in the Legislative Assembly it was announced that the Central Provinces Government were considering such

an appointment, but apparently from the answer given no Government had actually made such an appointment. It would appear from recent debates in the Bombay Legislative Council that the question has been raised and that that Government may do something in the matter in 1924.

Thus at present it is evident that neither with the Central Government nor with the Local Government is there any woman official to investigate the needs of women workers and to bring them before Government. That it needs a woman to do this kind of work is evident from the reports of Dr. Barnes (Report by Dr. Barnes entitled "Maternity Benefits for Industrial Workers" published in Bombay Labour Gazette, September 1922), and Dr. Douglas Coyle (Report by Dr. Curjel entitled "Women in the Bengal Industries" published as a bulletin by Department of Indian Industries and Labour), members of the Women Medical Services, whose services were lent temporarily to Bombay and Bengal respectively and whose salaries were paid by the Council of the Countess of Dufferin's Fund. These Reports publicly emphasised for the first time the special needs of women workers.

In addition to investigating the conditions under which women and children work and advising with regard to the need of legislative measures as far as women and children were concerned (which were the duties of the late Adviser on the employment of women and children with the Industries and Labour Department of the Government of India), women inspectors are required in every province to inspect factories where women are employed in order to safeguard their health, to enquire into their accidents and to find out if their special wants are being supplied. Women in India cannot seek the advice and help of a man inspector whereas I have always found them ready to discuss their difficulties with me and this was also the experience of Dr. Barnes and Dr. Curjel.

In England where women are not in the same way deterred from receiving aid and advice from men inspectors it was still found necessary to appoint women inspectors and their utility has been abundantly proved (see "Women in the Factory" by Dame Adelaide Anderson). Besides doing all the ordinary routine inspection work they visit the women in their homes and also visit them in hospital if they are suffering from an accident. In all these ways they get an intimate knowledge of working conditions and their services are much valued both by employers as well as by women employees. In India an Inspector, especially in present circumstances, has only time to inspect a factory and has to do that rapidly if he hopes to cover the ground. He could certainly not question the women with regard to their requirements, he would find it



difficult to make a thorough investigation into an accident suffered by a woman. Nor could he enquire into their health to see how it was being affected by industrial employment. These duties can only be satisfactorily and thoroughly carried out by women inspectors. I do not, however, think it necessary that every woman inspector should be a medical woman. This is not the case in England. There should, however, be a medical woman on the factory inspection staff in Bombay and Bengal and other appointments might well be filled by women with a knowledge of social work, economics, hygiene and sanitation.

#### † Inspectors.

Year.	Cons.	Texas.	Ohio.	Mass.	Total.	Not Inspected.	Grand Total.
1917	1,315	551	273	348	2,487	756	3,243
1918	1,502	327	115	423	2,367	951	3,318
1919	1,839	416	225	233	2,713	810	3,523
1920	1,526	433	256	169	2,384	1,098	3,482

† Annual Report of the Working of the Indian Factories Act for 1919, 1920, 1921.

## LABOUR IN THE MALAY STATES

### LABOUR DEPARTMENT AND THE LABOUR CODE

The Labour Office, through the courtesy of the Controller of Labour of the Federated Malay States, has recently received copies of (1) a Report on the Working of the Labour Department for the year 1922 and (2) an Enactment to consolidate and amend the law relating to Labour in the Malay States (Enactment No. 18 of 1923). Both these documents are, from the point of view of the Indian Emigrants, of much interest.

### REPORT ON THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT

This Report states that the total number of Indian immigrants that arrived from Southern India at Penang (Straits Settlements), the port of disembarkation for Perak and the first port of call for all immigrants for the Federated Malay States, was 58,674 in 1922 as compared with 45,673 in 1921, or an increase of 13,001. Of the total, 38,336 were assisted immigrants and the remainder 20,338 were traders and labourers who paid their own passages. The number of deck passengers from Penang to Southern India in 1922 was 45,733 (43,420 adults and 2,313 minors) as compared with 61,551

8 (39)—9

(57,912 adults and 3,639 minors) in 1921. It is estimated that, of these departures in 1922, 26,000 came from the Malay States, giving an excess of arrivals over departures of 6,400 as compared with an excess of departures over arrivals of 16,600 in 1921.

### RECRUITING

The majority of labourers were recruited by licensed *Kangjanis* and during the year under review 3,632 licenses were issued as compared with 1,555 in the previous year. All the Indian labour employed throughout the Federated Malay States is free. Labourers are landed free of debt and are at liberty to leave their employment at any time upon giving a month's notice. Further no Indian immigrant can enter into any written contract to serve as a labourer.

### LABOUR EMPLOYED

The following table shows the total number of labourers employed in the States since 1918 classified according to the country of origin:—

#### Classification of labour by country of origin.

Country.	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922
India (Madras Provinces)	139,480	166,658	146,964	121,644	138,196
China	46,272	41,989	49,864	2,712	2,820
Java	6,249	7,861	8,918	5,772	4,922
Japan	42	34	38	—	—
Others	7,823	7,492	5,898	3,259	4,318
Total	207,866	227,034	211,582	158,385	190,256

The number of Indian labourers reported as having left estates without notice during the year amounted to 36,992, as compared with 42,164 in 1921. The death rate among Indian labour on estates was 17.71 per thousand on an average population of 123,849 as against 19.68 in 1921.

### WAGES

The downward tendency due to the trade depression which was noted in the previous year was arrested, and the general level of wages paid to Indians throughout the country in 1922 appears to have been slightly higher than in 1921. The prevailing daily rate of wages for Indian labour was 40 cents for men



and 30 cents for women. There was a tendency to greater uniformity of wages among the different races. In Pahang the average daily wages of Indian labour on 10 estates was 47 cents. In the Temerloh district of the same State it was reported that the wages of Chinese labour varied from 40 cents to \$1.00 per day. The wages of Javanese and Malays varied from 40 to 45 cents per day.

#### SAVINGS

The following amounts standing to the credit of Indians in the Post Office Savings Bank on 31st December 1921, based on data supplied by the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, are of much interest:—

	Number.	Amount.
Merchants .. .. .	206	\$ 15,026
Clerks .. .. .	1,807	141,809
Labourers .. .. .	2,269	108,216
Others .. .. .	3,337	311,130

or an average per depositor of \$76, as compared with \$75 in 1921 and \$104 in 1920. The total remittances to India during the year under review and the two previous years were:—

Year.	Number of remittances.	Amount remitted.
1919 .. .. .	48,226	Rs. 41,40,158
1920 .. .. .	34,872	22,35,283
1921 .. .. .	54,325	50,76,492

The amount remitted to Madras in 1922 by 18,938 labourers averaged Rs. 80 per head as compared with over Rs. 100 per head in 1921. The majority of Indian labourers are found to carry their savings on their persons, either in cash or in jewellery, when returning to India.

#### THE LABOUR CODE

The New Labour Code, referred to above, which is an Act to consolidate and amend the law relating to Labour, was passed on 18th

August 1923. This Code, which repeals all the previous legislation on this subject, contains provisions relating to (1) the arrival, examination and detention of immigrants, with special provisions relating to Indian immigrants; (2) labour in general; (3) the priority of labourers' wages, assisted immigration and the standard rates of wages; (4) labourers employed in mines, sanitation and hospitals in mines; (5) health of assistants and labourers; (6) places unfit for the employment of labour; (7) offences against labourers and (8) procedure, actions and rules. One of the most important Chapters of the Code is that dealing with Standard Rates of Wages (Chapter XIII). In this chapter, the Indian Immigration Committee, with the approval of the Chief Secretary to Government, can, by notification in the *Gazette*, prescribe standard rates of wages payable to all or any classes of labourers employed in all or any of the following occupations:—

- (1) Agriculture, including the treatment of produce and its portorage to the place of treatment;
- (2) The making and upkeep of roads;
- (3) The construction and maintenance of canals;
- (4) Railway construction, maintenance and working;
- (5) The construction, maintenance and working of all works of a public nature or for the public good;
- (6) Mining and work on mines;
- (7) Quarrying and stone-breaking;
- (8) Brick-making.
- (9) The treatment in mills and factories of padi, rubber and other agricultural produce, including portorage in connection with such treatment.

All Asiatic labourers, except domestic servants, are covered by the provisions of the Code. Domestic servants, who immigrate from India and are employed on estates as defined in the Code, are, however, brought under the provisions of the Code. The Code, which is extremely comprehensive, represents a marked advance in the legislation on this subject which had hitherto been in force in the Malay States. Owing to the extent to which the previous Code had been modified and to the importance of some amendments suggested by the Government of India in 1922, it was considered that a complete revision of the Labour Code was necessary. The present Code is the result of this revision.



### Accidents in Factories during September 1923 1. Bombay City and Island

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.*		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to September 1923.	September 1923.		
	January to September 1923.	September 1923.												
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills ..	304	42	115	8	5	..	34	3	380	47	419	50		
Woolen Mills ..	9	2	3	1	..	..	..	..	12	3	12	3		
Others ..	6	..	5	..	..	..	1	..	10	..	11	..		
Total ..	319	44	123	9	5	..	35	3	402	50	442	53		
II Workshops—														
Engineering ..	16	1	105	8	1	..	3	..	117	9	121	9		
Railway ..	94	3	605	65	2	..	24	1	673	67	699	68		
Mint ..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..		
Others ..	17	3	15	2	1	1	8	1	23	3	32	5		
Total ..	127	7	729	75	4	1	35	2	817	79	856	82		
III Miscellaneous—														
Chemical Works ..	..	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	6	..		
Flour Mills ..	2	..	2	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	4	..		
Printing Presses ..	8	2	1	..	..	..	1	..	8	2	9	2		
Others ..	13	3	17	..	..	..	8	1	22	2	30	3		
Total ..	23	5	26	..	..	..	11	1	38	4	49	5		
Total, All Factories ..	469	56	878	84	9	1	81	6	1,257	133	1,347	140		

### 2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.*		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to September 1923.	September 1923.		
	January to September 1923.	September 1923.												
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton ..	40	5	7	1	1	..	17	..	29	6	47	6		
Total ..	40	5	7	1	1	..	17	..	29	6	47	6		
II Miscellaneous—														
Match Factory ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1		
Total ..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1		
Total, All Factories ..	41	6	7	1	1	..	17	..	30	7	48	7		

\* Mainly burns, scalds, falls, cuts, shocks, flying pieces of metal, falling of heavy weights, etc.

Accidents in Factories during September 1923—contd.  
3. Karachi

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to September 1923.	September 1923.	
	January to September 1923.	September 1923.											
											January to September 1923.	September 1923.	
I Workshops—													
Railway and Port Trust..	5	..	30	..	..	..	7	..	28	..	35	..	
Engineering ..	1	1	4	4	..	..	1	1	4	..	5	..	
Total ..	6	1	34	4	..	..	8	1	32	4	40	5	
II Miscellaneous ..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	1	
Total ..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	1	2	1	
Total, All Factories ..	7	2	35	4	..	..	9	1	33	5	42	6	

## 4. Other Centres

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to September 1923.	September 1923.	
	January to September 1923.	September 1923.											
											January to September 1923.	September 1923.	
I Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills ..	32	1	21	6	2	..	13	1	38	6	53	7	
Cotton Press ..	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	
Others ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
Total ..	35	1	23	6	3	..	13	1	42	6	58	7	
II Workshops—													
Railway ..	20	1	131	21	..	..	4	..	147	22	151	22	
Arms and Ammunition Works ..	4	1	5	1	1	..	2	..	6	2	9	2	
Others ..	3	..	13	1	2	..	1	..	13	1	16	1	
Total ..	27	2	149	23	3	..	7	..	166	25	176	25	
III Miscellaneous—													
Gin Factory ..	4	..	2	..	1	..	3	..	2	..	6	..	
Paint Works ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Others ..	3	1	2	1	1	..	..	..	4	2	5	2	
Total ..	8	1	4	1	3	..	3	..	6	2	12	2	
Total, All Factories ..	70	4	176	30	9	..	23	1	214	33	246	34	

## Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1922.	August 1923	September 1923.
			Rs. & p.	Rs. & p.	Rs. & p.	Rs. & p.
Cereals—	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	5 15 3	5 13 4	5 13 4
Rice	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	9 2 0	6 8 0	6 10 0
Wheat	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	102 8 0	50 0 0	67 8 0
Do.	Jubbulpore	..	40 0 0	85 0 0	45 0 0	44 0 0
Do.	Rangoon	Md.	3 2 6	3 11 3	3 12 11	4 0 4
Jowari	—	..	3 4 6	4 3 9	3 1 1	3 2 10
Barley	Ghati	..	3 4 6	5 4 8	4 8 10	4 12 2
Bajri	—	..	..	..	..	..
Pulses—	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	4 3 9	4 14 9	3 6 2	3 6 2
Gram	Cawnpore	..	5 10 5	7 13 0	5 1 3	5 1 3
Turdal	—	..	..	..	..	..
Sugar—	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	21 2 0	21 12 0	23 8 0
Sugar	Java white	..	10 3 0	22 8 0	22 8 0	22 14 0
Do.	Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	14 8 11	11 9 0	11 9 0
Raw (Gul)	—	..	..	..	..	..
Other food—	Rajapuri	..	5 9 3	19 0 9	34 4 7	36 0 10
Turmeric	Deshi	..	45 11 5	88 9 2	88 9 2	88 9 2
Ghee	Bombay (black)	..	1 7 6	2 12 0	3 4 0	3 4 0
Salt	—	..	..	..	..	..

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—	Rangoon Small-mill	..	100	127	120	124
Rice	Delhi No. 1	..	100	163	116	118
Wheat	Khandwa Seoni	..	100	228	133	150
Do.	Jubbulpore	..	100	213	113	110
Do.	Rangoon	..	100	117	121	127
Jowari	—	..	100	129	93	97
Barley	Ghati	..	100	161	139	145
Bajri	—	..	..	..	..	..
Average—Cereals	..	..	100	163	120	124
Pulses—	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	100	116	80	80
Gram	Cawnpore	..	100	138	90	90
Turdal	—	..	..	..	..	..
Average—Pulses	..	..	100	127	85	85
Sugar—	Mauritius No. 1	..	100	230	237	256
Sugar	Java white	..	100	221	221	225
Do.	Sangli	..	100	184	147	147
Raw (Gul)	—	..	..	..	..	..
Average—Sugar	..	..	100	212	202	209
Other food—	Rajapuri	..	100	341	593	646
Turmeric	Deshi	..	100	194	194	194
Ghee	Bombay (black)	..	100	187	221	221
Salt	—	..	..	..	..	..
Average—Other food	..	..	100	241	343	354
Average—All food	..	..	100	185	176	182

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1922.	August 1923.	September 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds— Linseed Rapeseed Popposeed Gingelly	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	13 3 0	13 2 0	13 13 0
	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	10 0 0	9 12 0	9 12 0
	Do.	"	10 14 0	14 2 0	13 0 0	13 10 0
	White	"	11 4 0	15 4 0	15 0 0	16 0 0
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Broach Oomra Dharwar Khandeah Bengal	Good	Candy	251 0 0	480 0 0	475 0 0	480 0 0
	Fully good	"	222 0 0	450 0 0	....	....
	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	....	....	....
	Machine ginned	"	205 0 0	....	....	....
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White mulls Shirtings Long cloth Chudders	Do.	Lb.	0 12 9	1 8 0	1 10 0	1 11 0
	40S	Piece	5 15 0	13 6 0	12 14 0	12 14 0
	Fari 2,000	"	4 3 0	9 6 0	8 4 0	8 12 0
	6,600	"	10 6 0	26 0 0	24 0 0	24 0 0
	Liepman's 1,500	Lb.	0 9 6	1 7 9	1 3 9	1 4 9
	Local made 36" x 37½ yds...	"	0 9 6	1 6 6	1 2 9	1 3 3
	54" x 6 yds.	"	0 9 6	1 6 6	1 2 9	1 3 3
	....	"	....	....	....	....
	....	"	....	....	....	....
	....	"	....	....	....	....

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	July 1914.	September 1922.	August 1923.	September 1923.
Oilseeds— Linseed Rapeseed Popposeed Gingelly	Bold	100	148	147	155
	Cawnpore (brown)	100	125	122	122
	Do.	100	130	119	125
	White	100	136	133	142
Average—Oilseeds	....	100	135	131	136
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Broach Oomra Dharwar Khandeah Bengal	Good	100	191	189	191
	Fully good	100	203	....	....
	Saw-ginned	100	....	....	....
	Machine ginned	100	178	230	230
Average—Cotton—raw	....	100	191	210	211
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White mulls Shirtings Long cloth Chudders	40S	100	188	204	212
	Fari 2,000	100	225	17	217
	6,600	100	224	197	209
	Liepman's 1,500	100	251	233	231
	Local made 36" x 37½ yds...	100	250	208	218
	54" x 6 yds.	100	237	197	203
	....	....	....	....	....
Average—Cotton manufactures	....	100	229	209	215
Average—Textiles—Cotton	....	100	216	209	214

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)—continued

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	Sept. 1922.	August 1923.	Sept. 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk	Canton No. 5	Pucca beer	5 4 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 8 0
	Nankin	"	17 12 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0
Do.	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 13 9	1 13 4	1 15 1
	Do.	"	1 1 3	1 0 4	0 11 8	1 1 7
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 2 2	2 5 6	2 3 8
	Do.	"	....	....	....	....
Metals— Copper braziers Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	Do.	Cwt.	60 8 0	77 8 0	77 0 0	75 8 0
	Do.	"	4 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
	Do.	"	7 12 0	14 12 0	14 0 0	13 12 0
	Do.	"	9 0 0	15 12 0	16 4 0	16 8 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene Do.	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	25 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
	Elephant brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 10 6	7 8 0	6 15 6
	Chester brand	Case	5 2 0	10 3 0	10 0 6	9 8 0
	Do.	"	....	....	....	....

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	July 1914.	Sept. 1922.	August 1923.	Sept. 1923.
Other textiles— Silk	Canton No. 5	100	105	105	105
	Nankin	100	172	172	172
Do.	Tanned	100	139	139	139
	Do.	100	95	159	168
Average—Other textiles	....	100	171	187	178
	....	100	142	138	149
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Do.	100	128	127	125
	Do.	100	200	200	200
Average—Hides and Skins	....	100	190	181	177
	....	100	175	181	183
	....	100	217	203	200
	....	100	182	178	177
Metals— Copper braziers Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	Do.	100	169	54	54
	Do.	100	175	171	159
Average—Metals	....	100	199	196	185
	....	100	181	140	133
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene Do.	Bengal	100	185	176	182
	Elephant brand	100	179	168	171
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	....	100	185	176	182
	....	100	179	168	171
Total—Food	....	100	181	171	175
Total—Non-food	....	100	181	171	175
General Average	....	100	181	171	175



OCT., 1923

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1922.	August 1923.	September 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<b>Cereals—</b>						
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	52 0 0	45 0 0	46 0 0
Wheat, white	5% barley 3% dirt.	..	31 8 0	41 0 0	34 8 0	33 12 0
.. red	30% red. 5% barley 3% dirt.	..	31 4 0	40 8 0	33 12 0	33 0 0
.. white	92% red. 2% barley 14% dirt.	..	32 8 0	42 4 0	35 8 0	34 12 0
.. red	2% barley 14% dirt.	..	32 4 0	41 12 0	34 12 0	34 0 0
Jowari	Export Quality	..	25 8 0	23 0 0	23 0 0	24 0 0
Barley	3% dirt	..	26 8 0	28 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
<b>Pulses—</b>						
Gram	1% dirt	..	29 8 0	37 0 0	25 0 0	26 8 0
<b>Sugar—</b>						
Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	22 4 0	20 14 0	21 12 0
Do.	.. brown	..	8 1 6	21 0 0	..	..
<b>Other food—</b>						
Salt	Bengal Maund.	..	2 2 0	1 10 3	2 14 6	2 14 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article	Grade	July 1914	September 1922	August 1923	September 1923
<b>Cereals—</b>					
Rice	Larkana No. 3	100	133	115	123
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt	100	130	110	107
.. red	30% red. 5% barley, 3% dirt	100	130	108	106
.. white	92% red. 2% barley, 14% dirt	100	130	109	107
.. red	2% barley, 14% dirt	100	129	108	105
Jowari	Export Quality	100	90	90	94
Barley	3% dirt	100	106	94	94
<b>Averages—Cereals</b>					
		100	121	105	105
<b>Pulses—</b>					
Gram	1% dirt	100	125	85	90
<b>Sugar—</b>					
Sugar	Java white	100	244	229	238
..	.. brown	100	259	..	..
<b>Average—Sugar</b>					
		100	252	229	238
<b>Other food—Salt</b>					
		100	77	137	137



OCT., 1923

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1922.	August 1923.	September 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<b>Oils—</b>						
Cotton seed	3% admixture	Maund	2 11 3	3 00 0	3 00 0	3 12 0
Raymond	..	Candy	51 0 0	61 8 0	59 0 0	60 8 0
Gingelly	Black, 9% admixture	..	62 0 0	80 0 0	84 0 0	84 0 0
<b>Textiles—</b>						
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	45 0 0	45 0 0	46 0 0
<b>Textiles—Cotton—</b>						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	38 0 0	49 10 0	49 10 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—	Pepperill	Piece	10 5 6	21 12 0	25 0 0	27 4 0
Drills	Lipson's	..	10 2 0	26 0 0	25 0 0	27 0 0
Shirtings	4h. Grey (Plough)	Lb.	10 12 2	..	..	..
Yarns	..	..	..	..	..	..
<b>Other Textiles—Wool</b>						
	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	21 0 0	36 0 0	37 0 0

Expressed as percentage of July 1914

Price in July 1914 = 100

Article	Grade	July 1914	September 1922	August 1923	September 1923
<b>Oils—</b>					
Cotton seed	3% admixture	100	134	134	139
Raymond	..	100	121	116	119
Gingelly	Black, 9% admixture	100	129	135	135
<b>Average—Oils</b>					
		100	128	128	131
<b>Textiles—</b>					
Jute bags	Twills	100	125	118	125
<b>Textiles—Cotton—</b>					
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	100	190	245	245
(b) Cotton manufactures—	Pepperill	100	213	245	257
Drills	Lipson's	100	257	247	257
Shirtings	4h. Grey (Plough)	100	..	..	..
Yarns	..	100	..	..	..
<b>Average—Cotton manufactures</b>					
		100	235	246	257
<b>Average—Textiles—Cotton</b>					
		100	220	246	253
<b>Other Textiles—Wool</b>					
		100	77	129	132



Oct., 1923

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-Foods) — continued

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	September 1922.	August 1923.	September 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides— Hides dry .. ..	Sind Punjab	Maund ..	21 4 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	13 0 0
			21 4 0	12 0 0	12 0 0	13 0 0
Metals— Copper Braziers .. ..	.....	Cwt. ..	60 8 0	79 0 0	79 0 0	77 8 0
			3 14 0	7 8 0	7 2 0	7 4 0
			4 6 0	9 0 0	7 8 0	8 4 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal .. ..	1st Class Bengal Chester Brand Elephant ..	Ton ..	16 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0
			5 2 0	10 1 0	9 14 6	9 6 0
			4 7 0	7 8 6	7 6 0	6 13 6
			2 Tins ..			

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	July 1914.	September 1922.	August 1923.	September 1923.
Hides— Hides dry .. ..	Sind Punjab	100	56	56	61
		100	56	56	61
Average—Hides .. ..	.....	100	56	56	61
Metals— Copper Braziers .. ..	.....	100	131	131	128
		100	194	184	187
		100	206	171	189
Average—Metals .. ..	.....	100	177	162	168
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal .. ..	1st Class Bengal Chester Brand Elephant ..	100	219	219	219
		100	196	193	183
		100	170	166	154
		.....	.....	.....	.....
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles .. ..	.....	100	195	193	185
Total—Food .. ..	.....	100	144	119	120
Total—Non-food .. ..	.....	100	155	159	162
General Average .. ..	.....	100	149	143	143



Wholesale prices index numbers in Bombay by groups  
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Total non-food.	General average.
<b>1920</b>														
September ..	164	156	470	184	228	181	130	295	186	119	227	209	212	218
<b>1921</b>														
September ..	212	169	230	174	202	150	217	265	138	180	240	206	211	207
October ..	192	164	207	180	189	130	169	273	138	182	209	202	199	195
November ..	196	175	203	190	193	129	170	263	138	163	204	198	192	193
December ..	188	180	200	185	189	136	198	259	138	136	200	198	191	190
<b>1922</b>														
January ..	182	175	210	190	188	132	166	258	139	167	199	196	190	190
February ..	179	168	203	211	189	136	150	244	139	148	192	208	165	186
March ..	177	166	224	241	198	140	174	251	139	168	192	196	189	182
April ..	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	254	139	137	181	190	185	188
May ..	180	160	218	220	193	149	190	250	139	139	186	192	187	189
June ..	169	129	220	231	187	152	202	256	139	136	191	192	187	189
July ..	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	139	142	177	188	188	190
August ..	166	132	227	238	188	135	197	248	137	139	183	186	184	188
September ..	163	127	212	241	185	135	191	229	137	142	182	181	179	186
October ..	145	119	210	24	178	138	165	2 6	139	112	182	182	172	181
November ..	137	111	213	260	176	133	173	224	139	146	185	188	177	174
December ..	129	105	216	266	170	135	185	220	139	122	186	182	174	173
<b>1923</b>														
January ..	125	102	202	305	173	130	200	227	139	165	194	148	179	177
February ..	125	95	210	268	167	132	210	225	139	132	195	146	175	172
March ..	127	93	242	296	179	139	213	227	139	134	187	145	176	177
April ..	128	92	242	269	174	134	204	217	139	167	185	144	176	175
May ..	124	88	248	284	176	131	205	217	139	161	185	145	175	175
June ..	128	91	234	302	179	134	211	212	139	144	186	142	173	175
July ..	127	90	215	317	178	132	217	211	139	139	182	140	170	173
August ..	120	85	202	343	176	131	210	209	139	138	178	140	168	171
September ..	124	85	209	354	182	136	211	215	139	149	177	133	171	175

NOTE.—The figures of 1921, 1922 and 1923 in heavy type indicate the highest peak reached above the peak of 1920 which is also shown in heavy type.

Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, August and September 1923  
The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Articles.	Grade.	Rate per	Equivalent in tolas.	July 1914.	August 1923.	September 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (—) in September 1923 over or below	
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	July 1914.	August 1923.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	216	5 10	7 4	7 4	+ 1 6	.....
Wheat	Punjab Pissi	..	212	5 10	7 6	7 6	+ 1 8	.....
Jowari	Madras	..	208	4 3	5 6	5 7	+ 1 4	+ 0 1
Bajri	Chat	..	200	4 7	5 10	5 10	+ 1 3	.....
Gram	Punjab red	..	208	4 4	5 1	5 1	+ 0 9	.....
Turdal	Cawnpore	..	204	5 11	7 1	7 6	+ 1 7	+ 0 5
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer by weight	28	1 1	2 6	2 6	+ 1 5	.....
Sugar (raw)	Sangli, middle quality	..	28	1 2	2 0	2 0	+ 0 10	.....
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	13 10	13 10	+ 6 0	.....
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	188	1 9	4 0	4 0	+ 2 3	— 0 3
Beef	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	3 9	+ 1 3	.....
Mutton	Average for sheep and goat	..	39	3 0	7 3	7 4	+ 4 4	+ 0 1
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+ 2 2	.....
Ghee	Belgaum, Deshi	..	28	7 1	13 2	13 2	+ 6 1	.....
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	..	28	0 8	1 5	1 5	+ 0 9	.....
Onions	Nasik	..	28	0 3	1 0	1 0	+ 0 9	.....
Cocconut oil	Middle quality	..	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+ 0 5	.....



Retail prices of Articles of food in August and September 1923

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poon.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poon.
		August 1923.	September 1923.								
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.					
<b>Cereals—</b>											
Rice ..	Maund ..	6 12 6	6 12 4	8 0 0	7 12 3	8 14 3	6 13 2	6 10 8	8 0 0	7 6 10	9 0 8
Wheat ..	" ..	7 0 9	4 13 0	6 10 8	6 2 10	6 5 5	7 0 9	4 10 2	6 10 8	6 12 0	6 5 5
Jowari ..	" ..	5 4 6	3 10 2	3 13 4	3 12 9	4 1 4	5 6 2	3 10 2	3 10 2	3 8 8	4 1 4
Bajri ..	" ..	5 13 1	4 0 0	6 2 6	5 0 2	5 8 0	5 13 1	4 0 0	6 2 6	4 13 11	5 8 0
<b>Pulses—</b>											
Gram ..	" ..	4 14 9	3 9 10	5 11 5	4 3 5	4 1 4	4 14 9	3 10 2	5 11 5	4 3 5	4 1 4
Turdal ..	" ..	6 15 7	6 2 6	5 11 5	6 1 0	7 14 5	6 15 7	6 2 6	5 15 8	6 6 0	7 14 5
<b>Other articles of food—</b>											
Sugar (refined) ..	" ..	18 11 5	16 1 3	19 12 1	22 13 9	18 11 5	17 9 4	15 14 9	17 12 5	18 4 7	16 13 6
Jagri (gul) ..	" ..	14 4 7	10 0 0	12 12 10	10 0 0	10 8 5	14 4 7	10 0 0	12 15 3	10 0 0	10 8 5
Tea ..	Lb. ..	0 13 10	0 11 1	0 15 11	0 12 4	0 12 5	0 13 10	0 13 6	1 1 9	0 12 4	0 14 6
Salt ..	Maund ..	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 5 7	4 3 4	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 10 5	4 3 4
Beef ..	Seer ..	0 8 2	0 9 6	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 7 8	0 9 10	0 7 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton ..	" ..	0 14 10	0 11 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 15 1	0 12 0	0 14 6	0 10 0	0 11 0
Milk ..	Maund ..	17 9 4	7 12 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	14 8 9	17 9 4	8 0 0	10 10 8	13 5 4	14 8 9
Ghee ..	" ..	94 1 11	76 3 1	91 6 10	76 3 1	84 3 4	94 1 11	72 11 8	88 14 2	80 0 0	84 3 4
Potatoes ..	" ..	10 2 6	10 3 1	10 0 0	13 5 4	10 8 5	10 6 3	9 2 3	11 6 10	12 4 11	5 11 5
Onions ..	" ..	6 14 10	3 2 5	5 0 0	3 12 11	5 12 1	7 2 3	4 6 7	5 6 9	5 0 0	5 4 2
Coconut oil ..	" ..	28 9 1	26 0 3	32 0 0	26 10 8	29 5 8	28 9 1	26 10 8	32 0 0	26 10 8	28 1 1

NOTE.—1 lb. = 39 tolas; 1 maund = 82½ lbs.; 1 seer = 2⅓ lbs.; 80 tolas = 1 seer; 40 seers = 1 Indian maund.

Expressed as percentages of July 1914 Prices (July 1914 = 100)

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poon.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poon.
<b>Cereals—</b>										
Rice ..	121	102	130	147	154	122	100	130	140	157
Wheat ..	126	114	142	120	118	126	110	142	131	118
Jowari ..	121	100	101	132	119	124	100	95	123	119
Bajri ..	135	95	131	142	134	135	95	131	139	134
Average—cereals ..	126	103	126	135	131	127	101	125	133	132
<b>Pulses—</b>										
Gram ..	114	95	143	98	84	114	95	143	98	84
Turdal ..	119	92	93	104	120	119	92	97	109	120
Average—pulses ..	117	94	118	101	102	117	94	120	104	102
<b>Other articles of food—</b>										
Sugar (refined) ..	246	221	220	229	200	231	219	198	183	180
Jagri (gul) ..	167	144	144	129	150	167	144	145	129	177
Tea ..	178	161	205	120	177	178	196	229	209	224
Salt ..	199	234	221	240	141	200	242	145	145	141
Beef ..	158	190	100	196	224	199	234	221	240	141
Mutton ..	191	183	200	167	183	148	196	117	167	183
Milk ..	191	179	263	240	226	200	242	145	145	145
Ghee ..	185	176	200	183	145	191	180	213	142	163
Potatoes ..	227	188	206	136	163	185	170	200	308	170
Onions ..	446	173	250	333	312	232	169	300	200	262
Coconut oil ..	113	106	160	100	105	113	108	160	100	100
Average—other articles of food ..	211	178	197	180	190	230	187	209	180	172
Average—all food articles (unweighted) ..	180	150	171	160	166	181	156	179	160	155



Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

Country.	ASIA AND OCEANIA					AFRICA		EUROPE					
	India (Bombay)	Japan.	China (Shanghai).	Australia.	New Zealand.	Egypt (Cairo).	South Africa.	United Kingdom.				France.	Italy.
No. of articles.	43	56	151 (g)	92	140	24	188	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	45	45
1913 Average ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	100	95	106	104	100	97	100	99	100	99	100	100	102
1915 ..	97	97	147	123	102	107	127	123	123	123	123	123	140
1916 ..	117	117	138	134	124	123	160	160	160	160	160	160	188
1917 ..	148	148	153	151	169	141	206	204	204	204	204	204	201
1918 ..	237	196	178	175	207	153	226	225	225	225	225	225	299
1919 ..	222	239	189	178	226	165	242	235	235	235	235	235	409
1920 ..	215	260	150	228	212	299	295	283	307	307	307	307	356
1921 ..	190	210	149	155	189	170	157	162	168	162	162	162	510
1922 ..	186	204	150	154	181	169	156	158	162	156	156	156	326
December ..	192	201	152	153	180	153	159	160	160	160	160	160	307
January ..	188	198	148	155	180	148	128	159	159	159	159	159	314
February ..	189	195	146	162	177	141	159	162	160	158	158	158	317
March ..	190	198	144	163	175	139	160	163	160	159	159	159	326
April ..	188	202	144	164	177	138	158	163	160	159	159	159	325
May ..	186	196	142	163	177	139	153	158	156	156	156	156	331
June ..	181	193	140	165	175	138	151	156	154	156	156	156	329
July ..	174	190	142	167	174	140	129	153	158	155	159	159	337
August ..	176	188	143	170	175	144	154	159	157	161	161	161	353
September ..	173	183	149	168	172	147	152	158	156	159	159	159	362
October ..	177	184	153	171	171	141	153	161	157	160	160	160	387
November ..	172	192	158	169	173	137	155	163	158	162	162	162	422
December ..	177	196	159	171	174	136	156	163	160	164	164	164	424
1923 ..	175	196	158	174	174	133	126	158	165	161	165	165	415
January ..	175	199	158	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
February ..	175	198	155	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
March ..	173	192	155	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
April ..	173	192	155	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
May ..	171	192	155	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
June ..	171	192	155	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
July ..	171	192	155	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
August ..	171	192	155	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407
September ..	175	196	158	178	178	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	407

Country.	EUROPE—continued.							NORTH AMERICA.			
	Switzer-land.	Belgium.	Germany. (d)	Nether-lands (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Canada.	United States of America.		
No. of articles.	71	209	77	..	93	47	33	272	(5)	(6)	(7)
1913 Average ..	100	100	100	100	(e)	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	100	100	105	105	(f) 100	116	100	100	98	98	98
1915 ..	100	100	142	145	(f) 159	145	138	109	101	101	101
1916 ..	100	100	153	222	(f) 233	185	164	134	127	127	127
1917 ..	100	100	179	286	(f) 341	244	228	175	177	177	177
1918 ..	100	100	217	392	345	339	293	205	194	194	194
1919 ..	100	100	415	297	322	330	294	216	206	206	206
1920 ..	100	100	1,486	281	377	347	246	216	226	226	226
1921 ..	176	369	3,487	165	269	172	188	170	123	140	142
1922 ..	163	350	5,433	161	240	164	178	166	126	142	147
December ..	161	344	6,355	162	236	165	177	166	125	143	149
January ..	160	348	6,458	165	231	164	179	167	127	148	158
February ..	161										

Principal Trade Disputes in progress in September 1923

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trade.</i>						
1. The Ahmedabad Ginning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., outside Sarangapur, Ahmedabad.	800	....	29 August 1923.	5 September 1923.	Against a reduction by two pies in the rates paid per pair of dhotars produced.	Some strikers resumed work unconditionally and the others were to be replaced.
2. The Century and the Zenith Mills, Elphinstone Road, Bombay.	1,274	3,818	30 August	16 September.	Demand for the removal of the Assistant Weaving Master for his alleged ill-treatment of the weavers.	Work resumed unconditionally.
3. The Rajnagar Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Dariapur, Ahmedabad.	250	....	5 September	6 September.	Against the dismissal of the Head Jobber for unsatisfactory work.	Work resumed unconditionally.
4. The Ahmedabad New Cotton Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Kankaria Road, and the Ahmedabad Laami Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., outside Astodya, Ahmedabad.	19	....	11 September	13 September	Against the Agents' order granting Rs. 3 in lieu of oil supplied for their lamps to enable them to go to the mill early in the morning to start the engine.	Work resumed unconditionally.
5. The Bradbury Mills, Ripon Road, Bombay.	417	1,707	15 September.	28 September	Demand for increased rates of wages.	Compromised and work resumed on revised rates.
6. The Kastoorchand Mill, Dadar, Bombay.	878	....	20 September.	24 September.	Demand for the removal of the Sizing Master on the ground of his alleged assault on a weaver.	Work resumed unconditionally.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
7. The "G" Ward Toddy Drawers, Dadar, Bombay.	334	....	29 August	4 September...	Demand for an increase in pay from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50, exclusive of the daily allowance of 2 annas.	Compromised, the terms being an increase of Rs. 5 in pay plus one anna as daily allowance.
8. The Pioneer Rubber Factory, Shaik Mishree Street, Bombay.	75	....	20 September.	21 September.	Demand for the payment of half the wages for the days on which the factory remained closed every month.	Compromised and work resumed on condition that the workmen should be paid 8 annas for each closed day.

Detailed statement of the quantity (in pounds) and the counts (or numbers) of yarn spun  
Bombay Presidency

Count or Number.	Month of August.			Five months ended August.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
	7,036	6,774	6,348	32,712	32,193	29,920
	20,397	19,983	16,941	100,861	98,155	85,518
	13,526	14,038	13,454	67,757	69,803	57,666
	944	1,020	1,048	5,582	5,976	4,807
	177	164	223	836	878	916
	13	7	10	156	51	62
<i>Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds</i>						
<i>Nos. 11 to 20 "</i>						
<i>Nos. 21 to 30 "</i>						
<i>Nos. 31 to 40 "</i>						
<i>Above 40 "</i>						
<i>Waste, etc. "</i>						
Total ..	42,093	41,986	38,024	207,904	207,056	178,469

Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of August.			Five months ended August.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
	6,397	6,233	5,641	29,813	29,550	27,508
	14,897	13,814	11,565	73,265	68,652	63,997
	8,034	8,581	8,706	41,313	42,308	40,061
	499	488	635	2,664	2,614	2,658
	80	87	128	431	492	508
	2	2	2	117	10	13
<i>Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds</i>						
<i>Nos. 11 to 20 "</i>						
<i>Nos. 21 to 30 "</i>						
<i>Nos. 31 to 40 "</i>						
<i>Above 40 "</i>						
<i>Waste, etc. "</i>						
Total ..	29,909	29,205	26,677	147,603	143,526	134,345

Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of August.			Five months ended August.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
	227	162	179	976	629	395
	2,665	3,053	3,047	12,949	14,506	9,080
	3,824	4,078	3,387	19,165	20,402	10,848
	345	431	282	2,391	2,790	1,146
	73	55	78	282	275	241
	2	....	....	3	....	1
<i>Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds</i>						
<i>Nos. 11 to 20 "</i>						
<i>Nos. 21 to 30 "</i>						
<i>Nos. 31 to 40 "</i>						
<i>Above 40 "</i>						
<i>Waste, etc. "</i>						
Total ..	7,136	7,779	6,973	35,766	38,602	21,711

Oct., 1923

Detailed statement of the quantity (in pounds) and description of woven goods produced  
Bombay Presidency

Description.	Month of August.			Five months ended August.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chudders Pounds ..	1,663	1,597	1,391	6,821	6,132	5,538
Dhotis ..	6,759	6,070	5,867	34,074	32,711	23,085
Drills and jeans ..	899	619	770	4,394	3,313	4,078
Cambrics and lawns ..	75	94	13	434	396	101
Printers ..	297	384	186	1,565	2,190	1,279
Shirtings and long cloth ..	7,973	7,926	6,182	42,738	40,848	32,729
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	1,138	1,306	1,049	6,963	5,073	4,746
Tent cloth ..	212	64	59	579	400	330
Other sorts ..	1,071	1,430	1,944	4,664	6,743	8,571
Total ..	20,087	19,490	17,461	102,232	97,806	80,457
Coloured piece-goods ..	7,860	7,601	7,310	35,757	31,551	33,731
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	166	247	207	817	1,003	788
Hosiery ..	17	18	16	76	66	68
Miscellaneous ..	98	113	92	414	432	413
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	3	8	7	25	41	73
Grand Total ..	28,231	27,477	25,093	139,321	130,899	115,530

## Bombay Island

Description.	Month of August.			Five months ended August.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chudders Pounds ..	1,181	910	875	4,271	3,356	3,634
Dhotis ..	2,076	1,759	1,854	10,441	9,752	8,609
Drills and jeans ..	870	583	729	4,143	3,134	3,847
Cambrics and lawns ..	58	27	10	342	202	62
Printers ..	20	53	4	56	231	43
Shirtings and long cloth ..	5,344	5,466	4,519	30,498	29,422	25,396
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	957	1,097	885	5,804	4,178	4,090
Tent cloth ..	201	58	37	490	352	249
Other sorts ..	650	1,025	1,414	2,544	4,691	6,184
Total ..	11,357	10,978	10,327	58,589	55,318	52,114

Oct., 1923

Detailed statement of the quantity (in pounds) and description of woven goods produced—continued  
Bombay Island—continued

Description.	Month of August.			Five months ended August.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods ..	6,787	6,534	6,088	30,373	26,279	27,935
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	163	240	193	785	967	735
Hosiery ..	10	7	7	44	42	36
Miscellaneous ..	98	113	87	413	429	397
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	2	7	6	23	38	69
Grand Total ..	18,417	17,879	16,708	90,227	83,073	81,286

## Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of August.			Five months ended August.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	330	579	405	1,985	2,280	1,539
Chudders Pounds ..	3,760	3,379	3,217	18,486	17,940	9,883
Dhotis ..	11	22	26	155	111	121
Drills and jeans ..	10	59	2	59	148	20
Cambrics and lawns ..	189	166	129	1,138	1,241	697
Printers ..	1,877	2,011	1,265	8,805	8,902	5,037
Shirtings and long cloth ..	151	194	159	1,051	795	596
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	1	1	12	11	6	48
Tent cloth ..	212	194	284	1,141	978	1,177
Other sorts ..						
Total ..	6,541	6,605	5,499	32,831	32,401	19,118
Coloured piece-goods ..	426	408	532	2,188	2,128	2,647
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods ..	1	11	8	7	3	2
Hosiery ..	7	5	5	32	24	31
Miscellaneous ..	1	2	1	3	3	16
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..						1
Grand Total ..	6,976	7,026	6,045	35,059	34,562	21,815

**CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD**

(These notes are drawn from numerous official and in some cases non-official sources. Special acknowledgments are acknowledged to the International Labour Office, Geneva. Care is taken to examine and check as far as possible all statements, especially those from newspaper writings.)

**United Kingdom.**—The following table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July 1914, for all items included in the statistics of the cost of living of a working class family since January 1918.—

Average Percentage increase since July 1914.  
All items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	6-9	12	15	16	12	7
April	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the trade union percentage of unemployed month by month since the year 1915.—

Trade Union Unemployment Percentages.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Continued on next page.



**CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD**

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Average Percentage increase since July 1914.  
All items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	6-9	12	15	16	12	7
April	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—	—

The following table shows the trade union percentage of unemployed month by month since the year 1915.—

Trade Union Unemployment Percentages.

	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
February	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
March	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
April	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
May	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
June	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
July	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
August	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
September	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
October	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
November	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Continued on next page.

Council will give an award at the request of the parties, such award to be binding on both.

(f) For the purpose of arbitration in industrial disputes a Council will be established composed of Government officials, representatives of workers and employers, and experts on the question.

Opinions are divided as to whether this Council shall be established permanently or appointed from time to time when disputes arise, but it is probable that the Council will be a permanent one.

The question of the prohibition of night work in the cotton spinning industry is attracting a great deal of attention in Japan, owing partly to the fact that the Government is contemplating the amendment of the existing Factory Act with the object of prohibiting the employment of women and young persons during the night.

The present Factory Act, which came into force in 1916, prohibits the employment of women and young persons under 15 years of age from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. but allows an exception for a period of fifteen years from the date of the enforcement of the Act, in the case of workers employed on the shift system. It is assumed that the Government intends amending the Factory Act to shorten the remaining period of eight years during which night work is still permitted.

**Portugal.**—The Committee of Administration of the Social Insurance and Welfare Institute, which is responsible for the administration and supervision of compulsory insurance against industrial accidents, has decided to draw the attention of the Government to the necessity of amending legislation concerning industrial accidents in the colonies.

The Committee has also recommended that a clause should be inserted in the Convention at present under negotiation with the Union of South Africa containing special measures for the protection of natives of Mozambique who are victims of industrial accidents in the Rand mines.

**Chile.**—According to a communication from the Pan American Union the Government of Chile issued on 8th May a decree establishing regulations for the application of the industrial accident law of 1916.

The decree specifies the percentage of compensation for various injuries, (6) per cent.

being awarded for the total loss of an arm, and 40 per cent. for the loss of a foot, total deafness. Smaller percentages are named for other injuries.

**South Africa.**—Food prices and the cost of living in South Africa have fallen to a level not reached by any country which publishes statistics. The increase in July 1923 since 1914 was 15.85 per cent. in the retail prices of food and 18.77 per cent. in the cost of living. The following table which has been taken from the Monthly Bulletin of Statistics for August 1923 gives the increases in 9 principal towns.—

Percentage increase since 1914—July 1923.

Town	Food only	Cost of living (food included)
Cape Town	2.79	3.03
Delaware	—	5.13
East London	—	5.10
Kimberley	—	5.24
Port Elizabeth	—	3.97
Stellenbosch	—	4.80
Union	—	4.88
Worcester	—	6.11
Beaufort West	—	5.18
Weighted average	5.15	6.71

**BOOKS RECEIVED**  
**Official Publications**

- India**  
The Indian Trade Journal and Supplement—Vol. LXX, Nos. 90—95. (Commercial Intelligence Department).  
Indian Customs Returns—No. 1886 of 1923.  
India Weather Review (Annual Summary), 1920.  
Agricultural Statistics of India, 1920-21—Vol. II, No. 1791.  
Bombay Legislative Council Debates at the last meeting before Election.  
Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council Proceedings from 27th August to 1st September 1923.  
Review of Irrigation in India for 1922-23.  
Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces for 1922.  
UNION KANON  
The Ministry of Labour Gazette—Vol. XXXI, No. 4, for September 1923.



Oct., 1923

*The Board of Trade Journal*—Vol. CXI, Nos. 1396—1399.

*Monthly Bulletin of Information*—Vol. VIII, No. 3 (Department of Overseas Trade).

*Report on Indian Constitutional Reforms*—Cd. 1909.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*Commerce Reports*—Nos. 35 and 36.

*Survey of Current Business*—No. 21, for May 1923.

*Workmen's Compensation Law*—(With amendments, additions and annotations up to August 1st, 1923.)

*Monthly Labour Review* for June 1923, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington.

This issue contains the results of an interesting and comprehensive study of the administration of labor laws and factory inspection in most of the important European countries.

*Statistics of Industrial Accidents in the United States*—Bulletin No. 339, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington.

In this Bulletin both accident frequency and severity rates of accidents in the United States are computed on a basis of thousand hours' exposure (or men hours worked) the base recommended by the International Association of Industrial Accident Boards and Commissions.

*New York State Labor Law*—Industrial Commissioner, New York State.

This bulletin contains the Labor Law and certain sections of the Penal Law pertinent thereto, with amendments, additions and annotations up to August 1st, 1923, for the State of New York. The Bulletin gives a complete survey of the existing law regarding labor in the State.

*New York State Workmen's Compensation Law*—Industrial Commissioner, New York State.

The Workmen's Compensation Law of New York State has been in effect for over nine years. Since March 1914 thirty-five amending Acts have amended the Workmen's Compensation Law. The object of this bulletin is to show the Law in force on August 1st, 1923.

## CANADA

*The Labour Gazette*—Vol. XXIII, No. 8, for August 1923. (Department of Labour).

## UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

*Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics*—Nos. 19 and 21, July to September 1923 (Census and Statistics Office, Pretoria).

## NEW ZEALAND

*Monthly Abstract of Statistics*—Vol. X, No. 8, for August 1923 (Census and Statistics Office, Wellington).

## QUEENSLAND

*The Queensland Industrial Gazette*—Vol. VIII, No. 8, for August 1923 (Department of Labour, Queensland).

## VICTORIA

*Labour Report* for 1922—No. 13, for July 1923.

## GERMANY

*Reichsarbeitsblatt*—Nos. 17 and 18.

*Wirtschaft und Statistik*—Nos. 16 and 17.

AUSTRIA  
*Der Oesterreichische Volkswirt*—Vol. XV, Nos. 48—51.  
*Otalftiche Machrichtur*—Vol. I, No. 6.

SWITZERLAND  
*Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt*—No. 8, for September 1923.

BELGIUM  
*Revue du Travail*—No. 8, for August 1923.

HOLLAND  
*Maandschrift*—No. 8, for August 1923.  
*Maandschrift* for July 1923—Central Bureau Voor de Statistiek.

This issue contains a review of the Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay published by the Labour Office at the beginning of the present year.

ITALY  
*Bolletino del Lavoro*—Vol. XL, No. 1, for July 1923.

FRANCE  
*Bulletin de la Statistique Generale de la France* for July 1923.

POLAND  
*Statistique du Travail* for March and April 1923.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA  
*Observer*—Vol. V, Nos. 36—38.  
*Prumyslový Vestník*—Vol. X, Nos. 36—38.  
*Zpravy Verejné Shybytechnické*—Vol. V, Nos. 17 and 18.

GENEVA (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE)  
*Industrial and Labour Information*—Vol. VII, Nos. 9, 10 and 12.

*International Labour Review*—Vol. VIII, No. 3, for September 1923.

*Official Bulletin*—Vol. VIII, Nos. 7, 8, 10 and 11.

EGYPT  
*Monthly Agricultural Statistics*—No. 11, for July 1923 (Ministry of Finance, States Department, Cairo).

## Unofficial Publications

## UNITED KINGDOM

*The Economist*—Vol. XCVII, Nos. 4175—4178.

*The Statist*—Vol. CII, Nos. 2375—2378.

*Journal of the Textile Institute*—Vol. XIV, No. 9, for September 1923.

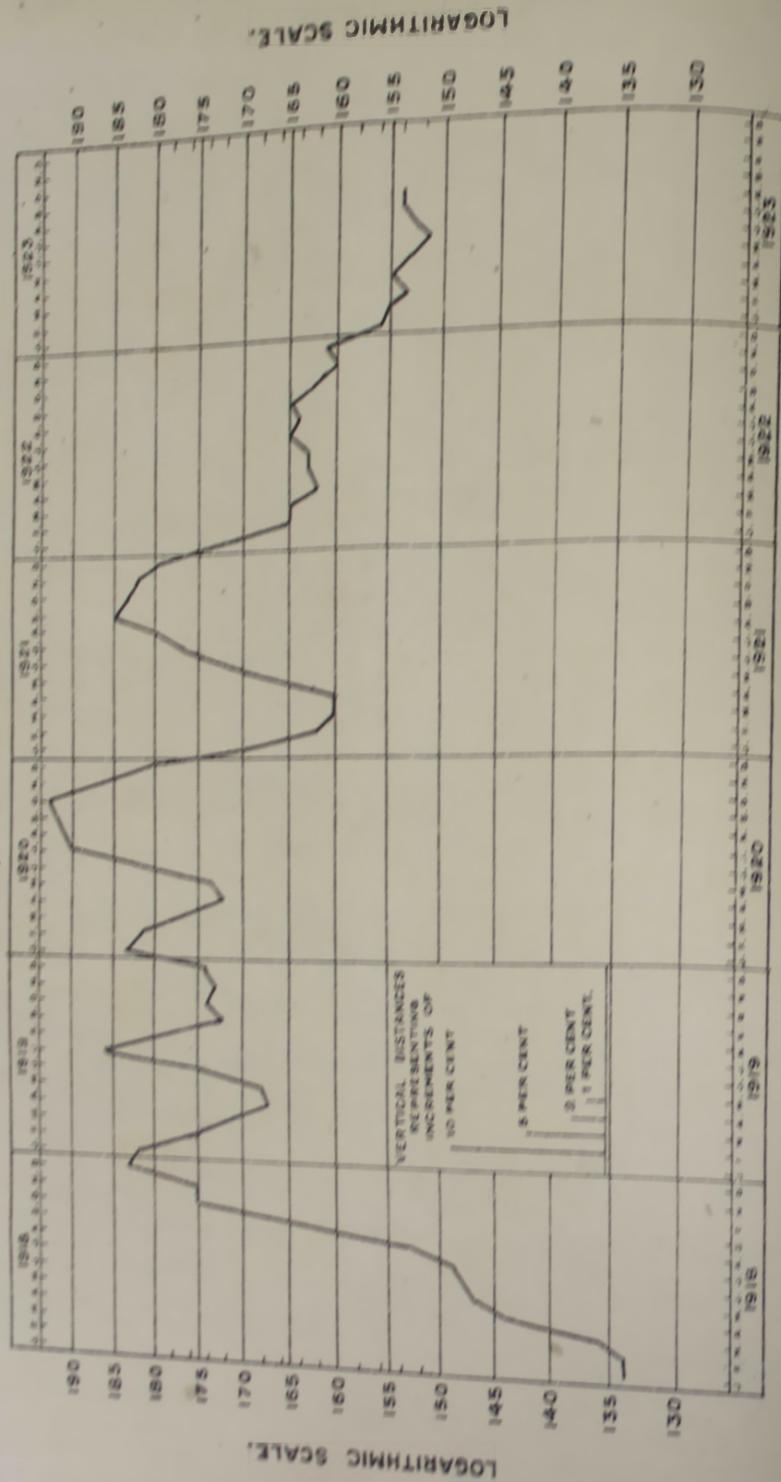
*The Labour Magazine*—Vol. II, No. 5, for September 1923.

*Industrial Welfare*—Vol. V, No. 57, for September 1923.

## CHARTS

1. Cost of Living in Bombay.
2. Progress of the Monsoon, 1923.
3. Progress of the Monsoon, 1922.
4. Rainfall for the period June to November 1922.
5. Index numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries.
6. Retail Prices of Rice, Pulses, Cereals and Other Articles of food in Bombay.
7. Cost of Living Indexes in India and Foreign Countries.
8. Imports and Exports of Merchandise—India.
9. Rate of Exchange in Bombay.
10. Wholesale Prices in Bombay, Foods and Non-foods.
- 11 & 12. Strikes in the Bombay Presidency.

CHART No 1.  
COST OF LIVING IN BOMBAY  
RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART  
(JULY 1914 - 100)



NOTE:— This chart is intended to show the proportional increase in the cost of living. It will be seen that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus, an increase of 5 points over 200 is half the increase of the same 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal ratios. Note the steadiness of the curve in 1922.

CHART No 2.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1923.

Abbreviations: S—Scanty, F—Fair, N—Normal, EX—EXCESS.

PROVINCE OR STATE	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER					
	5 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY	F	F	N	N	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	F					
1. SIND (RAINFALL)					S	S																
2. GUJARAT	S	S	S	S	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	F	N	F	S	S	S	F	EX	N				
3. DECCAN	S	F	F	S	EX	EX			N	F	EX	EX	N	F	S	S	EX	EX	EX	F		
4. KONKAN																						
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY	S	N	N	EX	N	EX	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	S	EX	EX	N	F				
1. MALABAR	S	S	N	S	F	F	N	F	S	F	S											
2. DECCAN	S	S	S	S	F	F	N	N	S	F	N	S	S	F	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX
3. COST NORTH																						
4. SOUTH EAST	EX	S	S	S	F	EX	EX		S	S	EX	S	S	S	S	EX	N	S				
III. MYSORE																						
IV. HYDERABAD	S	S	S	S	EX	N	N	EX	S	F	N	F	S	S	EX	EX						
1. NORTH	S	S	F	F	S	N	EX	N	S	S	F	S	F	EX	N	EX						
2. SOUTH																						
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																						
1. BERAR		S	S	S	F	N	S	EX	EX	S	EX	F	S	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	
2. WEST		S	S	S	N	N	N	EX	EX	F	EX	EX	EX	S	F	EX	N	EX				
3. EAST		S	S	F	EX	N	N	F	EX	N	EX	F	F	N	F	EX	EX					
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																						
1. WEST	S	S	S	S	F	EX	N	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	S	EX	EX						
2. EAST																						
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY	S	N	N	N	F	N	N	F	EX	N	F	EX	N	EX	N	N	F	S				
VIII. ASSAM	S	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	F	S	F	N	EX	EX	N	N	N				
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA																						
1. BIHAR		S	S	N	N	S	EX	F	N	F	F	S	F	EX	F	F	S	N				
2. ORISSA		S	S	F	S	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	F	N	F	F	N	EX				
X. UNITED PROVINCES																						
1. EAST		S	S		N	N	EX	N	N	EX	F	N	N	EX	S	S	EX	EX				
2. WEST		S	S		S	F	N	EX	F	EX	F	EX	F	N	S	S	EX					
XI. PUNJAB																						
1. EAST & NORTH																						
2. SOUTH & WEST																						
XII. RAJPUTANA																						
1. WEST		S	S	EX	S	EX	EX	F	N	EX	F	S	S	EX								
2. EAST		S	S	N	N	EX	EX	F	EX	F	F	S	S	EX								
XIII. BURMA																						
1. LOWER	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	F	F	F	N	N				
2. UPPER	F	EX	N	EX	F	S	N	N	N	N	EX	N	EX	N	EX	N	N	N				

NOTES

1. Within the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and black areas excessive rains.
2. Excess: More than 120 per cent of the normal.  
Normal: 80-100 per cent of the normal.  
Fair: 40-79 per cent of the normal.  
Scanty: Less than 40 per cent of the normal.
3. Normals for Divisions are means of Normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations. The Daily Weather Report gives the complete list of stations.
4. The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon, and are based on information supplied by the Director-General of Observatories. Lettering outside the green lines is omitted as rainfall in these places is less important. Within the green lines (i.e. the Monsoon) the third successive and following "EX" squares and the second successive and following "S" squares are hatched.
5. As the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the Indus above the fair irrigating level and the rainfall are shown. The date of the normal rise is in the first week of June and of the normal fall the last week of September.

# PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

CHART No. 3

Abbreviations - S Scanty F Fair N Normal EX Excess

PROVINCE OR STATE	JUNE					JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER			
	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	6 <sup>th</sup>	13 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	7 <sup>th</sup>	14 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	28 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>			
<b>I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY</b>	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	F	N	EX	EX	EX	EX						
1. SIND (RAINFALL)						S	S	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	S	S	F	F	EX	EX	EX				
2. GUJARAT	S	S	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	S	S	F	F	EX	S	S	F	F	EX	EX					
3. DECCAN	S	S	EX	EX	F	S	EX	N	S	EX	S	S	F	F	S	S	F	S	S					
4. KONKAN	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	S	S	EX	F	N	F	N	F	F	S	S					
<b>II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY</b>																								
1. MALABAR	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	F	F	F	EX	F	N	F	N	F	EX	F	F	F					
2. DECCAN	F	S	F	S	S	F	N	S	S	F	F	EX	F	S	S	S	S	S	S					
3. COST NORTH	EX	S	F	F	S	F	S	EX	S	F	EX	S	EX	F	N	F	F	F	F					
4. SOUTH EAST																								
<b>III. MYSORE</b>																								
1. NORTH	F	S	EX	F	N	F	N	EX	S	N	F	F	N	F	F	F	S	S	S					
2. SOUTH																								
<b>IV. CENTRAL PROVINCES</b>																								
1. BERAR	S	N	EX	N	F	F	EX	EX	F	S	S	S	S	EX	EX	S	S	S						
2. WEST	S	S	EX	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	S	S	S	EX	EX	S	S	S						
3. EAST	S	S	EX	N	N	F	F	EX	F	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	S	S	S						
<b>V. CENTRAL INDIA</b>																								
1. WEST	S	EX	N	N	EX	N	EX	S	S	F	S	EX	EX	EX	S	S	S	S						
2. EAST	S	S	EX	N	EX	EX	N	N	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	N						
<b>VI. BENGAL PRESIDENCY</b>	EX	F	EX	EX	N	F	EX	N	EX	F	F	EX	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX						
<b>VII. ASSAM</b>	N	F	N	EX	N	F	EX	EX	F	N	F	EX	N	S	F	EX	EX	F						
<b>VIII. BIHAR &amp; ORISSA</b>																								
1. BIHAR	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	EX	F	F	N	F	S	S	EX	EX	N	F	F						
2. ORISSA	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	N	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX						
<b>IX. UNITED PROVINCES</b>																								
1. EAST																								
2. WEST	N	S	EX	EX	EX	N	EX	S	F	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX							
<b>X. PUNJAB</b>																								
1. EAST & NORTH																								
2. SOUTH & WEST																								
<b>XI. RAJPUTANA</b>																								
1. WEST																								
2. EAST																								
<b>XII. BURMA</b>																								
1. LOWER	N	EX	F	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N							
2. UPPER	F	F	EX	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N	N							

**NOTES**  
 1. Within the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and black areas excessive rain.  
 2. Excess: More than 20 per cent of the normal.  
 Normal: 15-20 per cent of the normal.  
 Fair: 45-75 per cent of the normal.  
 Scanty: Less than 45 per cent of the normal.  
 Normal: For Divisions are made of Normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations.  
 The Sindh Weather Report gives the complete list of stations.  
 3. The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal onset, setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon. The green lines are omitted as rainfall in these places is less important. Lettering outside successive and following "S" squares are hatched and following "EX" squares and the second following level and the rainfall are shown. The date of the normal fall in the first week of June and of the normal fall the last week of September.

CHART No. 4.

# RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1922.

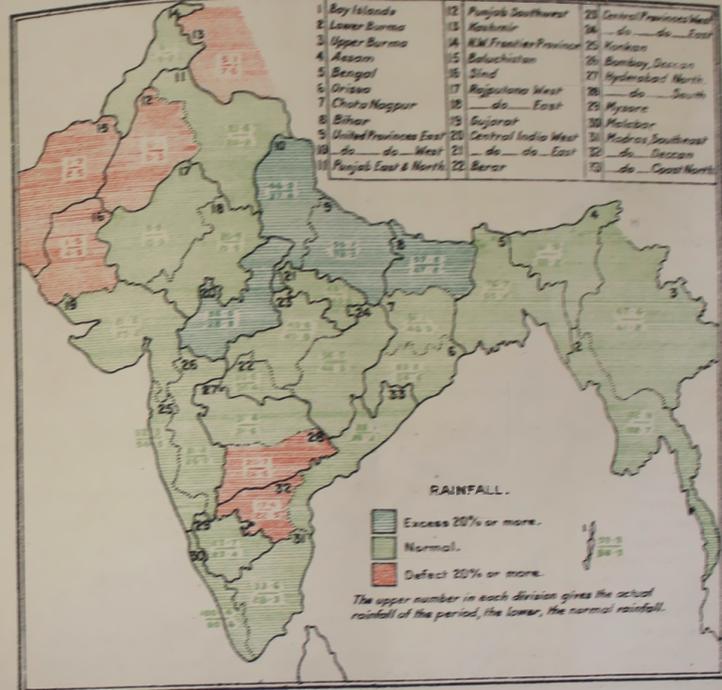
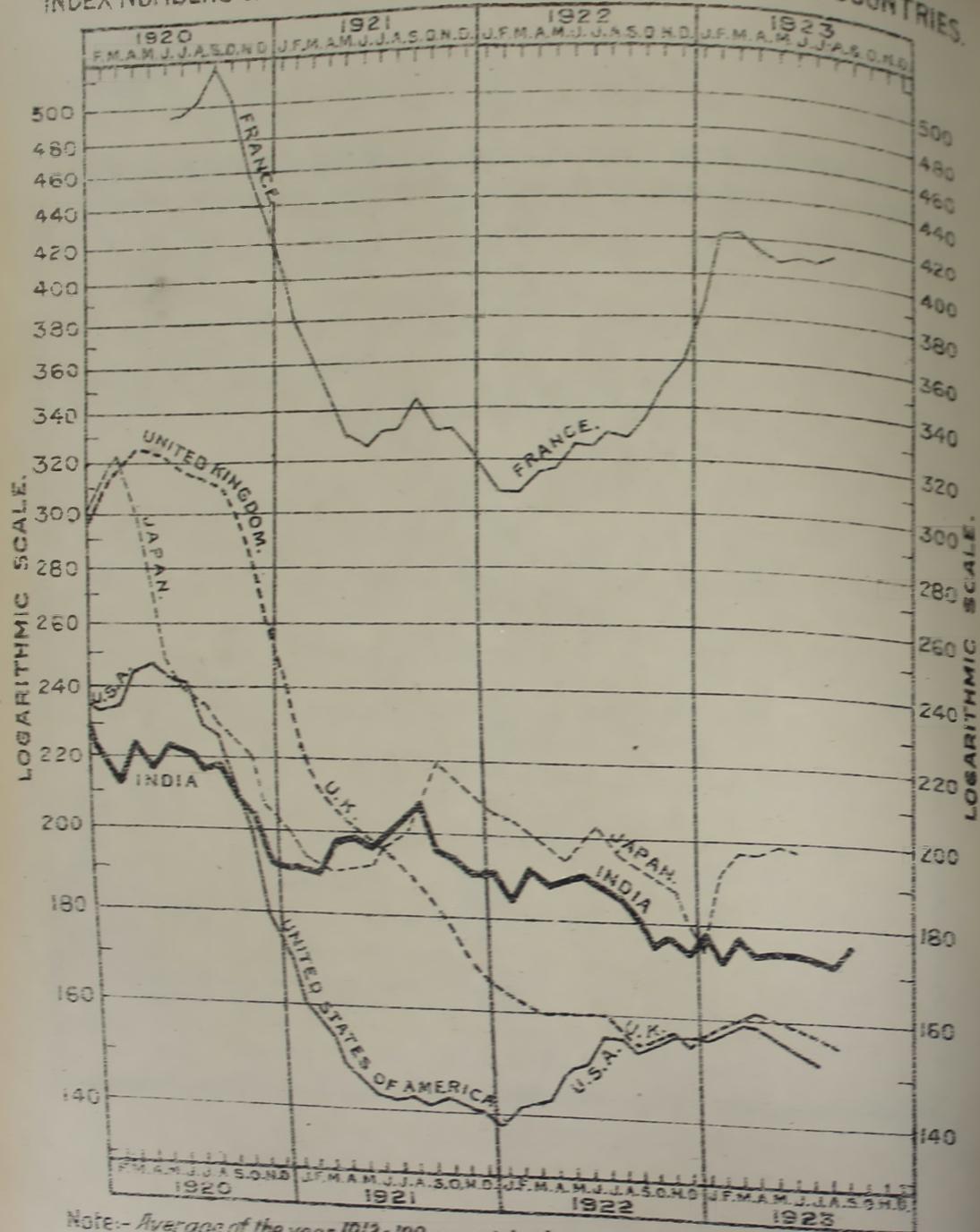


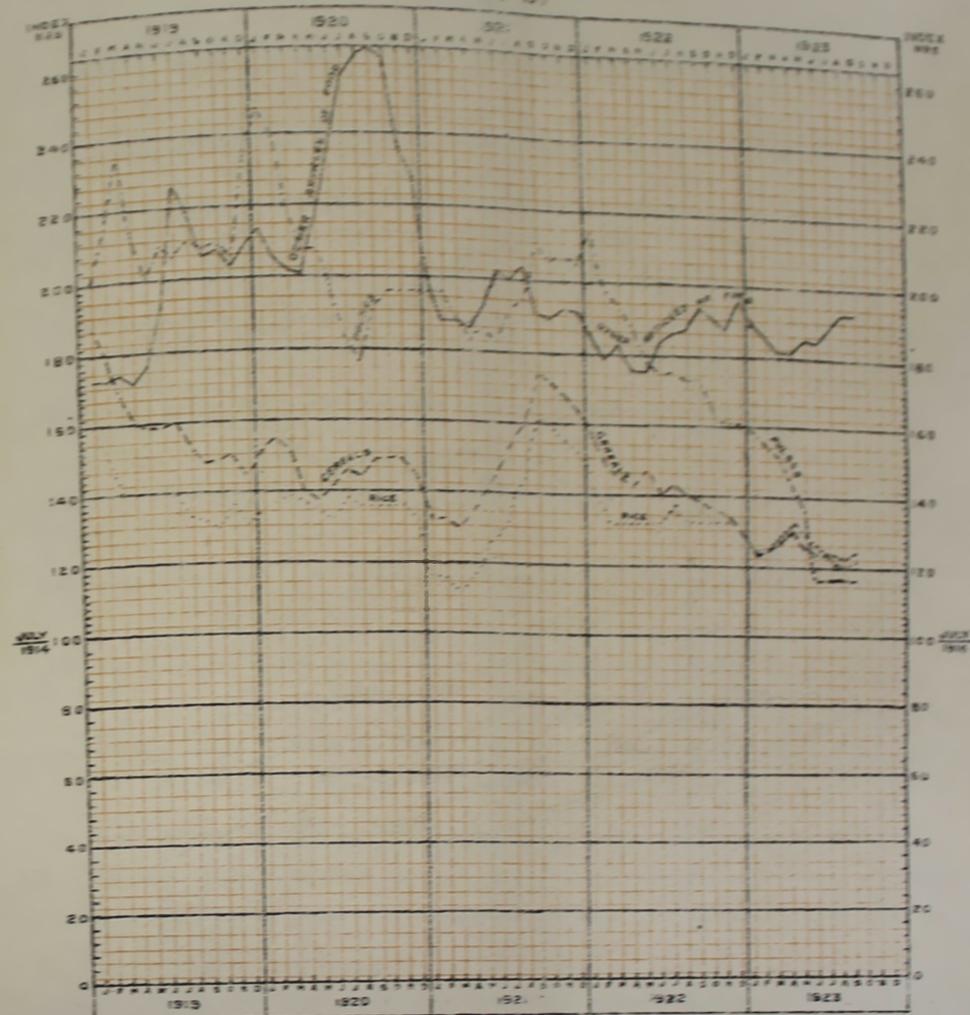
CHART NRS  
INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.



Note:- Average of the year 1913=100 except in the case of India where July 1914=100.

CHART NRS

RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY



Note:- Pulses Average Price of Gram & Turdal  
Rice Clean  
Cereals Average Price of Rice, Wheat, Jawar & Bajri  
Other articles of food Average Price of Sugar, Tea, Salt, Beef, Mutton, Ghee, Potatoes, Onions, Coconut oil &c.

CHART No. 7.

COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES. JULY 1914 = 100.

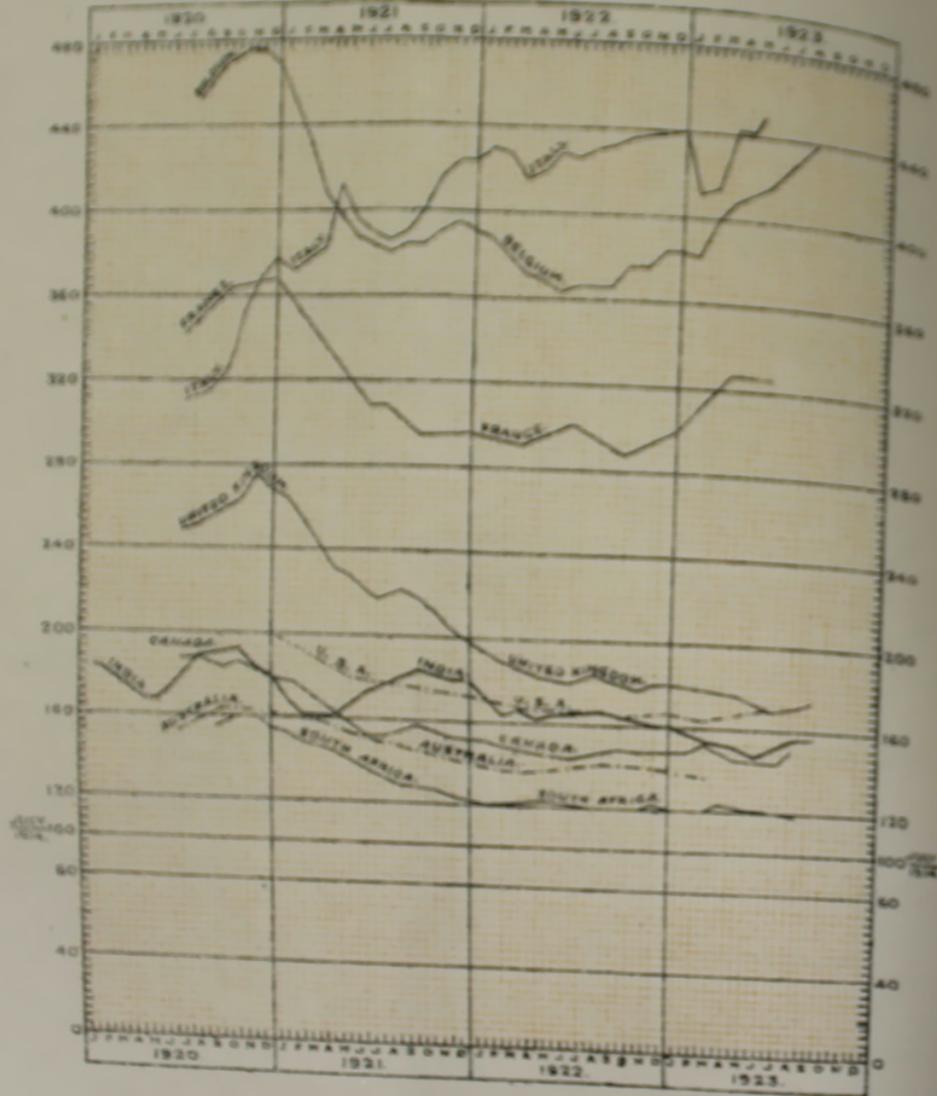
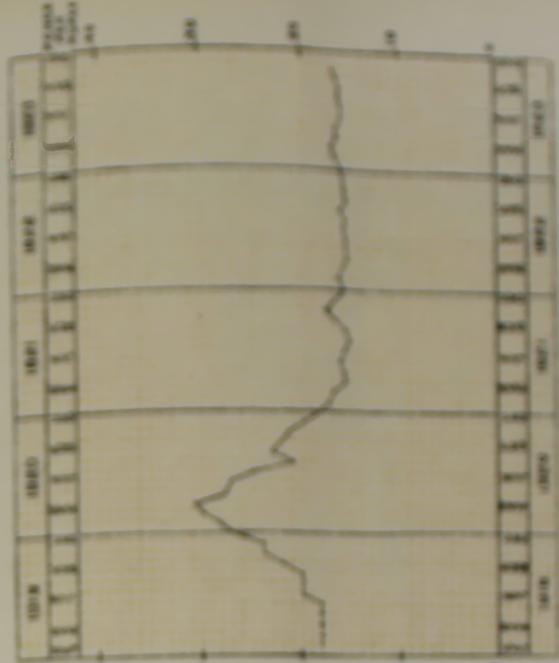


CHART No. 8.

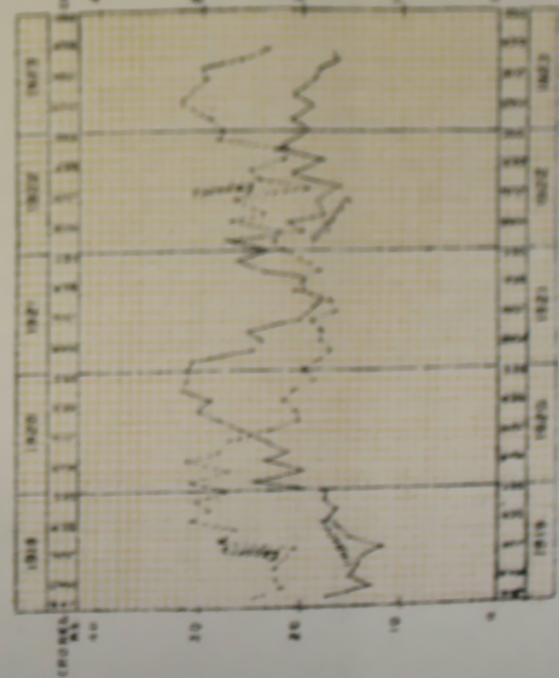
RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY



Note: The rate of exchange in Bombay is calculated from the average rate of exchange in London. The rate of exchange in London is calculated from the average rate of exchange in London. The rate of exchange in London is calculated from the average rate of exchange in London.

CHART No. 9.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA



Note: Each square represents (in millions) of Rupees.

CHART N° 10

WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS

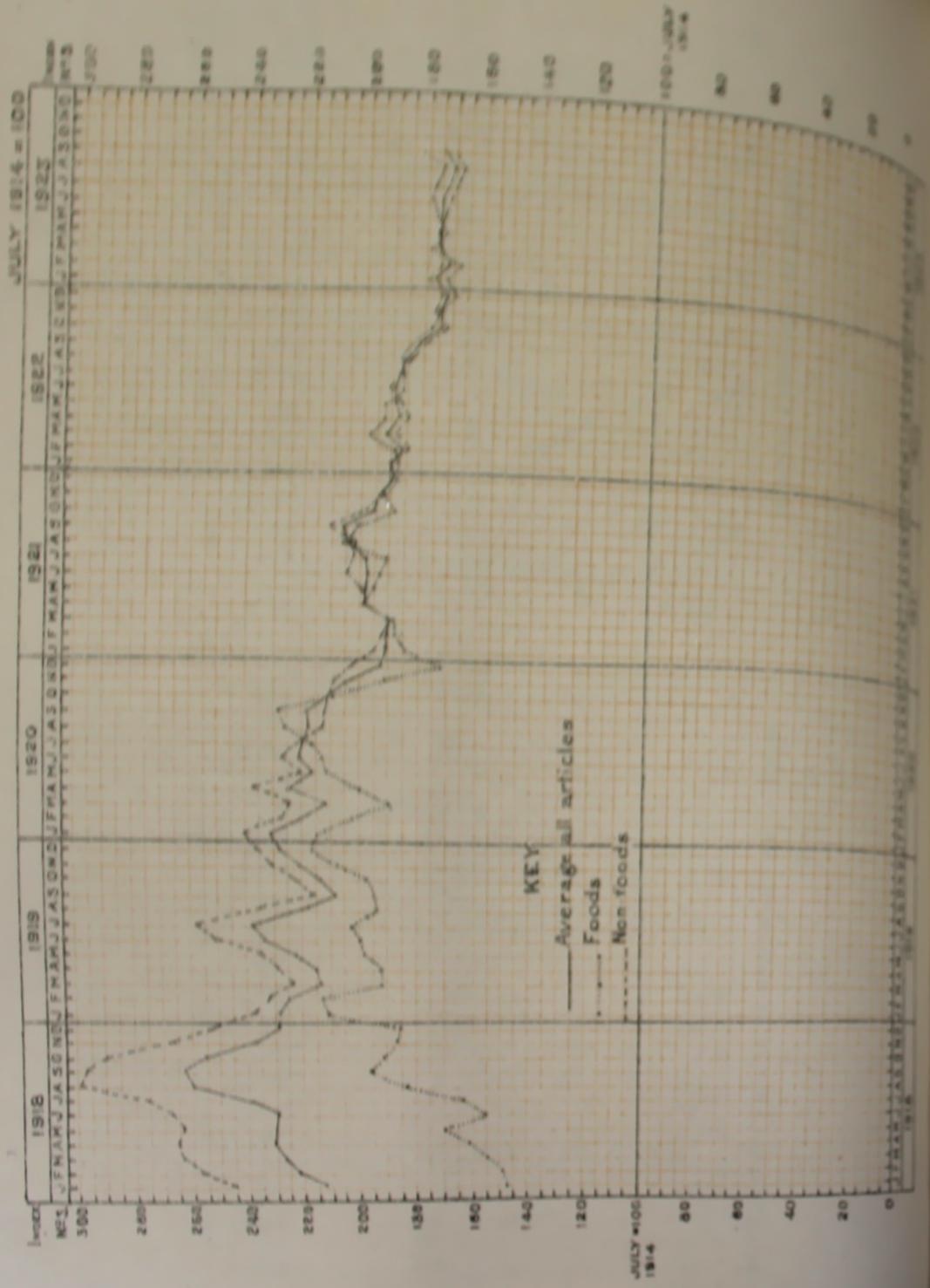
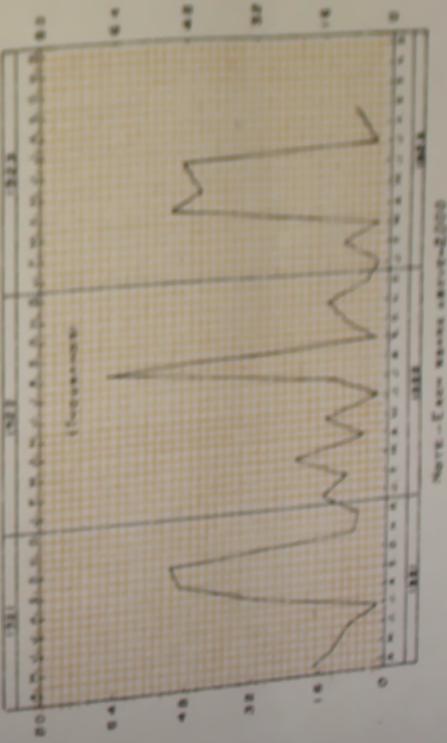


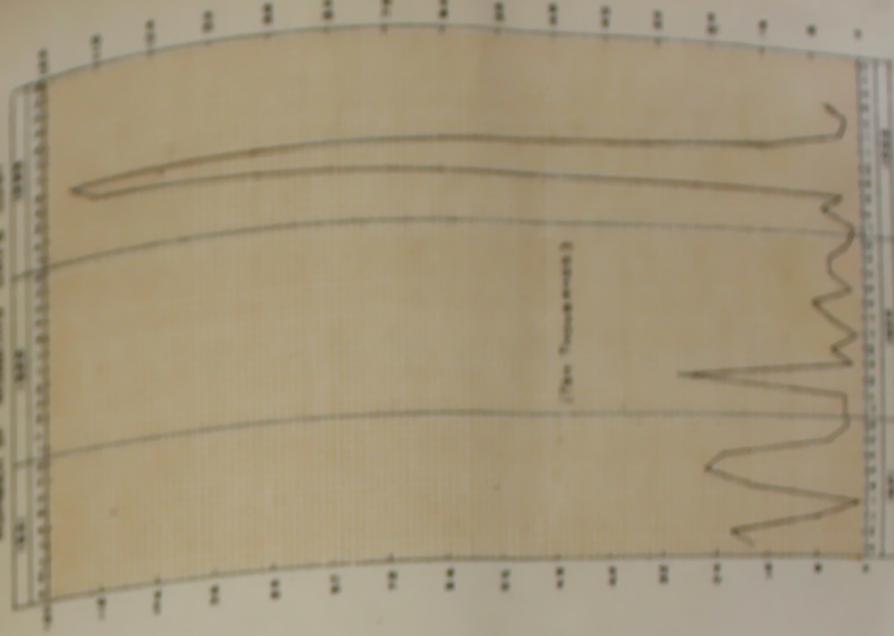
CHART N° 11

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED



NOTE.—Each week about 2,000

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED



NOTE.—(1) The weekly number of workpeople employed in Bombay is about 2,000 in 1923 and 1924 and the number of workpeople employed in Bombay is about 2,000 in 1925. (2) The number of workpeople employed in Bombay is about 2,000 in 1923 and 1924 and the number of workpeople employed in Bombay is about 2,000 in 1925. (3) The number of workpeople employed in Bombay is about 2,000 in 1923 and 1924 and the number of workpeople employed in Bombay is about 2,000 in 1925.