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THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Employment

DURING the month ended 15th April 1923, the supply of labour in the Presidency excluding Bombay City and Island was generally plentiful. In Bombay most of the cotton mills for which returns have been received report a shortage of labour. In other industries in Bombay City the supply of labour was adequate. In nineteen representative cotton mills in Bombay for which reports have been regularly received, the attendance of labour was not normal, the average absenteeism during the month being 18·76 per cent. as compared with 25·4 per cent. in the previous month, and 10·7 per cent. two months ago. As stated in the last issue, arrangements have been made in consultation with the Millowners' Association, to collect information from mills, the most representative in Bombay. These show a figure of absenteeism during the month of 20·23 per cent. In future months, it will be possible to compare absenteeism month by month on these larger number of returns. Absenteeism in the mills in Bombay City, for which returns have been received, rose by about one-third (from 19·50 per cent. to 25·25 per cent.) after the monthly pay-day which was on 15th March in most mills.

In regard to Ahmedabad, the Secretary of the Millowners' Association reports as follows: "In the first *hapta* of March the Dhed community, from which the spinners are mostly drawn, had its marriage season which resulted in increasing the percentage of absenteeism to about 8. The percentage of absenteeism in weavers did not however go up and was about 5 per cent. Weavers in some of the mills struck work at noon on the 31st March, owing to the reduction in wages announced from the 1st of April. There has been a general strike from the 1st, and all mills except five are closed."

In Sholapur, the supply of labour, with one exception in the mills for which returns have been received, was equal to the demand. All the reporting mills report an increase in absenteeism, an increase of 6·85 per cent. as against the previous month. The percentage absenteeism was 19·45 as compared with 14·34 per cent. in the previous month.

In Broach, the supply of labour was adequate and normal for this time of the year. The average absenteeism was about 12·8 per cent. during the month as compared with 14·4 per cent. in the previous month.

In Surat also the supply of labour was adequate in the cotton mills and improvement in attendance was recorded. Absenteeism was about 6·4 per cent. as compared with 9·08 per cent., the figure for the previous month.

In the engineering industry in Bombay, the supply of unskilled labour was adequate. Reports show that there was plenty of labour, but generally of a low standard. One establishment reports a shortage of boiler-makers, blacksmiths, coppersmiths and moulders, while another states that the percentage of skilled labour is very low. Absenteeism in engineering workshops as a whole showed a slight increase from 17·23 per cent. in the previous month (based on the returns from three large workshops) to 17·80 per cent. in the month under review.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamation Schemes of the Development Directorate the average absenteeism remained approximately at the level of the previous month, *viz.*, 4·75 per cent. as against 4·5 per cent. last month. On the construction of *chauls* (tenements) at Naigaum and DeLisle Road no change in absenteeism was recorded as compared with the figure in the previous month, *viz.*, 3 per cent. At Worli a decrease from 8 to 6 per cent. was recorded.

The supply of unskilled labour employed by the Bombay Port Trust was during the month under review not equal to the demand. This shortage was reported to be due to the *Holi* holidays. This is the only instance of a shortage in Dock labour employed by the Port Trust recorded during the past five months. Absenteeism among the monthly paid labour rose slightly from 15.31 last month to 16.9 per cent. in the month under review. This figure, however, was below the figure recorded in the corresponding month of last year when absenteeism was as high as 21.2 per cent. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply of skilled and unskilled labour continued to be equal to the demand. The percentage absenteeism decreased from 10 per cent. in the previous month to 9 per cent. in the month of March.

In Karachi the supply of skilled labour employed in the engineering workshop of the Port Trust continued to be plentiful, and that of unskilled labour again in excess. The average absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers, for whom record is kept, remained at the level of the previous month, *viz.*, 5 per cent.

The Cost of Living

In March 1923 the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was approximately one point below the level of 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 is a fall of 7 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 20 per cent. below the high-water mark (October 1920).

The Price of Salt

There was a rise of 29 points in the price of salt, but owing to the small importance of salt in working class family expenditure as compared with food-grains, clothing and house rent, the effect of this on the final index was almost negligible. Had there been no increase in salt the final index number would have been 153.99 in place of 154.25, a difference of .26 points or .17 per cent. Had there been a rise of 29

points in rice the index number would have been 162.73 in place of 154.25, a difference of 8.48 points or 5.5 per cent.

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 7.

The Wholesale Index Number

In March the wholesale index number rose five points or 3 per cent. above the level of February. The general level is now that of January 1923, *i.e.*, 77 per cent. above the pre-war level (July 1914). The increase is in foods, non-foods remaining almost the same. The movement by groups will be found on page 10 in the article on wholesale prices in March. 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.				
	November 1922.	December 1922.	January 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.
Foods ..	76	70	73	67	79
Non-foods ..	77	74	79	75	76
All articles ..	76	73	77	72	77

Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes decreased from 22 in February to 9 during March. The number of disputes involving stoppages of work as beginning in March was 8. There was one dispute which began in February, still in progress during the month. The number of disputes settled in March was 9. During March 3,167 workpeople were involved as compared with 11,789 in the previous month and 220,095 in March 1922. The aggregate duration of all disputes during March was over 37,000 working days as compared with nearly 69,000 working days in February 1923

and 301,000 days in March 1922. The undercurrent of unrest in the Ahmedabad mill industry referred to in the March issue of the *Labour Gazette* resulted in a strike on the 1st of April which affects 48,000 workers. An article on this strike will be found on page 19 of this issue.

Cotton Mill Production

The main features of the two following tables are an increase in yarn production and a considerable decrease in the production of woven goods in the cotton mills in this Presidency during the eleven months ended February 1923, as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year:—

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	February			February		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	28	28	26	11	15	13
Ahmedabad ..	7	7	7	5	6	10
Other centres ..	4	5	5	3	3	2
Total, Presidency ..	39	40	38	19	24	25

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Eleven months ended February			Eleven months ended February		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	314	322	322	171	191	181
Ahmedabad ..	70	78	85	66	76	81
Other centres ..	47	55	55	28	32	30
Total, Presidency ..	431	455	460	265	299	292

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

	Net rate per lb. in annas.		
	March 1923		
	March 1922	February 1923	March 1923
Longcloth ..	26	22	22
T. Cloth ..	23	21	21
Chuddees ..	23	20	20

The Outlook

The balance of trade statistics in a subsequent paragraph are an encouraging indication of the outlook. With many countries in Europe still distressed, progress is retarded as our markets in Europe are of importance directly and indirectly. India can never escape the consequences of that economic solidarity which binds her closely to the outside world. The American Trade Commissioner received on the 31st of March a cable from Washington as follows:—"Money rates advancing. Production very high. Buying heavy throughout country. Wages advancing. Business excellent. Inflation feared." The number of cotton spindles in use in January in the United States for the first time passed 35,000,000 and the consumption of cotton totalled 610,375 bales, which has been exceeded only in March 1916 and May 1917.

The Balance of Trade

The 12 months' figures.

	Favourable (+), Unfavourable (-) (crores of rupees)
Balance 12 months ended March 1923 ..	+ 28
" " " " 1922 ..	- 32
" " " " 1921 ..	- 49
" " " " 1920 ..	+ 99
" " " " 1914 ..	- 1

During the 12 months ended March 1923 there has been a favourable balance of trade to the extent of 28 crores as compared with an unfavourable balance of 32 crores last year, and 49 crores two years ago.

India

	In lakhs of rupees				
	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923
Exports (private merchandise) ..	28.83	27.80	29.45	31.60	32.63
Imports do. ..	20.64	19.30	21.58	19.37	18.54
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 8.19	+ 8.60	+ 8.07	+ 12.21	+ 14.09
Balance of transactions in treasure (private) ..	- 2.97	- 1.48	- 6.42	- 10.78	- 7.19
Visible balance of trade including securities ..	+ 5.96	+ 6.62	+ 1.94	+ 1.43	+ 6.90

Plus (+) indicates favourable and minus (-) adverse balance.

Bombay

	In lakhs of rupees					
	October 1922	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	4.38	7.84	8.21	11.08	12.29	12.92
Imports do.	8.17	8.23	7.28	7.92	6.60	6.91
Balance of Trade in merchandise	-3.79	-0.39	+0.93	+3.16	+5.69	+6.01
Imports of treasure	3.47	2.82	3.15	5.96	10.39	7.09
Exports of treasure	31	4	5	..	7	23
Balance of transactions in treasure	-3.16	-2.78	-3.10	-5.96	-10.32	-6.86

Karachi

Exports (private merchandise)	54	2.44	2.66	3.31	3.63	2.96
Imports do.	2.25	1.66	2.08	1.70	2.77	1.82
Balance of Trade in merchandise	-1.69	+0.79	56	+1.61	+0.86	1.14
Imports of treasure	..	4	2	3	6	7
Exports of treasure	1	..	..	6	..	..
Balance of transactions in treasure	+1	-4	-2	+3	-6	-7

Note.—Plus (+) signifies net exports and minus (-) signifies net imports.

Business Conditions

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

	a. d.	a. d.	
May 1922	1 3 ⁵ / ₃₂	November 1922	1 3 ⁵ / ₈
June	1 3 ¹¹ / ₁₆	December	1 2 ¹⁵ / ₁₆
July	1 3 ⁵ / ₈	January 1923	1 4 ¹ / ₁₆
August	1 3 ²¹ / ₃₂	February	1 4 ¹⁵ / ₃₂
September	1 3 ¹ / ₂	March	1 4 ¹ / ₈
October	1 3 ¹⁷ / ₃₂	April	1 4 ¹ / ₁₆

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay.

There was a fall of five crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in March as compared with the preceding month. Karachi clearings were the same while those in Calcutta and Rangoon increased by 2 crores each. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees †

	January 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in March 1923 as compared with the previous month.
Bombay	59	67	62	-5
Karachi	3	3	3	..
Calcutta	69	77	79	+2
Rangoon	8	9	11	+2
Total (four ports)	139	156	155	-1

† 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The latest report shows the rupee portion of the reserve in Bombay at 18 crores. In addition there is in Bombay Rs. 14 crores in the form of gold and the percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India is 63 as against 64 in February 1923 and 63 in January 1923.

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

January 1922	Rs. 1,650	September 1922	Rs. 1,517
February	1,593	October	1,439
March	1,604	November	1,266
April	1,613	December	1,222
May	1,609	January 1923	1,255
June	1,659	February	1,216
July	1,688	March	1,115
August	1,578		

The average amount paid up was Rs. 371 per share throughout the period. In March 1923 as compared with the same period last year there was a fall of 30 per cent. in the average market quotations.

The Late Mr. Mead

A large group of friends have learnt, with a deep sense of personal bereavement, of the untimely death of P. J. Mead, C.S.I., C.I.E. As Chief Secretary to Government he was a warm friend of the Labour Office, and was especially interested in the statistical side of its activities. He appreciated to an unusual degree the value in the Secretariat of a fact-finding agency in labour and statistical matters. His fellow-workers miss his personality, which was sympathetic and conciliatory, reliable and ungrudgingly helpful. A tireless worker, with a clear grasp of detail, he leaves after nearly 29 years' service in this Presidency, very pleasant memories behind him.

THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR MARCH 1923

A fall of one point

All articles .. 54 per cent.

In March 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 one point below the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 155 in February and 154 in March 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 prices of food grains increased in March, those of rice, jowari and bajri rising by 2 points each, while wheat and tur dal remained stationary. There was a fall of 3 points in the price of gram. In anticipation of the enhancement of the salt duty, the price of salt increased by 29 points. The noticeable changes in "other foods" were a decrease of 15 points in raw sugar, 27 points in potatoes and a rise of 10 points in onions.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	54	82	85	69	73	56
February	54	76	81	62	66	55
March	56	72	77	60	65	54
April	64	67	72	60	62	..
May	47	68	73	67	63	..
June	48	74	81	73	65	..
July	49	86	96	77	65	..
August	53	79	91	80	64	..
September	65	72	92	85	65	..
October	75	74	93	83	62	..
November	75	73	86	82	66	..
December	83	74	81	79	61	..
Yearly average	54	78	82	72	64	..

The articles included in the index are cereals, pulses, other articles of food, fuel and lighting,

Food only .. 49 per cent.

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 February and March 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 8:—

Articles	July 1914	February 1923	March 1923	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in March 1923 over or below February 1923
Rice	100	125	127	+2
Wheat	100	135	135	..
Jowari	100	107	109	+2
Bajri	100	122	124	+2
Gram	100	100	97	-3
Tur dal	100	134	134	..
Sugar (raw)	100	191	176	-15
Sugar (refined)	100	228	227	-1
Tea	100	140	140	..
Salt	100	123	152	+29
Food	100	159	159	..
Mutton	100	231	249	+18
Milk	100	191	191	..
Chick	100	170	170	..
Potatoes	100	186	159	-27
Onions	100	340	351	+10
Cocconut oil	100	113	113	..
All food articles (weighted average)	100	150	149	-1

Note.—A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the index number was published in the Labour Gazette for September 1921.

BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores.)	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	February 1923.	March 1923.	July 1914.	February 1923.	March 1923.
Cereals—	Maund	70	Rs. 5·594	Rs. 6·974	Rs. 7·078	Rs. 391·58	Rs. 488·18	Rs. 495·46
Rice	"	21	5·594	7·547	7·547	117·47	158·49	159·49
Wheat	"	11	4·354	4·667	4·734	47·89	51·34	52·10
Jowari	"	6	4·313	5·281	5·333	25·88	31·69	32·00
Bajri	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average—Cereals	—	—	100	125	127	582·82	729·70	738·02
Pulses—	Maund	10	4·302	6·880	6·750	43·02	68·80	67·50
Gram	"	3	5·844	7·844	7·844	17·53	23·53	23·53
Turdal	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average—Pulses	—	—	100	153	150	60·55	92·33	91·03
Other food articles	Maund	7	8·557	16·328	15·026	59·90	114·30	105·18
Sugar (raw)	"	2	7·620	17·391	17·297	15·24	34·78	34·59
Sugar (refined)	"	1	40·000	56·141	56·141	1·00	1·40	1·40
Tea	"	40	2·130	2·620	3·240	10·65	13·10	16·20
Salt	"	5	0·323	·641	0·641	9·04	17·95	17·95
Beef	Seer	28	0·417	·964	1·037	13·76	31·81	34·22
Mutton	"	33	9·198	17·583	17·583	128·77	246·16	246·16
Milk	Maund	14	50·792	86·484	86·484	76·19	129·73	129·73
Ghee	"	1½	4·479	8·313	7·141	49·27	91·44	78·55
Potatoes	"	11	1·552	5·287	5·443	4·66	15·86	16·31
Onions	"	3	25·396	28·568	28·568	12·70	14·28	14·28
Cocconut Oil	"	½	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average—Other food articles	—	—	100	187	182	381·18	710·81	694·51
Total and Average—All food articles	—	—	100	150	149	1,024·55	1,532·84	1,523·64
Fuel and lighting—	Case	5	4·375	7·656	7·500	21·88	38·28	37·50
Kerosene oil	Maund	48	0·792	1·281	1·281	38·02	61·49	61·49
Firewood	"	1	0·542	0·349	0·365	0·54	0·35	0·35
Coal	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting	—	—	100	166	164	60·44	100·12	99·36
Clothing—	Lb.	27	0·594	1·297	1·297	16·04	35·02	35·02
Chudders	"	25	0·641	1·443	1·432	16·03	36·08	35·90
Shirtings	"	36	0·583	1·313	1·313	20·99	47·27	47·27
T. Cloth	"	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average—Clothing	—	—	100	223	223	53·06	118·37	118·19
House rent	Per month	10	11·302	18·70	18·700	113·02	187·0	187·0
Grand Total and General Average	—	—	100	155	154	1,251·07	1,938·33	1,828·09

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 March 1923 at March price levels was Rs. 1,928·09, i.e., an increase of 54 per cent. (Rs. 1,251·07 = 100, Rs. 1,928·09 = 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.	
		February 1923.	March 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.
Cereals—	31·4	125	127	3,915·6	3,987·8
Rice	9·4	135	135	1,268·1	1,269·0
Wheat	3·8	107	109	407·4	414·2
Jowari	2·1	122	124	257·0	260·4
Bajri	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average Index No.	46·7	125	127	5,848·0	5,931·4
Pulses—	3·1	160	157	495·7	486·7
Gram	1·3	134	134	174·5	174·2
Turdal	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average Index No.	4·4	152	150	670·2	660·9
Other food articles—	4·8	191	176	915·8	844·8
Sugar (raw)	1·2	228	227	273·8	272·4
Sugar (refined)	0·1	140	140	14·0	14·0
Tea	0·9	123	152	110·7	136·8
Salt	0·7	199	199	139·0	139·3
Beef	1·1	231	249	254·3	273·9
Mutton	10·3	191	191	1,969·4	1,967·3
Milk	6·1	170	170	1,038·8	1,037·0
Ghee	4·0	186	159	742·4	636·0
Potatoes	0·4	341	351	136·3	140·4
Onions	1·0	113	113	112·5	113·0
Cocconut oil	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average Index No.	30·6	187	182	5,707·1	5,574·9
Fuel and lighting—	1·8	175	171	315·0	307·8
Kerosene oil	3·0	162	162	485·1	486·0
Firewood	0·1	64	67	6·4	6·7
Coal	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average Index No.	4·9	165	163	806·5	800·5
Clothing—	1·3	218	218	283·9	283·4
Dhotes	1·3	225	223	292·6	289·9
Shirtings	1·7	225	225	382·8	382·5
T. Cloth	—	—	—	—	—
Total and Average Index No.	4·3	223	222	959·4	955·8
House rent	9·1	165	165	1,506·1	1,501·5
Grand total of weights	100	—	—	—	—
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)	....	155	154	15,497·2	15,425·0



WHOLESALE PRICES IN MARCH

BOMBAY*

In March 1923, the index number of wholesale prices in Bombay showed an abrupt rise of 3 per cent. in the general level of prices as compared with February; but the level was the same as that in January 1923. The increase was mainly due to the rise in food articles. The non-food articles remained almost stationary during the month. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year prices have fallen by 8 per cent., the fall from the twelve monthly average of 1922 being 4 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.

The net result of movements in the groups is set out below:—

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent. in March 1923 as compared with	
		the preceding month (February 1923).	the corresponding month of last year (March 1922).
1. Cereals ..	7	+ 2	- 28
2. Pulses ..	2	- 2	- 44
3. Sugar ..	3	+ 15	+ 8
4. Other food ..	3	+ 10	+ 23
Total food ..	15	+ 7	- 10
5. Oilseeds ..	4	+ 5	- 1
6. Raw cotton ..	5	+ 1	+ 22
7. Cotton manufactures ..	6	+ 1	- 10
8. Other textiles ..	2	..	..
9. Hides and skins ..	3	+ 2	- 20
10. Metals ..	5	- 4	- 3
11. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	3	- 1	- 26
Total non-food ..	28	+ 1	- 7
General average ..	43	+ 3	- 8

*Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 45-47.

The general average for food articles rose by 7 per cent. during the month. With the exception of pulses, all food groups advanced, cereals rising by 2 per cent., sugar by 15 per cent. and "other food" by 10 per cent. On account of the increase in the duty on salt, the price of salt rose by 43 per cent. There was a fall of 2 per cent. in the price of pulses.

In comparison with the previous month the level of non-food articles remained almost stationary, a rise in the price of oilseeds and hides and skins being balanced by a fall in metals and "other raw and manufactured articles." The most noticeable changes during the month were an increase of 5 per cent. in oilseeds, 2 per cent. in hides and skins and a decrease of 4 per cent. in metals. Changes in other groups could be comprised within a range of one per cent.

The subjoined table compares March 1923 prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year. The table expresses the price levels as percentages of the twelve-monthly average of 1922:—

100 = average of 1922

Group ^s .	March 1922.	June 1922.	Sept. 1922.	Dec. 1922.	Feb. 1923.	March 1923.
I. Cereals ..	107	102	99	78	76	77
II. Pulses ..	118	91	90	75	68	66
III. Sugar ..	103	101	98	100	97	112
IV. Other food ..	104	100	104	115	115	128
Total food ..	106	101	100	91	90	96
V. Oilseeds ..	100	109	96	96	94	99
VI. Raw cotton ..	96	112	106	102	116	118
VII. Cotton manufactures ..	103	105	94	91	93	93
VIII. Other textiles ..	100	100	100	100	100	100
IX. Hides and Skins ..	118	96	100	86	93	94
X. Metals ..	103	102	97	100	104	100
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	103	101	95	96	76	76
Total non-food ..	103	104	98	95	95	96
General average—all articles ..	104	103	98	94	93	96

The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay is now below the average of



1922. 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
Three-monthly " 1923 ..	173	177	175

The construction of the wholesale index is shown in the following table:—

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	July 1914.	March 1923.		
			Total Numbers.	Average.	
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri).	7	700	892	127
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal).	2	200	185	93
3	Sugar (Refined and raw)	3	300	726	242
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3	300	889	296
5	Total, all food	15	1,500	2,692	179
6	Oilseeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and gingelly)	4	400	554	139
7	Raw cotton	2	200	425	213
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.)	6	600	1,359	227
9	Other textiles (Silk)	2	200	277	139
10	Hides and skins	3	300	401	134
11	Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.)	5	500	935	187
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (kerosene and coal)	3	300	435	145
13	Total, non-food	25	2,500	4,388	176
14	General Average	40	4,000	7,078	177

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 February and March 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 February 1923 = 100

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	95	115	101	118
Wheat ..	100	73	76	93	87
Jowari ..	100	75	79	75	99
Bajri ..	100	76	98	83	98
Average—Cereals ..	100	80	92	88	101
Pulses—					
Gram ..	100	66	93	75	74
Turdal ..	100	93	102	96	103
Average—Pulses ..	100	80	98	86	89
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined) ..	100	91	102	105	102
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	75	82	82	79
Tea ..	100	114	142	104	110
Salt ..	100	73	95	147	130
Beef ..	100	88	59	59	59
Mutton ..	100	65	78	65	71
Milk ..	100	43	57	76	76
Ghee ..	100	85	87	82	86
Potatoes ..	100	59	53	77	60
Onions ..	100	89	108	63	63
Cocoanut oil ..	100	90	112	93	98
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	79	89	87	85
Average—All food articles ..	100	79	90	87	89

Bombay prices in March 1923 = 100

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	90	113	99	118
Wheat ..	100	66	76	93	87
Jowari ..	100	73	84	73	90
Bajri ..	100	75	100	88	97
Average—Cereals ..	100	76	94	88	98
Pulses—					
Gram ..	100	67	89	73	74
Turdal ..	100	86	102	86	102
Average—Pulses ..	100	77	96	80	88
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined) ..	100	118	137	129	132
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	71	84	77	70
Tea ..	100	114	143	104	110
Salt ..	100	77	91	149	120
Beef ..	100	88	59	59	59
Mutton ..	100	60	72	60	71
Milk ..	100	43	57	76	76
Ghee ..	100	87	93	82	86
Potatoes ..	100	59	66	70	63
Onions ..	100	85	123	74	56
Cocoanut oil ..	100	89	112	93	98
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	81	94	88	86
Average—All food articles ..	100	79	94	87	89

On page 49 will be found statistics of food prices in February and March 1923 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.



HIGH PRICES IN GERMANY

OFFICIAL INDEX NUMBERS

In the following table (the figures for which are taken from the official *Wirtschaft und Statistik*), the movements of prices in Germany are set out. The rise in the cost of living is calculated for 71 municipal areas after taking into account the kind and quantity of certain necessities of life for a family of two adults and three children. The index of the cost of living does not represent the standard of minimum existence.

1913-14=100

Period.	Index number of the cost of living.	Index number of retail prices of food articles.
January 1922	1,991	2,463
February	2,410	3,020
July	5,392	6,836
August	7,765	9,746
September	13,319	15,417
October	22,066	26,623
November	44,610	54,982
December	68,505	80,700
January 1923	112,027	136,600
February	264,300	318,300

Thus the cost of living in Germany was 2,643 times in February 1923 what it is estimated in the pre-war year. The price of food is over 3,000 times what it was in the same period. The results of inflation are clearly seen by such startling an example. The movement of wholesale prices by groups from December 1922 are shown in the table below. This table is also based on official returns.

Average prices of year 1913=1

Group.	December 1922.	January 1923.	5th February 1923.	25th February 1923.
Cereals and potatoes	1,009	2,086	4,204	3,349
Fats, sugar, meat and fish	1,221	2,642	5,344	4,590
Coffee, cocoa, hops, etc.	2,485	4,593	10,413	7,585
Hides and leather	2,181	5,131	10,374	6,253
Textiles	2,897	5,320	12,953	8,150
Metal and petroleum	1,844	4,051	9,837	5,755
Coal and iron	1,873	2,831	6,089	8,115
Total (all goods)	1,475	2,785	5,967	5,257
Imported goods	2,432	4,758	11,176	7,170
German goods	1,283	2,390	4,926	4,875

The wholesale index number has risen no less than 525,600 per cent. as compared with 77 per cent. in the case of India (Bombay). Textiles have risen most 814,900 per cent. as compared with 106 per cent. in India (Bombay). These also show in an aggravated form the effects of unrestricted inflation. At the end of 1921 Germany's note circulation amounted to a little over 113½ milliards; twelve months later it was 1,280 milliards, an increase in the output of paper currency of the Imperial Bank of Germany equal to more than 1,000 per cent. The increase in note circulation has been closely matched by the growth in the Reichsbank's holding of discounts and Treasury bills which now exceed 1,000 milliards.

THE EFFECTS OF INFLATION

The most significant feature which appears from a study of the official statistics in the *Wirtschaft und Statistik* and *Reichsarbbeitsblatt* is the very great reduction in the remuneration of labour. Although the manufacturer is proverbially wealthy, his house-maid gets as wages 2,000 marks a month or at the present rate of exchange,* about 5 annas a day or Rs. 9-6-0 a month. To make up for this the general taxpayer has to provide subsidies. The official cost of living index in Berlin shows a rise of 37 times what it was at the beginning of the year while wages of bricklayers show a rise of under 26 times and the wages of compositors almost 20 times. If a comparison be made with the *Wirtschaft und Statistik* cost of living data and the increase in the money wages of bricklayers and compositors in Berlin the wages in December 1922 were only 58 and 50 per cent. respectively of the 1914 rates in purchasing power. This great fall in the standard of living will lead to a serious decrease in the efficiency of labour. It is already wellknown that the standard of living among the middle classes and especially Government officials has fallen very considerably.

* 1 Re.=6,570 German marks.



NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE

DISCUSSION IN PARLIAMENT

Early in March, Dr. Salter (Bermondsey, W., Labour) moved in the House of Commons "that, in view of the practically universal acceptance of the principle that a living wage for all workers should be the first charge on industry, and in view of the large measure of agreement with respect to the advisability of fixing legal minimum time rates of wages reached at the National Industrial Conference, this House urges the Government to proceed without delay with the Bill introduced by the Government of the day in 1919, constituting a Commission to inquire into and report upon legal minimum time rates of wages."

He said that by the end of the war practically every worker in the country was receiving a living wage, but now a large number were in receipt of less than a living wage for full-time employment. In certain counties agricultural labourers were paid 21s. or 22s. a week. Engineers in London were receiving 40s. 5d. a week, and out of such wages many men had to pay £1 a week in rent. A legal minimum wage should now be secured to the workers by statute or legal administrative process. In short, he asked for the reintroduction of the Bill of 1919 to constitute a Commission to inquire into and report upon the universal desire for a minimum wage.

Major Boyd Carpenter, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Labour, said, whatever differences of opinion there might be on the subject they were not due to want of will, but to an appreciation of the many practical difficulties in the way of its realisation. He pointed out how the scheme to establish a national minimum wage in New South Wales in 1920 broke down in operation. The establishment of a Royal Commission was entirely unnecessary, because the Trade Boards which were in existence, were fulfilling the very functions for which Honourable Members were pleading. Further, the Cave Committee's report was entirely against the establishment of a national minimum wage, and the proposal was also turned down by the Committee of the Trades Union Congress. There must be certain well-defined principles. Was a bachelor to be put in the same position as a married man with three children? In

view of the fact that the Trade Boards had undoubtedly ameliorated the lot of the workers, there was no sufficient justification for extending them to organised trades or for embarking upon larger operations. While Government were not in any way hostile to enquiries into conditions of industrial wages, he thought that the proposed Royal Commission was undesirable and unnecessary.

The motion was ultimately rejected by 189 votes to 176.

WAGES TO PEONS IN BOMBAY

A CORRECTION

On page 14 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1923, in line 21, in regard to Statement (1) it was stated that "Naiks and Boys in banks and firms receive less pay than those in quasi-Government offices". This statement was incorrect. It should have read "Naiks and Boys in banks receive less pay than those in firms but more than those in quasi-Government offices".

HOURS OF LABOUR

DOUBLE SHIFTS IN BOMBAY MILLS

On page 24 of the March issue of the *Labour Gazette* the names of four mills which had recently discontinued the double shift system of 8 hours was published. The Textile Mill, as mentioned in the March issue, decided to discontinue the double shift system with effect from the 1st of April 1923. A notice was put up on the 27th February by the management to the effect that owing to the extreme shortage of hands, especially in the card room and spinning room during the previous six weeks resulting in very poor production, and also owing to the poor demand for cloth, the mill would revert to a single shift from 1st April 1923. On the 21st March the management decided to run the spinning department on a single shift of 10 hours combining the operatives from both day and night shifts as the two shifts were working with only a half their full number of workers. Arrangements were also made with the assistance of the Spring Mill, which is under the same Managing Agents, to provide all the looms with an adequate supply



of warps from the 1st of April so that both spinning and weaving departments could continue without interruption a one shift working day.

On the 2nd of April, 2,400 operatives of the mill struck work against the discontinuance by the management of the night shift from the 1st of April and the selection of the men required for the day shift from the men of both shifts. The strikers demanded the immediate payment of (1) their wages for March 1923 and (2) the bonus for three months' service from January to March 1923. The strikers were informed that they would be paid their wages as soon as the accounts were ready and that the men chosen for work in the day shift should resume work. Ultimately the strikers were paid off on the morning of the 10th April and the mill re-started work with about 2,500 operatives.

Two other mills, the Simplex Mill and the Spring Mill, have also decided to revert to a single shift system with effect from the 1st of May 1923. In the former mill notice has been given to all operatives that their services will not be required after the 1st of May 1923. Those operatives chosen for re-employment will be subsequently notified. No difficulty is anticipated at this mill as, owing to the existing shortage of labour in the spinning and carding departments when working two shifts, the majority of the discharged men will be re-employed. In the Spring Mill, only the weaving department is at present working a double shift. It is anticipated that almost all the operatives of both the shifts will be re-engaged by the management for work in the single shift of 10 hours.

The only mill which will still be working a double shift after the 1st of May is the Ruby Mill. Two months ago there were four mills on the double shift. Four months ago there were six mills and in August 1922 there were eight mills.

Labour Investigator for Ahmedabad

As stated on page 18 of the March *Labour Gazette*, the Governor in Council is pleased to sanction the creation of an appointment of Labour Investigator for Ahmedabad on a

salary of Rs. 275—15—350 per mensem with a conveyance allowance of Rs. 40 per mensem. The appointment will form part of the Labour Office. An article on Labour Investigators was published on page 16 of the *Labour Gazette* for October 1922.

BOMBAY MILLOWNERS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Bombay Millowners' Association was held in Bombay on 19th March 1923. Mr. J. A. Kay, the Chairman, in proposing the adoption of the report of the Committee for 1922, said:—

THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY IN 1922.

"The year has been one of fairly good profits. Opening as it did following the good monsoon of 1921—with order books well filled—the demand for manufactured goods began to fall away in June and the later months of the year found little or no demand with the result that stocks in mills began to accumulate and sales could not be effected at little more than covering prices. The margin made therefore during the first half of the trading period more than balanced the remaining poor trading months, and I estimate the profits for the year to be 40 per cent. less than the previous year and 70 per cent. less than the high-water mark reached in 1920. The position at the moment, however, is one of some considerable concern for not only is there little or no demand for cloth and yarn; but stocks are accumulating to such an extent, that unless conditions improve it may be imperative for some of our mills to curtail their production, or for the industry as a whole to endeavour to lessen its cost of production by some adjustment in wages which is an important item in manufacturing costs.

The causes which have brought about this state of affairs are manifold and are chiefly (1) the dumping of Japanese goods at low prices both in India and Africa, thus forcing down the rates for Indian made goods, (2) dealers having been forced to realise on their stocks of local made goods at the best prices obtainable in order to meet losses in speculation, (3) lack of confidence between dealers and consequent curtailment of credit and (4) the increased use of *khadi* cloth which has become popular amongst the agricultural classes and which wears longer than the finer cloths.

I view the competition from Japan with some concern, for not only do the import figures of Japanese goods during the last three years show a very large increase, but from our report you will see that the



number of spindles in Japan has increased from 3,488,262 in 1919 to 4,532,036 in 1922, while in China the spindleage has increased from 1,416,556 to over 1,888,000 in the same period, whereas in India we show an increase only of some 641,539 spindles for the corresponding years. In increase of looms we have held our own. The act remains, however, that Far Eastern mills have indulged in overproduction, worked their mills to the utmost capacity, and have overtraded, thus helping to demoralize our own markets in their desire to find an outlet for their manufactured goods. I think this matter should occupy the attention of those who are going to be responsible for applying the new accepted principle of 'protection with discrimination'.

Despite these facts however, I feel,—following the good monsoon of last year—that we have reasonably good times ahead of us. Margins of profits will be lower; but I see no reason why the industry should not continue to have a period of steady trading, though the next few months are going to be trying ones for us. The price of raw materials, however, will play an important part, for I doubt whether the world can afford to clothe itself in cotton goods with raw cotton at present prices. Take the agriculturists of this country whose wholesale realising prices for their produce have come down in the case of cereals, pulses and oilseeds to some 25 per cent. to 30 per cent. over 1914 rates, whilst the cost of raw cotton is 100 per cent. over 1914 and manufactured goods even higher than that. We want cotton and more cotton, not necessarily cotton of 1.5/16 staple but quantities of good average staple which will enable us to market our goods at a price which the consumer can afford to pay.

The industry as a whole is in a sound state and is benefiting from the conservative policy it adopted during prosperous times. Improvements in many mills are still going on and in the several mills I have been privileged to visit during the year, I have been particularly struck with the alterations made to the end of improving process and making changes for the betterment of conditions under which labour toils.

WAGES AND CONDITIONS OF WORK

With the exception of small isolated strikes, labour has been contented and worked well throughout the year. It would have been surprising had it been otherwise, for we have been able to maintain the 100 per cent. advance on pre-war rate of wages, while according to the latest figures given by the Labour Office, the cost of living is some 20 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in 1920 on which an adjustment was made. The question of wages is one which, unless trade conditions improve, may call for your

serious consideration in the near future, but I do not think that members of this Association want to make a cut in wages, simply because the cost of living for our workpeople has fallen: or to make adjustments merely in reference to the cost of living index numbers. It appears to me to resolve itself into what the industry can afford to pay, for the principle of setting up any false standard of living whether high or low and trying to adjust industry to it, irrespective of trade conditions, is one which surely cannot be sound.

The Bill for the introduction of compulsory primary education in the Presidency has recently passed the Legislature and we shall watch the progress of this important measure with considerable interest, for the illiteracy and migratory habits of our workpeople have been one of the most difficult matters the industry has had to contend with up to this time. The introduction of this remarkable piece of legislation, so aptly described by one writer as "The Dawn of a Period" ought to bring into being in the distant future a class of industrial workers so essential to the textile trade and help to replace that class, which now keeps our factories running and which is 'agriculturist first and agriculturist last'.

WELFARE WORK

A year ago when addressing you, I made an appeal for increased welfare work amongst our employees, and it is gratifying to note that considerable progress has been made in attempts to brighten the surroundings of our workpeople. Work of this description, though at times somewhat disappointing, must in time tell its tale. We must try to keep our people away from the bucket and liquor shops and to improve their standard of living by offering what attractions we can to this end.

THE FACTORIES ACT

The amended factories Bill is now in force and I would like to take this opportunity of saying how much we appreciate Government's assistance and consideration in allowing us a certain number of exemptions during the transition period, for many of the changes affect the working of our factories and the adjustment to the new order of things will take some little time. The Director of Industries, Mr. R. D. Bell, has met your Committee and has at all times been ready to assist and to help us to introduce this new measure with as little disturbance to our concerns as is possible within the four walls of the law. We owe him our very best thanks.

TRADE UNIONS

Our views on Labour Unions are well known, and so long as they properly function in accordance with the principles of justice and liberty we have no objection to them, provided they are run for the benefit of



the workers themselves. It is somewhat surprising to find, however, that the number and membership of these Unions is steadily decreasing, the latest figures showing a decline of membership since last June of some 15 per cent. There are no Unions at the moment of mill workers, in Bombay City, so one is driven to the conclusion that many of the so-called Labour Unions of the past have merely been 'Strike Committees'.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

Some time ago the Industrial Disputes Committee, of which I was a member, sent in their report to Government, and I see questions as to why legislation had not yet been introduced were asked in Council only a few days ago. Whilst I am in full agreement that Courts of Inquiry and Conciliation should be set up, the fall back in trades unionism, which I have just mentioned, rather indicates that the time is not yet ripe, and we have to approve of the Honourable Member's action in his warning to the Council against precipitate legislation of this description, especially in view of what happened in the Calcutta Tramways strike of last December.

HOUSING OF LABOURERS

The occasion of the formal opening of the new Development *Chawls* by His Excellency the Governor, was a matter of considerable importance to industrial Bombay, and it is satisfactory to note that considerable progress has been made with the various housing schemes which are being undertaken by the Director of Development. The position at the moment, I understand, is that in Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Worli 1,300 rooms are available for occupation and out of this number 689 are occupied or have already been applied for. As you know, the question of rent is one which has had to receive careful consideration, and the Director of Development at first charged an economic rent of Rs. 14-8-0 per room, average, but Government have recently issued instructions that the minimum average rent of Rs. 10 should be charged. It remains to be seen whether so far as the textile industry is concerned, our workpeople will prefer tenements erected by employers, which upto now have been let at rents varying from Rs. 4 to 6 or whether they will prefer the new Development *chawls* which have been described as 'Strike Proof Houses'.

THE LABOUR OFFICE

The Labour Office has kept us regularly advised of all changes and conditions which affect labour, and the information furnished has been extremely useful. Recently, the report of the enquiry into the wages and hours of labour in the cotton mill industry was

published by this department and is now in your hands. I commend this very important publication to your earnest consideration. It is the first report of its kind and gives statistics which we require for our standardization of wages scheme, which I hope will be one of the first matters to be dealt with by our new Technical Secretary, once he assumes office. This I know has been long delayed but before the establishing of the Labour Office, the information we required was difficult, if not impossible, to obtain. The work on the enquiry into working class budgets has also been completed and furnishes striking and useful information.

The Labour Office a year ago was somewhat of an experiment, but I do not think anyone now doubts its usefulness and importance, which I am convinced will be felt more and more as years go by, and I should like to see all matters relating to labour and factories dealt with by this Department even to the extent of all industrial legislation, so that we should have a complete Department to deal with any measure which affects industry as a whole.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

One of the most important pieces of legislation introduced during the year has been the Workmen's Compensation Bill, and I know of few industrial measures which have presented so many difficulties, due to the peculiar habits of the Indian workmen and the recognition by Indian law of so many classes of potential dependants. The Bill as introduced was changed in two principles from that at first suggested, namely, first, in regard to lump sum payments: and secondly, in regard to the number and relationship of dependants. In view however of the strong arguments put forth in regard to the trouble involved in making monthly payments, we withdrew our objection, but we had to ask for reconsideration of the second and the main principle involved. We wanted the Act establishing as Government originally stated 'not so much the provision of facilities for the recovery of damages due to civic injury, as the mitigation of the hardships resulting from disablement in industries and compensation to be regulated by this principle'. The Bill, however, was passed as amended and whilst we appreciate the desire on the part of the framers of the Bill to give us a measure as easy and simple as possible to work, we did not approve of sacrificing this latter principle for expediency.

Your Committee have before them a suggestion that all insurance covering risks under this Bill should be undertaken by our Association, and we hope before the Act comes into force that some details of the scheme to this end will be placed before you."



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

Disputes in March .. 9 Workpeople involved .. 3,167

On page 52 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during March 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 March 1923.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in March 1923.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in March 1923.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in March 1923.*
	Started before 1st March.	Started in March.	Total.		
Textile ..	1	7	8	2,971	37,102
Engineering ..	..	1	1	196	196
Total, March 1923 ..	1	8	9	3,167	37,298
Total, February 1923 ..	2	20	22	11,789	68,590

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

There were 9 industrial disputes in March 1923, 8 of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 3,000 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced)

37,298 a considerable decrease on the February 1923 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes. The number of disputes settled in favour of the employees is noticeable.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results November 1922 to March 1923

	November 1922.	December 1922.	January 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	21	10	6	22	9
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	8	2	1	2	1
Fresh disputes begun ..	13	8	5	20	8
Disputes ended ..	19	9	4	22	9
Disputes in progress at end ..	2	1	2	..	..
Number of workpeople involved ..	15,206	5,016	3,288	11,789	3,167
Aggregate duration in working days ..	60,287	22,806	14,908	68,590	37,298
Demands—					
Pay ..	7	6	3	13	3
Bonus ..	8	3	1	2	..
Personal ..	3	1	..	5	4
Leave and hours ..	2	..	..	..	1
Others ..	1	..	2	2	1
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	3	..	1	7	6
Compromised ..	2	1	..	1	1
In favour of employers ..	14	8	3	14	2

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 progress. (Per cent.)
			In favour of employ-ers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employ-ees. (Per cent.)	Com-pro-mised. (Per cent.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April 1921 ..	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
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	..
Total or (cols. 4 to 7) Average	330	2,149,905	58	16	10	16

A General Review of Disputes

During March 1923 there were 9 industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency, 8 of which were in the cotton mill industry. Only three

of these were on account of the question of pay, and six of the disputes were settled in favour of the employees. There was a marked decrease in disputes from 22 in February 1923 to 9 during March 1923. Since March there has been a series of strikes, the number on strike in 56 mills in Ahmedabad being nearly 43,000.

BOMBAY

There were two disputes in Bombay during the month. The first was in the nature of a lock-out. The management of the Assur Viji Mill, Lower Parel, put up a notice suspending work from 18th February to 25th February 1923, as changes had to be made in the machinery of the mill. Only three hundred men out of a total strength of 1,200 were kept for cleaning machinery. As, however, the work of changing the machinery was not completed by the 25th February, the Manager put up another notice that the mill would be closed until the 5th March. The men grew discontented and demanded full wages for the idle days. But the management of the mill decided to pay half wages only, to such men as rejoined work within three days of the opening of the mill. The mill reopened on the 1st April 1923 and all old hands rejoined, the agents agreeing to pay half wages for the period the mill was closed. The second strike was in the Crown Mill, Parbhadevi Road, where the men went on strike for four days' wages for the lock-out from the 14th to the 17th February 1923. The men returned to work the next day on the Manager promising to pay them wages for the four days.

AHMEDABAD

There were five strikes in Ahmedabad during the month under review. 286 men of the Asarwa Mill struck work against non-payment of wages due to them on the 27th February and demanded regular payment of wages every fortnight. They returned to work on the promise that their wages would be paid in the same manner as in other mills. There was a strike in the Ahmedabad New Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., against the dismissal of a jobber and on account of the Manager's alleged ill-treatment of the men. The strikers resumed work on the promise of better treatment. About 55 reelers of the Ahmedabad



Astodia Manufacturing Co., Ltd., struck work against the dismissal of a mukadam (jobber). The strikers were paid off and discharged. In the Jehangir Vakil Mills, Ltd., the weavers demanded an increased rate of 8 pies per lb. against 7 pies promised by the Agent for a special quality of cloth which was being produced. As the Agent was unwilling to give this increased rate, they struck work but returned to work on promise of a reasonable increase in the rate of wages. The last strike was in the Ahmedabad Cotton and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., where 70 men went on strike against the dismissal of a mukadam, who could not supply the requisite number of labourers. They resumed duty on the Agent informing them that in the place of the dismissed mukadam, he had engaged the mukadam's brother.

REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

The spinning master of the Whittle Mills No. 3, Broach, refused permission to the men to attend marriage and funeral caste dinners during working hours. About 337 workers out of 663 went on strike as a protest against this refusal. They returned to work after eight days on the management agreeing to the grant of occasional leave for caste ceremonies. There was a small strike of 196 men of the North-Western Railway Loco. Workshop against the discharge of a mistri in the Painting Department for insolent behaviour. The strikers, however, resumed work unconditionally.

THE GENERAL STRIKE IN AHMEDABAD

CAUSE AND PROGRESS

The anticipated general strike in Ahmedabad referred to on page 24 of the March issue of the *Labour Gazette* took place on 1st April when the operatives of 54 cotton mills out of a total of 61 mills went on strike. The number of operatives on strike on 1st April was slightly less than 43,000. Two mills, the Gomtipur Spinning Mills, and the Raipur Mills, which were closed on April 1st and 2nd on account of a holiday were also compelled to close from 3rd April as the operatives did not appear at the mills for work. Thus the total number of mills involved is at the moment 56, affecting

about 48,000 workpeople, although the actual number of strikers is slightly in excess of 43,000. There are now only five mills working in Ahmedabad.

Of these, two mills did not post notices regarding the proposed reduction of wages. They were the only two mills out of a total of 58 on the list of members of the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association which did not decide on the reduction. The remaining three mills are not members of the Millowners' Association and have similarly decided not to reduce wages for the present.

THE CAUSE OF THE STRIKE

The dispute, now in progress, is the largest which has occurred in the Presidency for over two years. The main causes which led to the dispute are these: The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association received, early in December 1922, representations from certain members of the Association to convene a meeting of the Association to consider the question of a wage reduction. It was maintained by the members of the Association that the textile industry in Ahmedabad had been gradually declining in prosperity owing to the diminished demand for cloth and the general fall in prices. The Board of the Association met on 2nd December 1922 and passed the following resolution:—

“Resolved that in view of the marked decline in the cost of living and the continued depressed condition of the local textile industry the wages of operatives should be substantially reduced. The Managing Committee be requested to take necessary action to give effect to the above resolution at an early date.”

A copy of this resolution was forwarded to the Secretary of the Labour Union on the 4th December, the Association agreeing to have the matter settled by arbitration if such was desired. The Labour Union appointed Miss Ansuya Sarabhai, its President to be a member of the Arbitration Board on its behalf, and the Millowners' Association appointed Sheth Mangaldas G. Parekh as its representative. The Union states that at the time of her appointment Miss Ansuya was ill and not in Ahmedabad. The name of Mr. K. N. Desai was, accordingly, put forward by the



Union as a substitute in the event of Miss Ansuya not being able to commence the work of arbitration. This, however, was not accepted by the Millowners. In the meantime the Association were informed that the two arbitrators were communicating direct in the matter and this, it is stated, led the Millowners' Association to await their decision.

THE ARBITRATION DEED

On her return to Ahmedabad in the second week of February, Miss Sarabhai asked that a deed of arbitration should be signed by Sheth Mangaldas in his capacity as President of the Millowners' Association and stated that she could not proceed with the arbitration until and unless this deed was signed. The Union also requested the inclusion in the arbitration deed of certain conditions such as (1) the strict observance of all past final awards by defaulting mills; (2) the settlement of the question of the interpretation of a clause in the last bonus award; (3) the settlement of the scale of minimum wages along with a sliding scale of wages above the minimum according to the profits of the mills; and (4) a time limit of at least six weeks to three months to decide the question of the reduction of wages. The Association held that no deeds were demanded by the Union in the past when questions connected with the increase of wages and the payment of bonus were raised by the Union. The Association also pointed out that the Union did not represent a third of the total cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad and requested the Union to furnish the names of the mills which were fully represented. This, however, was not done and the Association declined to enter into any formal deed of arbitration. The General Board of the Association again met on 20th February and resolved to request the arbitrators to submit their proposals regarding the reduction by the 24th February or to allow the Association to submit the matter to a *Sir Punch* (a single arbitrator) who might decide the question of the reduction by the 28th February. The Labour Union maintained that the existing scale of wages did not afford the workman the minimum required for the maintenance of an average family in a state of health and efficiency.

The Board of the Association decided on 28th February to take independent action and subsequently on 8th March adopted a resolution, which was later confirmed on 10th March 1923, to the effect:—

1. That the wages of employees in all the departments in local cotton mills should be reduced by one-fifth from the first *Hapta* (a period of 14 to 16 days) beginning from or after the 1st of April 1923, subject to the condition that members of the office staff, supervising staff and such skilled employees who have not been granted increases at uniform rates in the past by any resolution of the Association should be excluded from the above scale of reduction;

2. That members should put up notices on their Notice Boards on the 15th March 1923 informing their employees of the scale of reduction specified in clause (1).

THE NOTICE OF REDUCTION

On 15th March notices were posted in the mills which had decided to reduce wages that:—

(1) The wages of operatives will be reduced by 20 per cent., *i.e.*, by one-fifth with effect from 1st April 1923.

(2) This reduction is not applicable to the members of the office staff of the mill, supervising staff and such skilled employees who have not been granted increases at uniform rates in the past by any resolution of the Association.

(3) Whoever is unwilling to work at the reduced rates should give notice to his departmental superior. Such operatives will be paid full wages up to 31st March 1923, but those operatives who without giving notice do not attend work will forfeit their arrears of wages.

(4) That if the work of the mill is stopped owing to the absence of operatives in any departments, the remaining operatives will not receive their wages on the day on which work is stopped.

(5) That if the mill is forced to close on account of any strike in any mill or mills, all operatives will not receive any wages from the day of the closing of the mill until the mill commences work.

A meeting of operatives was held on 16th March at which about 1,600 operatives were present. After some discussion a resolution moved by Miss Ansuya Sarabhai was passed to the effect that:—

"The meeting of Ahmedabad operatives belonging to the Union as well as outside it, expresses its regret for the 20 per cent. reduction notified by mills and without the approval of the Union. It calls upon all operatives to draw their wages in full on 31st March



and proceed to their village homes in case the Millowners' Association does not accept arbitration by the 24th March."

The Committee of the Association met on the 20th March and decided that independent action should, as a last recourse, be taken. Several notices explaining the position, and the reason which led the Millowners to decide on the proposed reduction, were circulated to operatives by the Association. The Union also issued pamphlets and addressed several meetings of operatives urging them to proceed to their villages on the outbreak of a strike and not to return until a settlement was effected.

FAILURE OF ARBITRATION

On 29th March Mr. C. F. Andrews arrived in Ahmedabad. After examining the situation he approached the Millowners' Association on 31st March with the following proposals:

(1) That outstanding disputes connected with the late arbitration of Professor Dhruva and Sheth Mangaldas concerning bonus and other matters should be settled within two days of the arrival of Professor Dhruva in Ahmedabad.

(2) That the question as to whether wages should be reduced or not, and if reduced by what extent, should be settled by arbitration or failing agreement, by an umpire, before April 16th, 1923. The arbitrators to be nominated one by either party within 48 hours of the signing of the agreement.

(3) In case of disagreement a person who is acceptable to both parties should be called in as an umpire and the name of this umpire should be settled within 48 hours of the signing of the agreement. The award should be signed and handed over to the Millowners' Association and the Labour Union.

(4) The arbitrators, or failing agreement the umpire, should decide from what date the wages award should take effect, and that pending the award the 'status quo' should be maintained including the payment of wages of all operatives.

(5) That the two further questions of (a) a minimum wage and (b) a sliding scale should be taken in hand immediately and settled by separate arbitration within three months. That each party shall nominate one arbitrator within 48 hours and the umpire shall also decide within 48 hours.

Mr. Andrews also addressed the Association at some length explaining the position especially in regard to the hardships a strike would entail on the operatives. His proposal was not, however, accepted by the Millowners

who after discussion passed the following resolution:—

"Resolved that the document presented by the Rev. C. F. Andrews on behalf of the Labour Union contains conditions even more severe and humiliating than those embodied in the deed signed and submitted by Ben Ansuya Sarabhai on the 17th February 1923 and also introduces fresh terms and conditions not relevant to the immediate point at issue. It is accordingly unacceptable to the Millowners' Association and the Rev. Mr. Andrews should be informed of the decision of the meeting."

Mr. Andrews again conferred with the Labour Union, and on April 2nd again met the Millowners' Association in conference. At this meeting he explained that the men had two main grievances (1) the settlement of the dispute regarding the counting of the days of absence in the last bonus award; and (2) the reduction made in their wages from 1st April. The men, he explained, were more indignant over the first issue than over the wage reduction question. In reply to a question as to whether the operatives were willing to resume work before arbitration took place Mr. Andrews stated that the above two questions should be settled before the operatives were willing to return. The members of the Association, however, desired that the men should resume work at least before their caution money was paid to them on April 3rd and arbitration might then proceed.

The result of this meeting, however, was fruitless. Though both the Association and the Labour Union were anxious for an early settlement no progress was made towards it.

THE ISSUES

The issues of the dispute may be said to be defined as under:—

(1) Whether the men should return to work unconditionally and the question of reduction left to arbitration or whether arbitration should precede the resumption of work, and

(2) Whether the outstanding dispute regarding the interpretation of a clause in the last bonus award should be referred to arbitration before the men resume work or be left over till one of the arbitrators namely Principal A. B. Dhruva, who was a party to the award, returns to Ahmedabad.

THE QUESTION OF BONUS

In regard to 2, it was decided in September last, that, in view of the difference of opinion



that prevailed between the Ahmedabad Mill-owners' Association and the Labour Union regarding the grant of the *Diwali* bonus, to refer the question to arbitration by mutual agreement. The arbitrators were Mr. Mangaldas G. Parekh, M.L.C., and Principal A. B. Dhruva. The award of the arbitrators was published on page 19 of the October 1922 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The operatives maintain that the Millowners did not pay the bonus in accordance with this award. They state that the Millowners have not only cut, according to the bonus award, a whole month whenever a man has been absent for 15 days, but they have gone further and added up all the other days of absence in the remaining months, divided the total by 30 and thus made up other months of absence. The men state that according to the award this should not be so. It is stated that if, for example, a man worked only 14 days in January and 14 days in February, this would not be counted for the purposes of the bonus award as service at all. The operative would not get 28 days to his credit but would lose two whole months of service. If, on the other hand, during the rest of the year he is absent six days in each month, all these days are reckoned up and the result is recorded as 60 days, i.e., 2 months absence. There also appears to be a difference in regard to the days of grace allowed in different mills. This extends from 15 days in some mills to 30 days in others. The operatives also state that many of the millowners reckoned Sundays and holidays into the number of days of absence and this reduced the bonus still lower. Further, complaints have been made that the bonus has not been given to the relatives of those workmen who have died and that certain mills have not paid the bonus to women who were near childbirth because they were not present on the day of distribution. These and other grievances in regard to the bonus now form one of the two main issues of the dispute.

EFFECTS OF THE STRIKE

The strike has caused a complete stoppage of work in 56 out of 61 mills in Ahmedabad and has affected about 48,000 operatives. A remarkable feature of the strike has been the complete absence of any disturbance on the

part of the strikers, although the picketing of liquor shops has been organised by the Union as a deterrent against the strikers spending their wages and savings on liquor. More than 20,000 operatives are reported to have left Ahmedabad for their villages, where they will probably remain in agricultural pursuits until the dispute is settled. The Secretary of the Labour Union states that an employment bureau has been opened in Ahmedabad for workers who are seeking employment, other than in the mills, either in Ahmedabad or elsewhere. Frequent meetings of the operatives still in Ahmedabad are being held at which the strikers are exhorted to remain firm, to abstain from drink and to try to secure some other kind of employment. Both sides to the dispute were on 15th April still unable to discuss the issues in order to arrive at a settlement. The main issues put forward by Mr. C. F. Andrews are

(1) "to settle immediately the outstanding dispute concerning the arbitration bonus award which has now been lingering on unsettled since October 1922.

(2) to leave open for arbitration the whole question of the necessity or not of a reduction in wages; that is to say, to cease from shutting out altogether beforehand from arbitration the previous question, whether any reduction is necessary at all."

The press, both English and vernacular, suggests with unusual unanimity the opening of negotiations with a view to a move towards conciliation.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN INDIA

STATISTICS FOR 1922

During the 12 months ended December 1922 there were 278 industrial disputes in British India as compared with 400 disputes during 1921. The total number of work-people involved was 435,434 as against 523,155 in 1921, and the number of working days lost 3,972,727 as against 6,637,862 in the previous year. Of the strikes 127 were due to the question of pay and 32 were on account of the question of bonus; 187 were settled in favour of the employers, 34 in favour of the employees and 25 compromised.

The share of the principal provinces to the total number of strikes is given in the following table:—



Industrial Disputes in British India during 1922

Province.	Number of Disputes	Number of work-people involved.	Number of working days lost.
Bombay	145	159,963	763,111
Bengal	87	198,702	1,803,750
United Provinces	12	17,777	376,939
Bihar and Orissa	12	34,142	744,941
Madras	11	3,361	40,936
Burma	9	11,434	121,238
Central Provinces	4	9,208	102,986

The number of strikes classified according to industries is 135 in the Cotton industry, 41 in the Jute industry, 13 in Railways (including workshops), 10 in Engineering and Iron and Steel works, 8 each in Oil mills; Printing presses and Municipal industries, 7 in Shipping docks and jetties, 3 in Flour mills, 2 in each of the following:—Tramways, Saw mills, Paper mills, Sugar factories, Ordnance factories, Rope works and Tanneries and 31 in Miscellaneous industries. The maximum number of working days, viz., 1,157,100 were lost in Jute industries, while the maximum number of workpeople, 168,005, were involved in disputes in Cotton industries.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

On page 24 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1923 a reference was made to the discussion in the Bombay Legislative Council on the resolution of Mr. Kanji Dwarkadas urging the introduction of legislation on the lines of the Report of the Industrial Disputes Committee. The Hon'ble Mr. Hayward, in reply to the debate, spoke as follows:—

"The Committee which was appointed to consider this matter submitted a very valuable report which was acknowledged and published in April 1922. The Committee's report included a number of suggestions mainly as regards employers of labour which could only be given effect to by giving due publicity to them and by leaving them to be settled by the employers of labour. The Committee's report also included, however, valuable suggestions as to legislation and that legislation of course has to be considered by Government. The Committee's suggestions as to this matter were mainly for the establishment of courts of inquiry and courts of conciliation—courts of inquiry to ascertain the actual facts in dispute, so that parties to the dispute might be in a

better position to negotiate for settlement, and subsidiary to that, courts of conciliation to be brought into force, should the parties themselves be unable on the facts to arrive at a settlement. The recommendations proceeded mainly on the Industrial Courts Acts in force in other parts of the world.

My honourable friend who has brought this resolution appears to regard these labour questions as exceedingly easy, and questions which ought to be decided off-hand in a few weeks or months. I cannot, I am afraid, share his opinion upon that matter. I consider myself that these labour questions are some of the most intricate and difficult questions which can come before any Government. We have the history of labour legislation in other countries, which has indicated the dangers of precipitate legislation and shown us the reason for proceeding with caution in adopting here legislation, which has only been reached after several unsuccessful experiments in other places of the world, before endeavouring to adopt in this country similar legislation to that introduced in western countries. We have at the same time anxiously considered the question of legislation in all its bearings. The matter has not been finally decided, but I think I may say this that, there is a decided inclination towards courts of inquiry and courts of conciliation, but the details necessarily require time to work out in order to adapt them properly to the exact requirements of this country.

There is another reason why it is not easy to proceed at once with legislation and that is the pending of several other forms of labour legislation, such as compensation for injuries, trades unions and so forth and the impossibility of proceeding without obtaining the concurrence and sanction of the Government of India. So, I may say that the position stands like this at present, that we are anxious to get to legislation as soon as practicable, as soon as satisfied as to the details necessary to secure justice to both parties, to labour and to employers with a reasonable probability of success. I must therefore ask the indulgence of honourable members in this difficult matter and for the necessary time to prepare our proposals and to obtain the concurrence of the Government of India in them. I cannot very well accept a resolution which asks us specifically to introduce legislation exactly as recommended by the Committee. It will be on those lines, no doubt. But there will necessarily be variations. I could not, moreover give any undertaking that that legislation will be introduced in the next session. We must have time at least to get the concurrence of the Government of India. But I can assure the House that the matter is receiving the very anxious consideration of this Government, and every attempt will be made to introduce legislation as early as possible, after obtaining the concurrence of the Government of India."



COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN NORWAY

A Compulsory Arbitration Act in Norway provides that if, in the opinion of the King, any labour dispute is liable to endanger important public interests, he may order the dispute to be settled by arbitration. An important section is to the effect that pending the issue of the arbitration award, the conditions of work and wages obtaining at the outbreak of the dispute shall remain in force, unless the parties agree to any other arrangement. When the King orders that a dispute shall be settled by arbitration he may likewise prohibit the beginning or continuation of a stoppage of work arising out of the dispute. The Act also provides for an Arbitration Court consisting of a President and four other members. The President and two other members and substitutes for them are to be appointed by the King, while the National Federation of Trade Unions and the Norwegian Employers' Federation are each to appoint one member and one substitute. Section 3 of the Act lays down the procedure of the Court in investigation of disputes and section 4 relates to the decision of the Court which shall be adopted by a majority vote. The power of the Court to inflict fines and the mode of collection of fines is specified in section 5. The Act came into operation on the 31st March 1922 and remained in force up to 1st April 1923. A copy of the Act will be found in the Labour Office Library.

EMPLOYMENT IN RAILWAYS

THE EFFECTS OF RETRENCHMENT

Owing to retrenchment on Indian Railways the G. I. P. Railway has found it necessary to dispense with staff wherever possible. In addition to any notice which an employee is entitled, he is permitted to take certain classes of leave which stand to his credit under Leave Rules. Further, gratuities of a half month's pay for each year of service are being paid to all the staff thus discharged. Lastly, employees draw their Provident Fund which is made up of their own contributions of one month's pay per year and the Company adds another month's pay.

The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma made representa-

tions to the Railway Board which replied as follows:—

“The reduction is due to the need for retrenchment and economy in working expenses is being made generally and not only on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway. The principal means of effecting a reduction is by the abolition of appointments considered to be not absolutely indispensable. All the reductions are being made after very careful investigation and the fullest consideration to the claims of the staff so as to cause as little hardship as possible.”

RAILWAY TRADE UNIONS

Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., presiding over the annual general meeting of the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union, on the 31st March, pleaded for a stronger organisation. In order to do so, he said, four conditions were essential. These were (1) unflinching adherence to the Union's Constitution and its decisions; (2) regular payment of all dues; money was necessary for conducting the affairs of the Union; (3) the Union must be fully representative, i.e., include all employees without distinction of caste or creed; and (4) co-operation with other railway unions. Members must attend all meetings, discuss all questions fully and frankly and supervise closely the work of the office-bearers. Office-bearers should be watchful and responsive to the wishes of the Union. In regard to retrenchment, he said, that precautionary measures should be taken on the lines of unemployment insurance and old age pensions in the West. Finally, he touched on the important question of the relation of labour organisations to political parties. He was of opinion that under the present circumstances there is no political party upon which the working class can rely with certainty; and therefore they should avoid identifying themselves with any particular political party.

In accordance with a resolution of the Annual Meeting of the Union, Messrs. N. M. Joshi and Motilal J. Mehta recently interviewed the Agent of the G. I. P. Railway who stated that neither he nor his officers were unsympathetic to trade unions. The staff were entitled to organise themselves and exercise their influence through the elected representatives on the Staff Councils which were shortly to be introduced.



ALL-INDIA TRADE UNION CONGRESS

THIRD SESSION AT LAHORE

The third session of the All-India Trade Union Congress met at Lahore on March the 24th under the presidentship of Mr. C. R. Das. The session lasted for two days. Mr. Das referred to the importance of labour and of its organisation. The resolutions referred to the necessity of a separate fund for the support of Indian labour, steps to be taken to put an end to the system of forced labour and the system of procuring forced supplies from rural areas wherever it prevails, retrenchment in the staffs of railways, legislation for provision against unemployment, old age and sickness, condemning the action of the Legislatures in postponing the abolition of underground women labour in coal mines and 25 per cent. increase in wages of miners in Bihar.

PARBELIA COLLIERY DISASTER

REPORT BY THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY

In connexion with the serious explosion that occurred in the Parbelia Colliery in the district of Manbhum on 4th January 1923 (see page 34 of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1923) the Government of Bihar and Orissa instituted an enquiry under Section 18 of the Indian Mines Act, VIII of 1901. Mr. P. C. Tallents, I.C.S., Deputy Commissioner of Manbhum, with Mr. R. R. Simpson, Chief Inspector of Mines in India, and Mr. H. Lancaster, Colliery Superintendent to the East Indian Railway at Giridih, as assessors, examined 22 witnesses in February and made a report towards the end of the same month. They are of opinion that the explosion was caused by the blasting operations in progress at the time, the immediate cause being the blowing through of a shot or charge of blasting powder which was misplaced in such a manner that it exploded more or less in the open, and in its turn caused an explosion of coal dust. The violence of the explosion can be gathered from the fact that of 74 persons in the eastern workings, near the scene of the accident, no one survived. The Committee have recommended a set of rules to prevent such occurrences in future, and further draw attention

to the insufficiently recognised dangers arising from an explosion of coal dust.

It is understood that the Government of Bihar and Orissa will immediately take up the question of bringing into operation the rules suggested by the Committee, and in submitting the report to the Government of India the Local Government will draw special attention to the need for further investigation into the dangers arising from coal dust in Indian mines.

ACCIDENTS IN FACTORIES

STATISTICS FOR MARCH 1923

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Presidency published on pages 26 and 27 of this issue, contain details of (1) the accidents reported during March in Bombay City and Island and (2) the accidents reported during the same period in Ahmedabad, Karachi and the Mofussil.

During March, in Bombay City and Island, there were in all 132 factory accidents of which 2 were fatal, 7 serious and 123 minor accidents. Of the total number of accidents 59 or 45 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 73 or 55 per cent. were due to other causes. As in the last summary by far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the percentages classified according to class of factory being 45 per cent. in textile mills, 54 per cent. in workshops and 1 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad there were 7 accidents, all in cotton mills. Six of these were due to machinery in motion and 1 to other causes, and 6 of them were serious and 1 was a minor accident. In Karachi there were 5 accidents, all in Railway workshops, of which 2 were due to machinery in motion and 3 to other causes. Of these two were serious and three minor accidents.

In the mofussil the total number of accidents was 24 of which 4 were in textile mills, 18 in workshops and 2 in miscellaneous concerns, 6 of which were due to machinery in motion and 18 due to other causes. There was one fatal and 23 minor accidents.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions in Bombay in the months of February and March 1923.

Accidents in Factories during March 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 and February 1923.	March 1923.		
	January and February 1923.	March 1923.												
I. Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills	63	42	23	15	1	1	8	2	77	54	86	57	‡ One of the accidents caused injury to two persons.	
Woolen Mills	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	2	2	2	
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	64	44	24	15	1	1	8	2	79	56	88	59		
II. Workshops—														
Engineering	4	3	25	9	..	1†	3	..	26	11	29	12	† This accident injured 5 persons being fatal in the case of one of them and minor in the case of the 4 others.	
Railway	17	8	105	47	2	..	5	2	115	53	122	55		
Mint	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..
Others	1	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..
Total	22	14	134	57	2	1	8	5	146	65	156	71		
III. Miscellaneous—														
Chemical Works	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	4	..
Flour Mills	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	..	4	..
Printing Presses	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..
Others	2	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	1	1	1
Total	4	1	6	1	..	..	2	..	3	1	3	1
Total, All Factories	90	59	164	73	3	2	18	7	233	123	254	132		

2. Ahmedabad

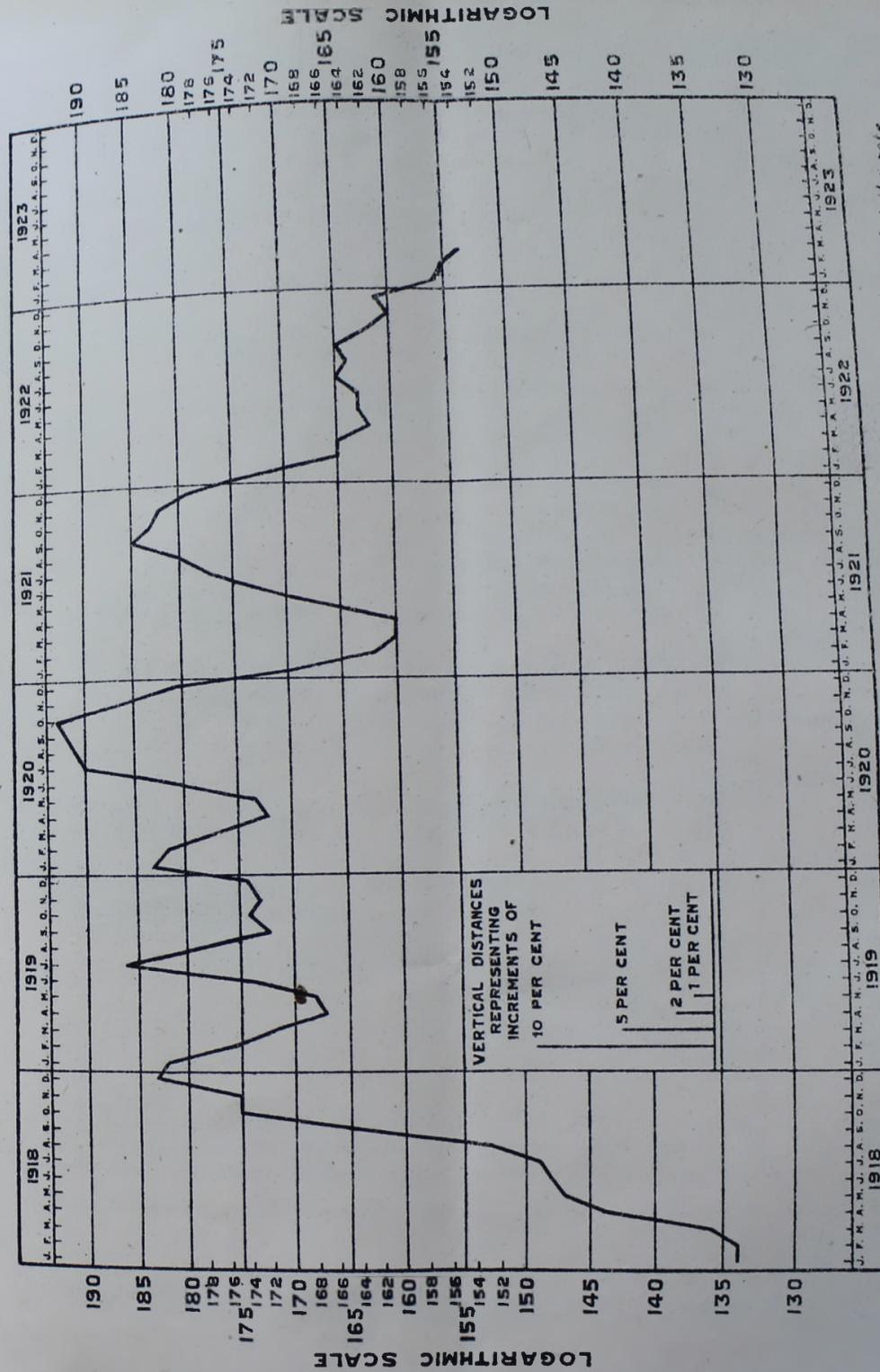
Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.			Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Total.	Serious.	Minor.	March 1923.		
	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.						
Textile Mills—										
Cotton	6	..	1	..	..	6	..	1	..	7
Total	6	..	1	..	..	6	..	1	..	7

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

(Continued on p. 27.)

COST OF LIVING IN BOMBAY RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART (JULY 1914-100)

Chart No. 1



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, from any part of the diagram to any other, instead of equal incrementals as on a natural scale chart. Note the steadiness of the curve in 1922.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

CHART No 2.

F Fair. N Normal. EX Excess.

Abbreviations:- S Scanty

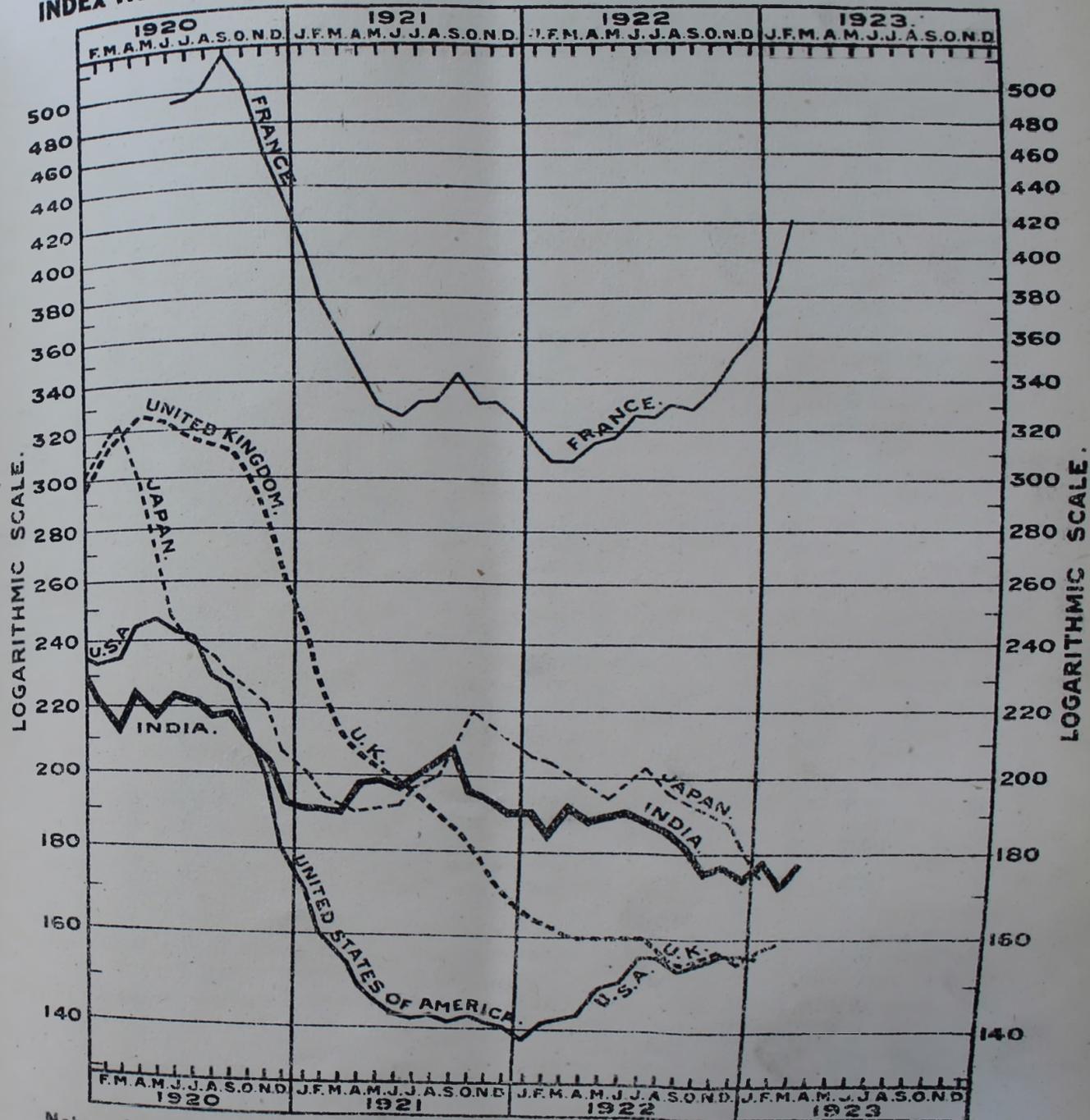
PROVINCE OR STATE.	JUNE					JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER			
	8 TH	15 TH	22 ND	29 TH	6 TH	13 TH	20 TH	27 TH	3 RD	10 TH	17 TH	24 TH	31 ST	7 TH	14 TH	21 ST	28 TH	5 TH	12 TH	19 TH	26 TH		
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.						N	N	N	N	N	F	F	N	EX	EX	EX	EX						
1. SIND (RIVER RAINFALL)	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	S	F	F	EX	S	S	F	F	EX	EX	EX						
2. GUJARAT.	S	S	EX	EX	EX	F	S	EX	N	S	S	F	S	EX	EX	EX	F	S	EX				
3. DECCAN.	S	S	EX	EX	EX	F	N	EX	S	S	S	EX	F	N	F	N	F	F					
4. KONKAN.	N	F	N	EX	EX																		
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY.						N	F	F	F	F	EX	F	N	F	EX	F	F	F	F	F	F		
1. MALABAR.	F	F	EX	EX	EX	F	N	S	S	F	F	EX	F	S	EX	S	S	N	EX	S			
2. DECCAN.	F	S	F	S	EX	S	EX	S	F	EX	S	EX	F	N	F	F	F	F	N	S	F		
3. COAST NORTH.	EX	S	F	F	S	F	S		EX	F	S	EX	F	F	S	F	F	F	N	N			
4. SOUTH EAST.						N	F	N	EX	S	N	F	F	N	F	F	F	S	EX	F	EX		
III. MYSORE.	F	S	EX	F	N	F	N	EX	S	N	F	F	N	F	F	F	S	EX	F	EX	S		
IV. HYDERABAD						S	F	F	S	S	S	S	F	F	N	EX	F						
1. NORTH.	N	F	N	EX	EX	S	F	F	S	S	S	S	F	F	N	EX	F	S	N				
2. SOUTH.	F	S	N	F	F	F	S	EX	S	S	S	EX	N	F	S	N							
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES																							
1. BERAR.	S	N	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	S	N	N	EX	EX	EX	S	EX	S	S	S	S		
2. WEST.	S	S	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	S	N	N	EX	EX	EX	S	EX	S	S	S	S		
3. EAST.	S	EX	N	N	F	F	EX	EX	F	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	F	F	S					
VI. CENTRAL INDIA																							
1. WEST.	S	EX	N	N	N	EX	N	EX	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	N	N					
2. EAST.	S	S	EX	N	EX	EX	N	N	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	N	N					
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY.	EX	F	EX	EX	N	F	EX	N	EX	F	EX	F	F	EX	F	F	EX	EX	F	N	F		
VIII. ASSAM.	N	F	N	EX	N	F	EX	EX	F	N	F	F	EX	N	S	F	EX	EX	F	N	F		
IX. BIHAR & ORISSA.																							
1. BIHAR.	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	EX	F	F	N	F	S	EX	EX	EX	N						
2. ORISSA.	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	N	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX		
X. UNITED PROVINCES																							
1. EAST.	N	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	EX	S	F	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX		
2. WEST.	N	F	F	EX	EX	N	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	F							
XI. PUNJAB																							
1. EAST & NORTH.						S	S	EX	N	EX	F	S	N	F	N								
2. SOUTH & WEST.								N	N	S	S												
XII. RAJPUTANA																							
1. WEST.			S	F	S	F	F	EX	S	S	F	S	F										
2. EAST.			EX	N	S	N	N	EX	S	S	EX	S	EX	N									
XIII. BURMA																							
1. LOWER.	N	EX	F	F	N	N	N	N	EX	N	N	N	N	EX	N	N	N	N	N	N	S		
2. UPPER.	F	F	EX	N	F	EX	EX	F	F	EX	N	F	EX	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	EX	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 - 80-120 per cent of the normal.
Fair - 40-79 per cent of the normal.
Scanty - Less than 40 per cent of the normal.
3. 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.
4. 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.

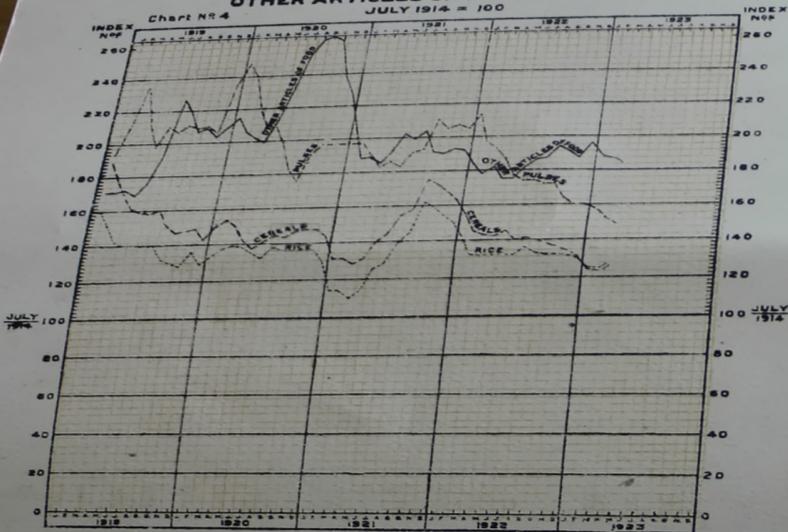
INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

CHART No 3.



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

RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY.
 CHART NO. 4
 JULY 1914 = 100



Note:—Pulses—Average Price of Gram and Turdal
 Rice—Clean
 Cereals—Average price of Rice, Wheat, Jawar, and Bajra
 Other articles of food—Average price of Sugar, Tea, Salt, Beef, Mutton,
 Milk, Ghee, Potatoes, Onions, Coconut, etc.

COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
 CHART NO. 5
 JULY 1914 = 100

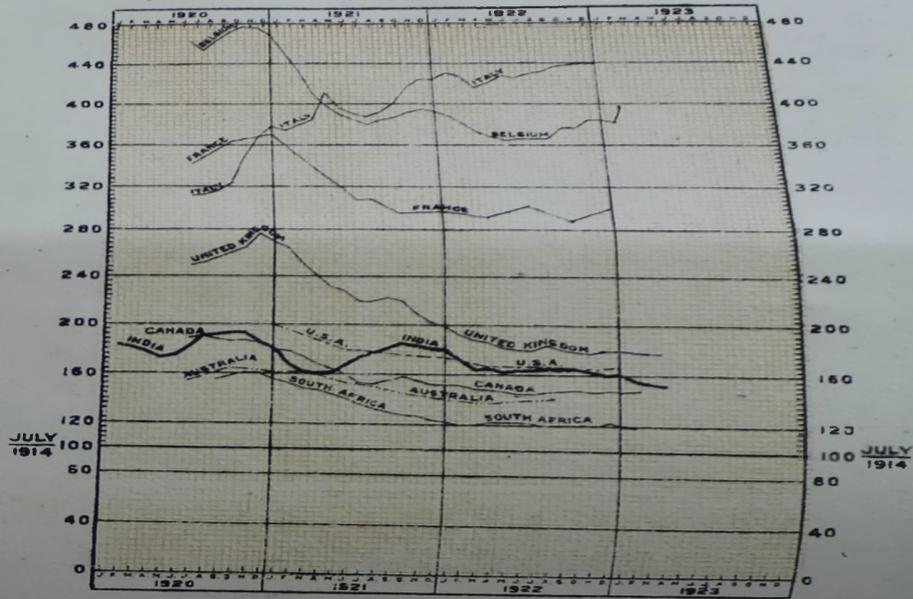
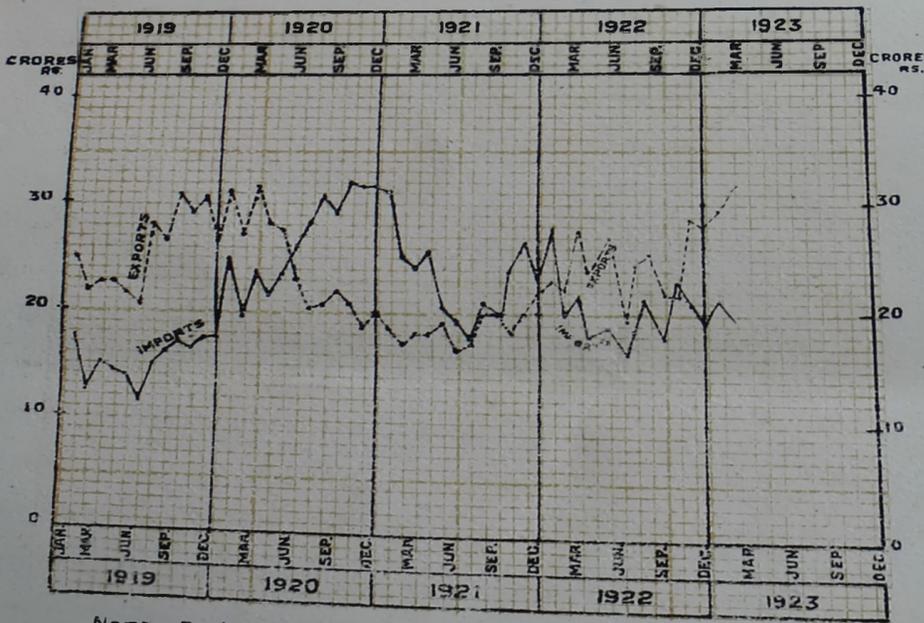


CHART NO. 6.

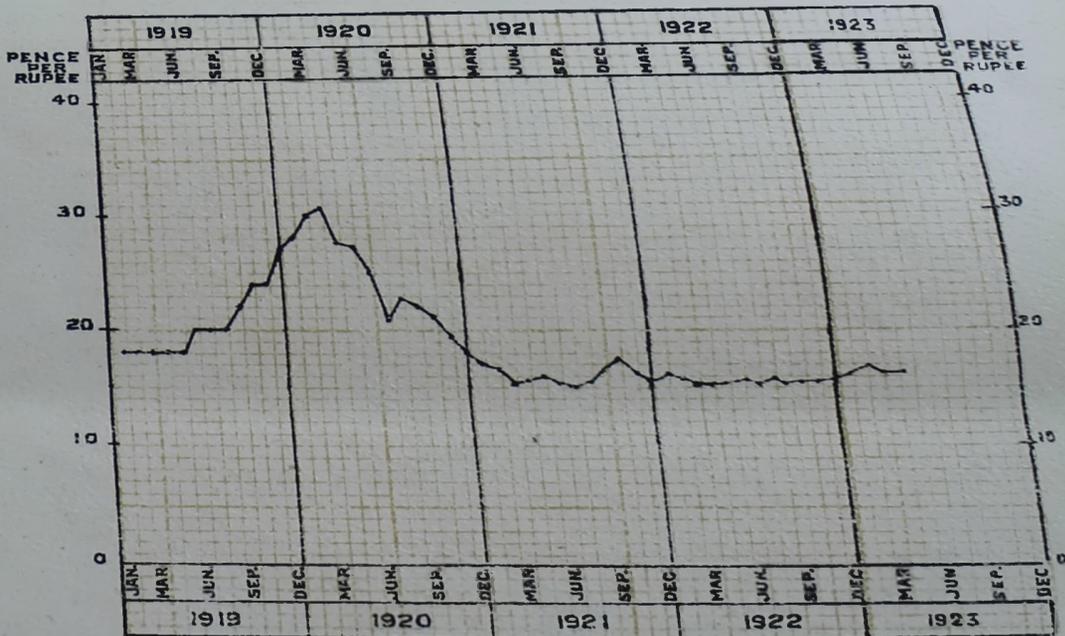
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE—INDIA.



Note:— Each Square = 1 crore (10 millions) of Rupees.

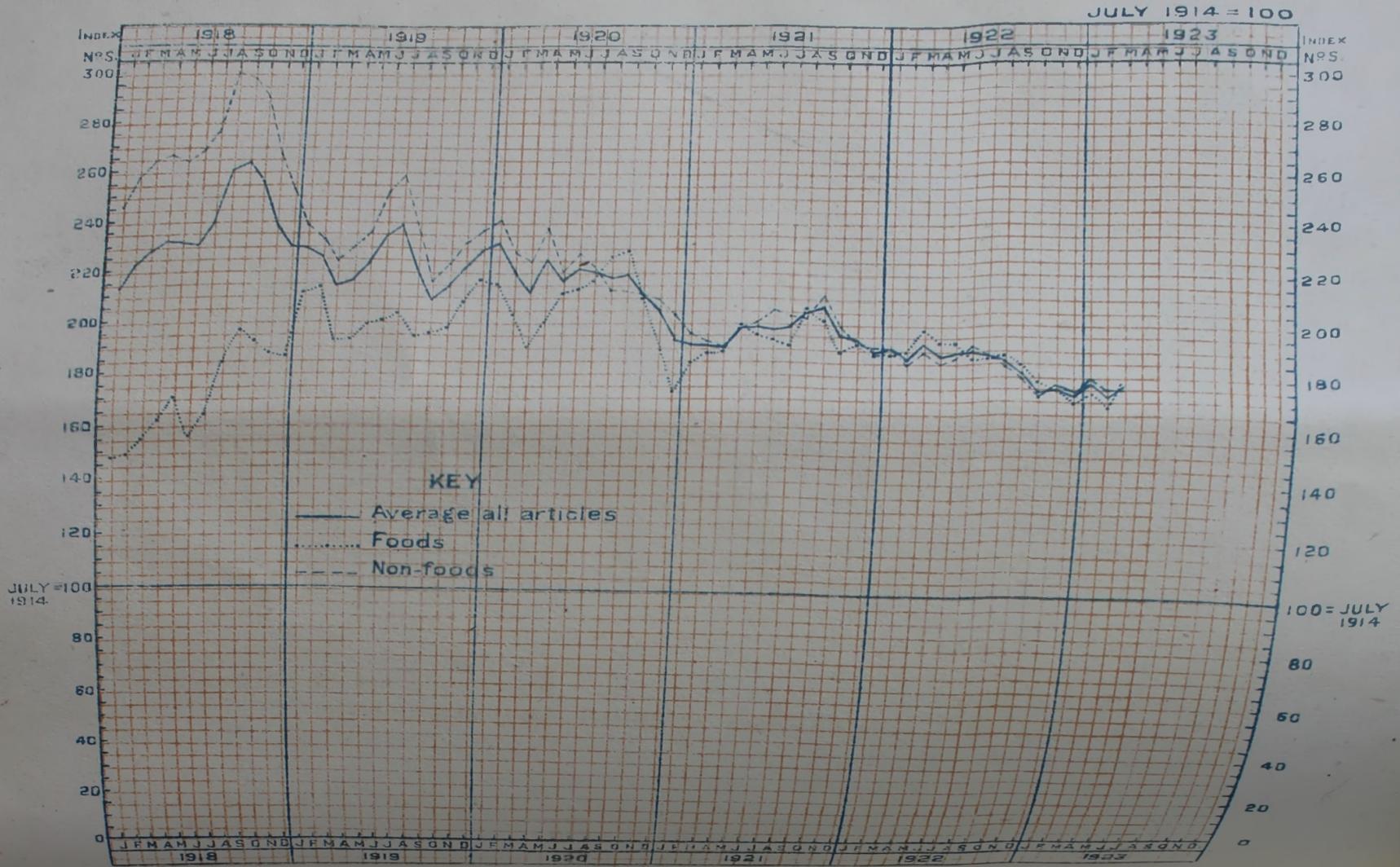
CHART NO. 7.

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.

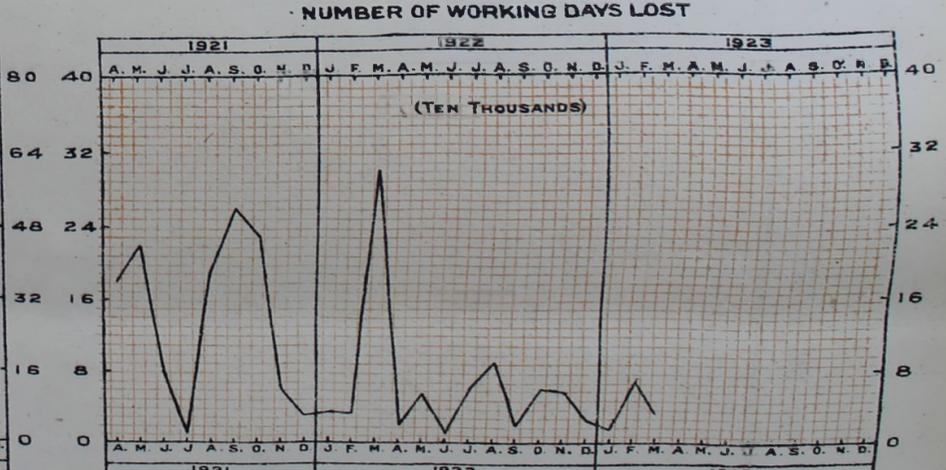
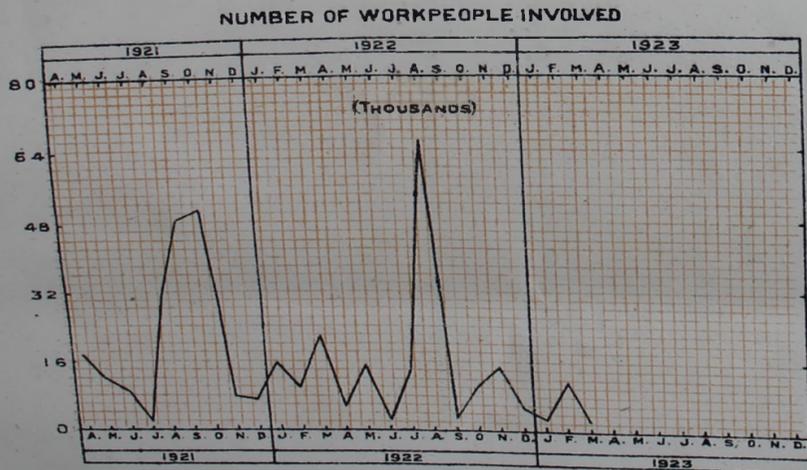


Note: (1) The reason for the fall of Exchange will be evident from the preceding chart. When the balance of trade is adverse (imports greater than exports) Exchange also tends to be adverse from India's point of view. This is the Telegraphic Transfer rate on London.
 (2) Each square equals 1 penny.

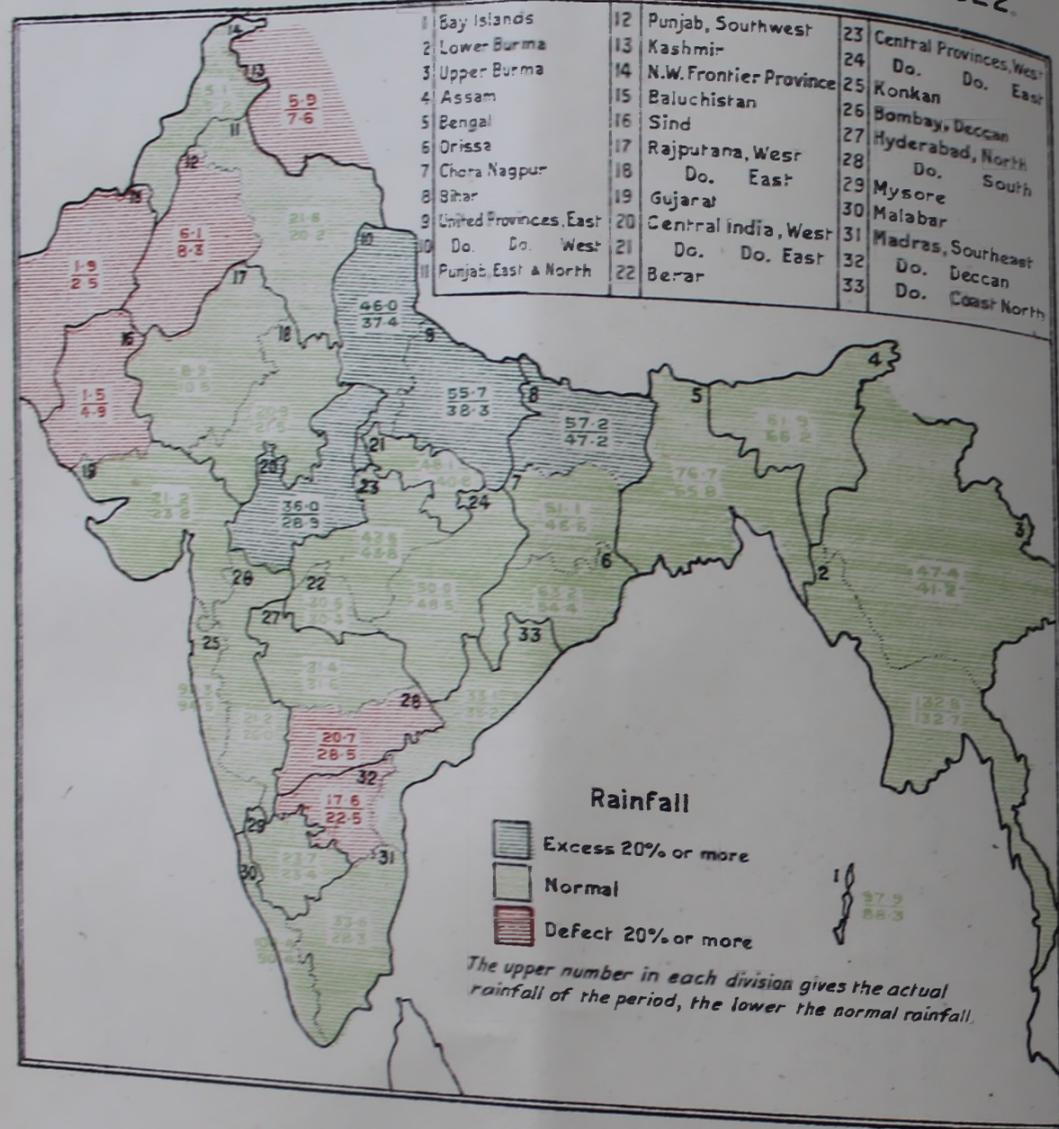
WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS



STRIKES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY 1921-1923.



RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER, 1922



Accidents in Factories during March 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.	March 1923.		
	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.			
Railway—								
Workshop	1	2		2	3	5		
Total	2	3		2	3	5		

4. Mofussil

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 and February 1923.	March 1923.										
I. Textile Mills—												
Cotton Mills	3	3	4	1			3		4	4	7	4
Cotton Press	1		1		1				1		2	
Others												
Total	4	3	5	1	1		3		5	4	9	4
II. Workshops—												
Railway	3	2	21	16			1		23	18	24	18
Ammunition Works			3		1				2		3	
Others												
Total	3	2	24	16	1		1		25	18	27	18
III. Miscellaneous—												
Gin Factory	3		1				2		2		4	
Paint Works	1				1						1	
Others		1		1		1				1		2
Total	4	1	1	1	1	1	2		2	1	5	2
Total, All Factories	11	6	30	18	3	1	6		32	23	41	24



LABOUR IN MADRAS

THE GOVERNOR'S SPEECH

His Excellency Lord Willingdon, in proroguing the Madras Legislative Council, referred to the measures taken to improve the condition of labourers. He said :

"Another matter in respect of which conditions are not so satisfactory as I could wish is that of the work to improve the conditions of the labouring and the elevation of the poorer classes at the same time. When I opened the first session of the Council labour disputes were much in evidence, and we were considering whether we should introduce legislation relating to strikes and unions, for the better organisation of maternity aid and for the housing of industrial labour. Since then, however, the scene has shifted. Labour disputes are for the time being at an end. The general question of legislation has been taken in hand at the instance of the League of Nations by the Government of India and they have passed two Acts dealing with factories, one dealing with the compensation of workmen for injuries and another with Indian emigration, while they have legislation relating to trade unions in hand at the same time. A great deal of interest has been concentrated on the condition of Indian labour abroad, and I am sure the honourable members must have read with interest and satisfaction the speeches made during the discussions which have recently taken place in the Legislative Assembly in connexion with the final settlement of rules under the new Emigration Act which governs the emigration of our workmen to Ceylon and the Malay States. I would add that I am sure we were all delighted to see the active part which our members from Madras took in influencing decisions that were arrived at. But I want in all seriousness to ask two questions of the honourable members in order to put the position, as I see it, clearly before their minds. Is it altogether honest on our part to insist on those regulations for labourers from other Governments, unless we are determined to secure equally favourable conditions for all workers in our own Province? Can we with any justice demand that fair and equal treatment, which we all agree should be given to Indians in other parts of the British Empire, if we do not put our own house in order and insist on securing similar treatment for all our citizens within our borders?"

His Excellency Sir George Lloyd replying to the deputation of the Trade Union Congress in 1920 said :

"Next to the maintenance of the fundamental conditions of all orderly and progressive society, I believe there is no more important social or administrative problem than the position of Labour in the community."

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR AGREEMENTS

RATIFICATIONS IN INDIA

Since the International Labour Conference first met in Washington in 1919 there have been three meetings. The second Conference took place at Genoa in 1920, and the third and fourth at Geneva in 1921 and 1922. It is an interesting study to gather together the results achieved by these international meetings, and especially to note the improvements in labour conditions effected by the application of the decisions of these Conferences.

The decisions of the Conferences may be divided into three classes in order of their importance, *viz.*, Draft Conventions, Recommendations, and Resolutions. According to the Treaty of Peace each Member-State is required, within one year or at the most 18 months from the closing of the session of the Conference, to bring the Draft Convention or Recommendation before the competent authority for legislation or other action. In regard to Draft Conventions adopted by the Conference, and later approved by the Member-State, the latter is required to communicate the formal ratification of the Convention to the Secretary-General and to take necessary action to give effect to its provisions. On the other hand, if no action is taken on a Recommendation to make it effective, or if the Draft Convention fails to obtain the approval of the competent authority, no further obligation rests upon the Member-State. The Washington Conference adopted 6 Conventions and 6 Recommendations, the Genoa Conference adopted 3 Conventions and 4 Recommendations, and the Geneva (1921) Conference adopted 7 Conventions and 8 Recommendations.

The number of ratifications registered by the Secretary-General up to 3rd January 1923 was 63. The number of cases in which ratification has been authorised by the competent authority, but has not yet been communicated, is 16, and the number of cases in which ratification has been recommended to the competent authority by the Government, but approval has not yet been signified is 89. The number of measures finally adopted by Legislative Authorities and measures of an administrative character giving effect partially or wholly to



the provisions of the Draft Conventions and Recommendations is 78; while the number of legislative measures of all descriptions proposed to give effect to the Draft Conventions and Recommendations is 63. When it is remembered that fifty-four nations are members of the International Labour Organisation and that 16 Draft Conventions and 18 Recommendations were adopted by the first three Conferences, the number of ratifications appears very small. But India has played her part to the great satisfaction of the International Labour Office. At the Fourth Conference the Director of the International Labour Office paid a warm tribute to the Government of India for their prompt ratification of the Draft Conventions and Recommendations.

ACTION TAKEN IN INDIA

The following table shows the legislation passed in India giving effect to the Draft Conventions and Recommendations :—

Labour legislation in India arising out of the International Labour Conferences

Convention or Recommendation.	Legislation.
I. <i>Washington—</i> (a) Convention— Hours; Minimum Age	{ 1. The Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, 1922. 2. The Indian Ports (Amendment) Act, 1922. 3. The Indian Mines (Amendment) Act, 1923.
(b) Recommendation— Anthrax; Lead-poisoning	The Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, 1922.
II. <i>Genoa—</i> (a) Draft Convention— Minimum Age (Sea).	Provisions to be inserted in the Bill for the consolidation of marine law.
III. <i>Geneva—</i> (a) Draft Convention— Weekly rest in industry.	Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, 1922.

The results of the application in India of the Conventions and Recommendations of the three International Labour Conferences are seen in the revision of the legislation on factories and mines, and the consequent enforcing of the sixty-hour week, raising the minimum age for children, providing for intervals of rest—all of which represent a considerable improvement in labour conditions. India, therefore, has promptly ratified the Conventions and Recommendations and passed the necessary legislation wherever possible, and has

undertaken enquiries in regard to those other matters in order to gain more information before arriving at a decision.

INDIAN EMIGRATION

UNSKILLED LABOUR FOR MAURITIUS

The question of the emigration of unskilled labour to Mauritius came up for discussion in the Legislative Assembly on the 9th March, when the following draft notification was approved :

"Emigration to Mauritius for the purpose of unskilled work shall be lawful for a period of one year with effect from a date to be notified in the *Gazette of India* by the Governor General in Council, after matters requiring determination under clause 10 of this notification shall first have been determined, subject to the following terms and conditions, namely—

(1) The number of adult male labourers which may be recruited within the period shall be limited to 1,500.

(2) The emigrant shall (a) have been recruited by a person licensed for that purpose by and responsible to an officer (hereinafter called the Emigration Commissioner) appointed by the Government of Mauritius or (b) have applied direct to the Emigration Commissioner for an assisted passage and have been accepted by him.

(3) The emigrant shall not, before leaving British India, have entered into any engagement to labour for a period exceeding one month.

(4) Engagements to labour entered into by an emigrant in Mauritius for a period exceeding one month shall be void.

(5) The Government of Mauritius shall at any time when so desired by the Governor General in Council admit and give all facilities to an agent appointed under section 7 of the Act.

(6) No part of the cost of his recruitment, and subsistence during transport shall be recoverable from any emigrant, and all expenses in this connection shall be defrayed from the fund created by the Government of Mauritius under section 45 of the Labour Ordinance, 1922.

(7) Any emigrant shall, if he desires to return to India at any time after two years from the date of his introduction to the Colony, be repatriated at the cost of the Government of Mauritius to the place of his recruitment.

(8) Any emigrant shall, at any time within the period of two years from the date of his introduction to the Colony, be entitled to be repatriated at the cost of the Government of Mauritius to the place of his recruitment, if he satisfies the Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act that his return to his home is desirable,



either on the ground of state of his health, or on the ground that the work which he is required to do is unsuitable to his capacity, or that he has been unjustly treated by his employer or for any other sufficient reason.

(9) If any emigrant, at any time within the period of two years from the date of his introduction to the Colony, satisfies the Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act, that he is unable to obtain a wage which will provide the cost of living for a man with a wife and three children, and also a reasonable margin for savings, sickness and old age, he shall be entitled to be repatriated at the cost of the Government of Mauritius to the place of the recruitment.

(10) The Government of Mauritius in consultation with the Government of India or Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act shall from time to time determine the amount of wage which is sufficient to meet the requirement laid down in clause 9 of this notification.

(11) If at any time there is no Agent appointed under section 7 of the Act, the Government of Mauritius shall appoint a person to perform the duties of the Agent as set forth in clause 8.

(12) The Government of Mauritius shall furnish such periodical reports and returns as may be required from time to time by the Government of India in respect of the welfare of the persons emigrating to the Colony in accordance with this notification."

LABOUR CONDITIONS IN MAURITIUS

Mr. J. Hullah moved the following resolution:

"That this Assembly approves the draft notification which has been laid in draft before the Chamber specifying the terms and conditions on which emigration for the purpose of unskilled work shall be lawful to Mauritius, and recommends to the Governor General in Council that the notification be published in the *Gazette of India*."

In the course of his speech Mr. Hullah gave an account of the labour conditions in Mauritius. Mauritius is a small island, seventy per cent. of whose population is Indian and therefore practically an Indian Colony. 46 per cent. of the Indians now own plantations. The sugar industry, which is the sole industry of the Colony, is now threatened seriously by a shortage of labour. Although the area under cane has increased by 26,000 acres in the last few years from 146,000 to 172,000 acres, the increase of population has been very slow. The number of able-bodied labourers is less by 9,000 than it was 10 or 12 years ago. The Government of the Colony has decided upon

extensive sanitation and irrigation works, earmarking no less than one crore and forty lakhs of rupees for these improvements, all of which would benefit most of the existing Indian population. The Government of India were informed that the cost of living, based on prices in 1921, for a labourer, his wife and three children amounted to about Rs. 38. On estates, a labourer with family receives, besides free housing and medical attendance, Rs. 28 to Rs. 30 in cash and rations. The final proposal of the Government of India was that as the condition of repatriation there should be a wage equivalent to the cost of living for a man, his wife and three children, plus a reasonable margin to be determined in consultation between the Government of India and the Government of Mauritius. This proposal was accepted by the Mauritius Government. The Government of the Colony had agreed to all the conditions embodied in the notification and to give effect to some of them by changing the law. The Colonial Government had further agreed to bear the cost of emigration, repatriation of labour and the maintenance of an Emigration Commissioner. The emigration would for the present be sanctioned only for a year.

Mr. Rangachariar moved an amendment urging the postponement of the reopening of emigration, pending investigation on the spot by an officer of the Government of India of the probable effects of fresh emigration on the Indian population already in the Colony.

The Honourable Mr. Sarma, the Revenue Member, emphasised the need for emigration and pointed out how very inadequate was the supply of labour to meet the demand created by the expansion in cultivation. He pointed out that prices had fallen considerably since 1921. He assured the House that the existing population would be unaffected, as the fresh labour was required for additional work. After some discussion during which several members urged for an enquiry and moved amendments, the Honourable Mr. Sarma gave an assurance that Government would send an agent as early as practicable to report from time to time as to the condition of labour and the working of the emigration rules. The original motion was put and carried.



WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

The New Act

The following Act of the Indian Legislature received the assent of the Governor-General on the 5th March, 1923:—

ACT No. VIII OF 1923

An Act to provide for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident.

Whereas it is expedient to provide for the payment by certain classes of employers to their workmen of compensation for injury by accident; It is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923.

(2) It extends to the whole of British India, including British Baluchistan and the Sonthal Parganas.

(3) It shall come into force on the first day of July, 1924.

2. *Definitions.*—(1) In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "adult" and "minor" mean respectively a person who is not and a person who is under the age of fifteen years;

(b) "Commissioner" means a Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation appointed under section 20;

(c) "compensation" means compensation as provided for by this Act;

(d) "dependant" means any of the following relatives of a deceased workman, namely, a wife, husband, parent, minor son, unmarried daughter, married daughter who is a minor, minor brother or unmarried sister, and includes the minor children of a deceased son of the workman and, where no parent of the workman is alive, a paternal grandparent;

(e) "employer" includes any body of persons whether incorporated or not and any managing agent of an employer and the legal representative of a deceased employer, and, when the services of a workman are temporarily lent or let on hire to another person by the person with whom the workman has entered into a contract of service or

apprenticeship, means such other person while the workman is working for him;

(f) "managing agent" means any person appointed or acting as the representative of another person for the purpose of carrying on such other person's trade or business, but does not include an individual manager subordinate to an employer;

(g) "partial disablement" means, where the disablement is of a temporary nature, such disablement as reduces the earning capacity of a workman in any employment in which he was engaged at the time of the accident resulting in the disablement, and, where the disablement is of a permanent nature, such disablement as reduces his earning capacity in every employment which he was capable of undertaking at that time; provided that every injury specified in Schedule I shall be deemed to result in permanent partial disablement;

(h) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(i) "qualified medical practitioner" means any person registered under the Medical Act, 1858 (21 & 22 Vict. c. 90), or any Act amending the same, or under any Act of any Legislature in British India providing for the maintenance of a register of medical practitioners, or, in any area where no such last-mentioned Act is in force, any person declared by the Local Government, by notification in the local official Gazette, to be a qualified medical practitioner for the purposes of this Act;

(j) "registered ship" means any sea-going ship registered under the Bombay Coasting Vessels Act, 1838 (XIX of 1838), or the Indian Registration of Ships Act, 1841 (X of 1841), or the Indian Registration of Ships Act, (1841), Amendment Act, 1850 (XI of 1850), or any home-trade ship so registered of a registered tonnage of not less than three hundred tons, or any inland steam-vessel as defined in section 2 of the Inland Steam Vessels Act, 1917 (I of 1917), of a registered tonnage of not less than one hundred tons;

(k) "seaman" means any person forming part of the crew of any registered ship, but does not include the master of any such ship;

(l) "total disablement" means such disablement, whether of a temporary or permanent nature, as incapacitates a workman for all work which he was capable of performing at the time of



the accident resulting in such disablement: provided that permanent total disablement shall be deemed to result from the permanent total loss of the sight of both eyes or from any combination of injuries specified in Schedule I where the aggregate percentage of the loss of earning capacity, as specified in that Schedule against those injuries, amounts to one hundred per cent.;

(m) "wages" includes any privilege or benefit which is capable of being estimated in money, other than a travelling allowance or the value of any travelling concession or a contribution paid by the employer of a workman towards any pension or provident fund or a sum paid to a workman to cover any special expenses entailed on him by the nature of his employment;

(n) "workman" means any person (other than a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business) who is—

(i) a railway servant as defined in section 3 of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890), not permanently employed in any administrative, district or sub-divisional office of a railway and not employed in any such capacity as is specified in Schedule II, or

(ii) employed, either by way of manual labour or on monthly wages not exceeding three hundred rupees, in any such capacity as is specified in Schedule II,

whether the contract of employment was made before or after the passing of this Act and whether such contract is expressed or implied, oral or in writing; but does not include any person working in the capacity of a member of His Majesty's naval, military or air forces or of the Royal Indian Marine Service; and any reference to a workman who has been injured shall, where the workman is dead, include a reference to his dependants or any of them.

(2) The exercise and performance of the powers and duties of a local authority or of any department of the Government shall, for the purposes of this Act, unless a contrary intention appears, be deemed to be the trade or business of such authority or department.

(3) The Governor General in Council after giving, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, not less than three months' notice of his intention so to do, may, by a like notification, direct that the provisions of this Act shall apply in the case of any person (other than a person whose employment is of a casual nature and who is employed otherwise than for the purposes of the employer's trade or business) who is employed by way of manual labour or on monthly wages not exceeding three hundred rupees in any occupation declared by such notification to be a hazardous occupation, or that the said provisions shall apply in the case

of any specified class of such persons or in the case of any such person or class to whom any specified injury is caused; and any person in whose case the said provisions are so made applicable shall be deemed to be a workman within the meaning of this Act.

CHAPTER II

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

3. *Employer's liability for compensation.*—(1) If personal injury is caused to a workman by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment, his employer shall be liable to pay compensation in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter:

Provided that the employer shall not be so liable—

(a) in respect of any injury which does not result in the total or partial disablement of the workman for a period exceeding ten days;

(b) in respect of any injury to a workman resulting from an accident which is directly attributable to—

(i) the workman having been at the time thereof under the influence of drink or drugs, or

(ii) the wilful disobedience of the workman to an order expressly given, or to a rule expressly framed, for the purpose of securing the safety of workman, or

(iii) the wilful removal or disregard by the workman of any safety guard or other device which he knew to have been provided for the purpose of securing the safety of workman; or

(c) except in the case of death or permanent total disablement, in respect of any workman employed in the construction, repair or demolition of a building or bridge.

(2) If a workman employed in any employment involving the handling of wool, hair, bristles, hides or skins contracts the disease of anthrax, or if a workman, whilst in the service of an employer in whose service he has been employed for a continuous period of not less than six months in any employment specified in Schedule III, contracts any disease specified therein as an occupational disease peculiar to that employment, the contracting of the disease shall be deemed to be an injury by accident within the meaning of this section and, unless the employer proves the contrary, the accident shall be deemed to have arisen out of and in the course of the employment.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section a period of service shall be deemed to be continuous which has not included a period of service under any other employer.

(3) The Governor General in Council, after giving, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, not less than three months' notice of his intention so to do, may by a like notification, add any description of employment



to the employments specified in Schedule III, and shall specify in the case of the employments so added the diseases which shall be deemed for the purposes of this section to be occupational diseases peculiar to those employments respectively, and the provisions of sub-section (2) shall thereupon apply as if such diseases had been declared by this Act to be occupational diseases peculiar to those employments.

(4) Save as provided by sub-sections (2) and (3), no compensation shall be payable to a workman in respect of any disease unless the disease is solely and directly attributable to a specific injury by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment.

(5) Nothing herein contained shall be deemed to confer any right to compensation on a workman in respect of any injury if he has instituted in a Civil Court a suit for damages in respect of the injury against the employer or any other person; and no suit for damages shall be maintainable by a workman in any Court of law in respect of any injury—

(a) if he has instituted a claim to compensation in respect of the injury before a Commissioner; or

(b) if an agreement has been come to between the workman and his employer providing for the payment of compensation in respect of the injury in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

4. *Amount of compensation.*—(1) Subject to the provisions of this Act, the amount of compensation shall be as follows, namely:—

A. Where death results from the injury—

(i) in the case of an adult, a sum equal to thirty months' wages or two thousand five hundred rupees, whichever is less, and

(ii) in the case of a minor, two hundred rupees;

B. Where permanent total disablement results from the injury—

(i) in the case of an adult, a sum equal to forty-two months' wages or three thousand five hundred rupees, whichever is less, and

(ii) in the case of a minor, a sum equal to eighty-four months' wages or three thousand five hundred rupees, whichever is less;

C. Where permanent partial disablement results from the injury—

(i) in the case of an injury specified in Schedule I, such percentage of the compensation which would have been payable in the case of permanent total disablement as is specified therein as being the percentage of the loss of earning capacity caused by that injury, and

(ii) in the case of an injury not specified in Schedule I, such percentage of the compensation payable in the case of permanent total disablement as is proportionate to the loss of earning capacity permanently caused by the injury;

Explanation.—Where more injuries than one are caused by the same accident, the amount of compensation payable under this head shall be aggregated but not so in any case as to exceed the amount which would have been payable if permanent total disablement had resulted from the injuries.

D. Where temporary disablement, whether total or partial, results from the injury, a half-monthly payment payable on the sixteenth day after the expiry of a waiting period of ten days from the date of the disablement, and thereafter half-monthly during the disablement or during a period of five years, whichever period is shorter,—

(i) in the case of an adult, of fifteen rupees or a sum equal to one-fourth of his monthly wages, whichever is less, and

(ii) in the case of a minor, of a sum equal to one-third or, after he has attained the age of fifteen years, to one-half of his monthly wages, but not exceeding in any case fifteen rupees;

Provided that there shall be deducted from any lump sum or half-monthly payment to which the workman is entitled the amount of any payment or allowance which the workman has received from the employer by way of compensation during the period of disablement prior to the receipt of such lump sum or of the first half-monthly payment, as the case may be, and no half-monthly payment shall in any case exceed the amount, if any, by which half the amount of the monthly wages of the workman before the accident exceeds half the amount of such wages which he is earning after the accident.

(2) On the ceasing of the disablement before the date on which any half-monthly payment falls due, there shall be payable in respect of that half month, a sum proportionate to the duration of the disablement in that half month.

5. *Method of calculating wages.*—For the purposes of section 4 the monthly wages of a workman shall be calculated as follows, namely:—

(a) where the workman has, during a continuous period of not less than twelve months immediately preceding the accident, been in the service of the employer who is liable to pay compensation, the monthly wages of the workman shall be one-twelfth of the total wages which have fallen due for payment to him by the employer in the last twelve months of that period;

(b) in other cases, the monthly wages shall be thirty times the total wages earned in respect of the last continuous period of service immediately preceding the accident from the employer who is liable to pay compensation, divided by the number of days comprising such period;

Provided that the sum arrived at by a calculation under clause (a) or clause (b) shall be increased or



decreased, as the case may be, to the amount specified in the second column of Schedule IV against the head specified in the first column thereof within the limits of which such sum is included.

Explanation.—A period of service shall, for the purposes of this section, be deemed to be continuous which has not been interrupted by a period of absence from work exceeding fourteen days.

6. *Review.*—(1) Any half-monthly payment payable under this Act, either under an agreement between the parties or under the order of a Commissioner, may be reviewed by the Commissioner on the application either of the employer or of the workman accompanied by the certificate of a qualified medical practitioner that there has been a change in the condition of the workman or, subject to rules made under this Act, on application made without such certificate.

(2) Any half-monthly payment may, on review under this section, subject to the provisions of this Act, be continued, increased, decreased or ended, or, if the accident is found to have resulted in permanent disablement, be converted to the lump sum to which the workman is entitled less any amount which he has already received by way of half-monthly payment.

7. *Commutation of half-monthly payments.*—Any right to receive half-monthly payments may, by agreement between the parties or, if the parties cannot agree and the payments have been continued for not less than six months, on the application of either party to the Commissioner, be redeemed by the payment of a lump sum of such amount as may be agreed to by the parties or determined by the Commissioner, as the case may be.

8. *Distribution of compensation.*—(1) Compensation payable in respect of a workman whose injury has resulted in death shall be deposited with the Commissioner, and any sum so deposited shall be apportioned among the dependants of the deceased workman or any of them in such proportion as the Commissioner thinks fit, or may, in the discretion of the Commissioner, be allotted to any one such dependant, and the sum so allotted to any dependant shall be paid to him or, if he is a person under any legal disability, be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with for his benefit during such disability in such manner as the Commissioner thinks fit.

(2) Any other compensation payable under this Act may be deposited with the Commissioner and, when so deposited, shall be paid by the Commissioner to the person entitled thereto.

(3) The receipt of the Commissioner shall be a sufficient discharge in respect of any amount deposited with him under sub-section (1) or sub-section (2).

(4) On the deposit of any money under sub-section (1), the Commissioner may deduct therefrom the actual cost of the workman's funeral expenses, to an

amount not exceeding fifty rupees, and pay the same to the person by whom such expenses were incurred, and shall, if he thinks necessary, cause notice to be published or to be served on each dependant in such manner as he thinks fit, calling upon the dependants to appear before him on such date as he may fix for determining the distribution of the compensation. If the Commissioner is satisfied, after any inquiry which he may deem necessary, that no dependant exists, he shall repay the balance of the money to the employer by whom it was paid. The Commissioner shall, on application by the employer, furnish a statement showing in detail all disbursements made.

(5) Where a half-monthly payment is payable under this Act to a person under any legal disability, the Commissioner may, of his own motion or on application made to him in this behalf, order that the half-monthly payment be paid during the disability to any dependant of the workman or to any other person whom he thinks best fitted to provide for the welfare of the workman.

(6) Where, on application made to him in this behalf or otherwise, the Commissioner is satisfied that, on account of neglect of children on the part of a parent or on account of the variation of the circumstances of any dependant or for any other sufficient cause, an order of the Commissioner as to the distribution of any sum paid as compensation or as to the manner in which any sum payable to any such dependant is to be invested, applied or otherwise dealt with, ought to be varied, the Commissioner may make such orders for the variation of the former order as he thinks just in the circumstances of the case:

Provided that no such order prejudicial to any person shall be made unless such person has been given an opportunity of showing cause why the order should not be made, or shall be made in any case in which it would involve the repayment by a dependant of any sum already paid to him.

9. *Compensation not to be assigned, attached or charged.*—Save as provided by this Act, no lump sum or half-monthly payment payable under this Act shall in any way be capable of being assigned or charged or be liable to attachment or pass to any person other than the workman by operation of law, nor shall any claim be set off against the same.

10. *Notice and claim.*—(1) No proceedings for the recovery of compensation shall be maintainable before a Commissioner unless notice of the accident has been given, in the manner hereinafter provided, as soon as practicable after the happening thereof and before the workman has voluntarily left the employment in which he was injured, and unless the claim for compensation with respect to such accident has been instituted within six months of the occurrence of the accident or, in case of death, within six months from the date of death:



Provided that, where the accident is the contracting of a disease in respect of which the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 3 are applicable, the accident shall be deemed to have occurred on the first of the days during which the workman was continuously absent from work in consequence of the disablement caused by the disease:

Provided, further, that the Commissioner may admit and decide any claim to compensation in any case notwithstanding that the notice has not been given, or the claim has not been instituted, in due time as provided in this sub-section, if he is satisfied that the failure so to give the notice or institute the claim, as the case may be, was due to sufficient cause.

(2) Every such notice shall give the name and address of the person injured and shall state in ordinary language the cause of the injury and the date on which the accident happened, and shall be served on the employer or upon any one or several employers, or upon any person directly responsible to the employer for the management of any branch of the trade or business in which the injured workman was employed.

(3) The notice may be served by delivering the same at, or sending it by registered post addressed to, the residence or any office or place of business of the person on whom it is to be served.

11. *Medical examination.*—(1) Where a workman has given notice of an accident, he shall, if the employer before the expiry of three days from the time at which service of the notice has been effected, offers to have him examined free of charge by a qualified medical practitioner, submit himself for such examination, and any workman who is in receipt of a half-monthly payment under this Act shall, if so required, submit himself for such examination from time to time:

Provided that a workman shall not be required to submit himself for examination by a medical practitioner otherwise than in accordance with rules made under this Act, or at more frequent intervals than may be prescribed.

(2) If a workman, on being required to do so by the employer under sub-section (1) or by the Commissioner any time, refuses to submit himself for examination by a qualified medical practitioner or in any way obstructs the same, his right to compensation shall be suspended during the continuance of such refusal or obstruction unless, in the case of refusal, he was prevented by any sufficient cause from so submitting himself.

(3) If a workman, before the expiry of the period within which he is liable under sub-section (1) to be required to submit himself for medical examination, voluntarily leaves without having been so examined the vicinity of the place in which he was employed, his right to compensation shall be suspended until he returns and offers himself for such examination.

(4) Where a workman, whose right to compensation has been suspended under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3), dies without having submitted himself for medical examination as required by either of those sub-sections, the Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, direct the payment of compensation to the dependants of the deceased workman.

(5) Where under sub-section (2) or sub-section (3) a right to compensation is suspended, no compensation shall be payable in respect of the period of suspension, and, if the period of suspension commences before the expiry of the waiting period referred to in clause D of sub-section (1) of section 4, the waiting period shall be increased by the period during which the suspension continues.

(6) Where an injured workman has refused to be attended by a qualified medical practitioner whose services have been offered to him by the employer free of charge or having accepted such offer has deliberately disregarded the instructions of such medical practitioner, then, if it is thereafter proved that the workman has not been regularly attended by a qualified medical practitioner and that such refusal, failure or disregard was unreasonable in the circumstances of the case and that the injury has been aggravated thereby, the injury and resulting disablement shall be deemed to be of the same nature and duration as they might reasonably have been expected to be if the workman had been regularly attended by a qualified medical practitioner, and compensation, if any, shall be payable accordingly.

12. *Contracting.*—(1) Where any person (hereinafter in this section referred to as the principal) in the course of or for the purposes of his trade or business contracts with any other person (hereinafter in this section referred to as the contractor) for the execution by or under the contractor of the whole or any part of any work which is ordinarily part of the trade or business of the principal, the principal shall be liable to pay to any workman employed in the execution of the work any compensation which he would have been liable to pay if that workman had been immediately employed by him; and where compensation is claimed from the principal, this Act shall apply as if references to the principal were substituted for references to the employer except that the amount of compensation shall be calculated with reference to the wages of the workman under the employer by whom he is immediately employed.

(2) Where the principal is liable to pay compensation under this section, he shall be entitled to be indemnified by the contractor, and all questions as to the right to and the amount of any such indemnity shall, in default of agreement, be settled by the Commissioner.



(3) Nothing in this section shall be construed as preventing a workman from recovering compensation from the contractor instead of the principal.

(4) This section shall not apply in any case where the accident occurred elsewhere than on, in or about the premises on which the principal has undertaken or usually undertakes, as the case may be, to execute the work or which are otherwise under his control or management.

13. Remedies of employer against stranger.—Where a workman has recovered compensation in respect of any injury caused under circumstances creating a legal liability of some person other than the person by whom the compensation was paid to pay damages in respect thereof, the person by whom the compensation was paid and any person who has been called on to pay an indemnity under section 12 shall be entitled to be indemnified by the person so liable to pay damages as aforesaid.

14. Insolvency of employer.—(1) Where any employer has entered into a contract with any insurers in respect of any liability under this Act to any workman, then in the event of the employer becoming insolvent, or making a composition or scheme of arrangement with his creditors or, if the employer is a company, in the event of the company having commenced to be wound up, the rights of the employer against the insurers as respects that liability shall, notwithstanding anything in any law for the time being in force relating to insolvency or the winding up of companies, be transferred to and vest in the workman and upon any such transfer the insurers shall have the same rights and remedies and be subject to the same liabilities as if they were the employer, so, however, that the insurers shall not be under any greater liability to the workman than they would have been under to the employer.

(2) If the liability of the insurers to the workman is less than the liability of the employer to the workman, the workman may prove for the balance in the insolvency proceedings or liquidation.

(3) Where in any case such as is referred to in sub-section (1) the contract of the employer with the insurers is void or voidable by reason of non-compliance on the part of the employer with any terms or conditions of the contract (other than a stipulation for the payment of premia), the provisions of that sub-section shall apply as if the contract were not void or voidable, and the insurers shall be entitled to prove in the insolvency proceedings or liquidation for the amount paid to the workman:

Provided that the provisions of this sub-section shall not apply in any case in which the workman fails to give notice to the insurers of the happening of the accident and of any resulting disablement as soon as practicable after he becomes aware of the institution of the insolvency or liquidation proceedings.

(4) There shall be deemed to be included among the debts which under section 49 of the Presidency-towns Insolvency Act, 1909 (III of 1909), or under section 61 of the Provincial Insolvency Act, 1920 (V of 1920), or under section 230 of the Indian Companies Act, 1913 (VII of 1913), are in the distribution of the property of an insolvent or in the distribution of the assets of a company being wound up to be paid in priority to all other debts, the amount due in respect of any compensation the liability whereof accrued before the date of the order of adjudication of the insolvent or the date of the commencement of the winding up, as the case may be, and those Acts shall have effect accordingly.

(5) Where the compensation is a half-monthly payment, the amount due in respect thereof shall, for the purposes of this section, be taken to be the amount of the lump sum for which the half-monthly payment could, if redeemable, be redeemed if application were made for that purpose under section 7, and a certificate of the Commissioner as to the amount of such sum shall be conclusive proof thereof.

(6) The provisions of sub-section (4) shall apply in the case of any amount for which an insurer is entitled to prove under sub-section (3), but otherwise those provisions shall not apply where the insolvent or the company being wound up has entered into such a contract with insurers as is referred to in sub-section (1).

(7) This section shall not apply where a company is wound up voluntarily merely for the purposes of reconstruction or of amalgamation with another company.

15. Special provisions relating to masters and seamen.—This Act shall apply in the case of workmen who are masters of registered ships or seamen subject to the following modifications, namely:—

(1) The notice of the accident and the claim for compensation may, except where the person injured is the master of the ship, be served on the master of the ship as if he were the employer, but where the accident happened and the disablement commenced on board the ship, it shall not be necessary for any seaman to give any notice of the accident.

(2) In the case of the death of a master or seaman, the claim for compensation shall be made within six months after the news of the death has been received by the claimant or, where the ship has been or is deemed to have been lost with all hands, within eighteen months of the date on which the ship was, or is deemed to have been, so lost.

(3) Where an injured master or seaman is discharged or left behind in any part of His Majesty's dominions or in a foreign country, any depositions taken by any Judge or Magistrate in that part or by any Consular Officer in the foreign country and transmitted by the person by whom they are taken to the



Governor General in Council or any Local Government shall, in any proceedings for enforcing the claim, be admissible in evidence—

(a) if the deposition is authenticated by the signature of the Judge, Magistrate or Consular Officer before whom it is made;

(b) if the defendant or the person accused, as the case may be, had an opportunity by himself or his agent to cross-examine the witness; and

(c) if the deposition was made in the course of a criminal proceeding, on proof that the deposition was made in the presence of the person accused; and it shall not be necessary in any case to prove the signature or official character of the person appearing to have signed any such deposition and a certificate by such person that the defendant or the person accused had an opportunity of cross-examining the witness and that the deposition if made in a criminal proceeding was made in the presence of the person accused shall, unless the contrary is proved, be sufficient evidence that he had that opportunity and that it was so made.

(4) In the case of the death of a master or seaman leaving no dependants, the Commissioner shall, if the owner of the ship is under any law in force for the time being in British India relating to merchant shipping liable to pay the expenses of burial of the master or seaman, return to the employer the full amount of the compensation deposited under sub-section (1) of section 8 without making the deduction referred to in sub-section (4) of that section.

(5) No monthly payment shall be payable in respect of the period during which the owner of the ship is, under any law in force for the time being in British India relating to merchant shipping, liable to defray the expenses of maintenance of the injured master or seaman.

16. Returns as to compensation.—The Governor General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, direct that every person employing workmen or that any specified class of such persons, shall send at such time and in such form and to such authority, as may be specified in the notification, a correct return specifying the number of injuries in respect of which compensation has been paid by the employer during the previous year and the amount of such compensation, together with such other particulars as to the compensation as the Governor General in Council may direct.

17. Contracting out.—Any contract or agreement whether made before or after the commencement of this Act, whereby a workman relinquishes any right of compensation from the employer for personal injury arising out of or in the course of the employment, shall be null and void in so far as it purports to remove or reduce the liability of any person to pay compensation under this Act.

18. Proof of age.—Where any question arises as to the age of a person injured by accident arising out of and in the course of his employment in a factory, a certificate granted in respect of such person under section 7 or section 8 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), before the occurrence of the injury shall be conclusive proof of the age of such person.

CHAPTER III COMMISSIONERS

19. Reference to Commissioners.—(1) If any question arises in any proceedings under this Act as to the liability of any person to pay compensation (including any question as to whether a person injured is or is not a workman) or as to the amount or duration of compensation (including any question as to the nature or extent of disablement), the question shall, in default of agreement, be settled by the Commissioner.

(2) No Civil Court shall have jurisdiction to settle, decide or deal with any question which is by or under this Act required to be settled, decided or dealt with by a Commissioner or to enforce any liability incurred under this Act.

20. Appointment of Commissioners.—(1) The Local Government may, by notification in the local official Gazette, appoint any person to be a Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation for such local area as may be specified in the notification.

(2) Any Commissioner may, for the purpose of deciding any matter referred to him for decision under this Act, choose one or more persons possessing special knowledge of any matter relevant to the matter under inquiry to assist him in holding the inquiry.

(3) Every Commissioner shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

21. Venue of proceedings and transfer.—(1) Where any matter is under this Act to be done by or before a Commissioner, the same shall, subject to the provisions of this Act and to any rules made hereunder, be done by or before the Commissioner for the local area in which the accident took place which resulted in the injury:

Provided that, where the workman is the master of a registered ship or a seaman, any such matter may be done by or before the Commissioner for the local area in which the owner or agent of the ship resides or carries on business.

(2) If a Commissioner is satisfied by any party to any proceedings under this Act pending before him that such matter can be more conveniently dealt with by any other Commissioner, whether in the same province or not, he may, subject to rules made under this Act, order such matter to be transferred to such other Commissioner either for report



or for disposal, and, if he does so, shall forthwith transmit to such other Commissioner all documents relevant for the decision of such matter and, where the matter is transferred for disposal, shall also transmit in the prescribed manner any money remaining in his hands or invested by him for the benefit of any party to the proceedings :

Provided that no matter other than a matter relating to the actual payment to a workman or the distribution among dependants of a lump sum shall be transferred for disposal under this sub-section to a Commissioner in the same province save with the previous sanction of the Local Government or to a Commissioner in another province save with the previous sanction of the Governor General in Council, unless all the parties to the proceedings agree to the transfer.

(3) The Commissioner to whom any matter is so transferred shall, subject to rules made under this Act, inquire therein and, if the matter was transferred for report, return his report thereon or, if the matter was transferred for disposal, continue the proceedings as if they had originally commenced before him.

(4) On receipt of a report from a Commissioner to whom any matter has been transferred for report under sub-section (2), the Commissioner by whom it was referred shall decide the matter referred in conformity with such report.

22. Form of application.—(1) No application for the settlement of any matter by a Commissioner shall be made unless and until some question has arisen between the parties in connection therewith which they have been unable to settle by agreement.

(2) Where any such question has arisen, the application may be made in such form and shall be accompanied by such fee, if any, as may be prescribed and shall contain, in addition to any particulars which may be prescribed, the following particulars, namely :—

(a) a concise statement of the circumstances in which the application is made and the relief or order which the applicant claims ;

(b) in the case of a claim for compensation against an employer, the date of service of notice of the accident on the employer and, if such notice has not been served or has not been served in due time, the reason for such omission ;

(c) the names and addresses of the parties ; and

(d) a concise statement of the matters on which agreement has and on those on which agreement has not been come to.

(3) If the applicant is illiterate or for any other reason is unable to furnish the required information in writing, the application shall, if the applicant so desires, be prepared under the direction of the Commissioner.

23. Powers and procedure of Commissioners.—The Commissioner shall have all the powers of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908), for the purpose of taking evidence on oath (which such Commissioner is hereby empowered to impose) and of enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of documents and material objects.

24. Appearance of parties.—Any appearance, application or act required to be made or done by any person before or to a Commissioner (other than an appearance of a party which is required for the purpose of his examination as a witness) may be made or done on behalf of such person by a legal practitioner or other person authorised in writing by such person.

25. Method of recording evidence.—The Commissioner shall make a brief memorandum of the substance of the evidence of every witness as the examination of the witness proceeds, and such memorandum shall be written and signed by the Commissioner with his own hand and shall form part of the record :

Provided that, if the Commissioner is prevented from making such memorandum, he shall record the reason of his inability to do so and shall cause such memorandum to be made in writing from his dictation and shall sign the same, and such memorandum shall form part of the record :

Provided, further, that the evidence of any medical witness shall be taken down as nearly as may be word for word.

26. Costs.—All costs incidental to any proceedings before a Commissioner shall, subject to rules made under this Act, be in the discretion of the Commissioner.

27. Power to submit cases.—A Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, submit any question of law for the decision of the High Court and, if he does so, shall decide the question in conformity with such decision.

28. Registration of agreements.—(1) Where the amount of any lump sum payable as compensation has been settled by agreement, whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or otherwise, or where any compensation has been so settled as being payable to a person under a legal disability or to a dependant, a memorandum thereof shall be sent by the employer to the Commissioner, who shall, on being satisfied as to its genuineness, record the memorandum in a register in the prescribed manner :

Provided that—

(a) no such memorandum shall be recorded before seven days after communication by the Commissioner of notice to the parties concerned ;



(b) where a workman seeks to record a memorandum of agreement between his employer and himself for the payment of compensation and the employer proves that the workman has, in fact, returned to work and is earning the same wages as he did before the accident and objects to the recording of such memorandum, the memorandum shall only be recorded, if at all, on such terms as the Commissioner thinks just in the circumstances ;

(c) the Commissioner may at any time rectify the register ;

(d) where it appears to the Commissioner that an agreement as to the payment of a lump sum whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or otherwise, or an agreement as to the amount of compensation payable to a person under any legal disability or to any dependant, ought not to be registered by reason of the inadequacy of the sum or amount, or by reason of the agreement having been obtained by fraud or undue influence or other improper means, he may refuse to record the memorandum of the agreement or may make such order, including an order as to any sum already paid under the agreement, as he thinks just in the circumstances.

(2) An agreement for the payment of compensation which has been registered under sub-section (1) shall be enforceable under this Act notwithstanding anything contained in the Indian Contract Act, 1872 (IX of 1872), or in any other law for the time being in force.

29. Effect of failure to register agreement.—Where a memorandum of any agreement, the registration of which is required by section 28, is not sent to the Commissioner as required by that section, the employer shall be liable to pay the full amount of compensation which he is liable to pay under the provisions of this Act, and notwithstanding anything contained in the proviso to sub-section (1) of section 4, shall not, unless the Commissioner otherwise directs, be entitled to deduct more than half of any amount paid to the workman by way of compensation whether under the agreement or otherwise.

30. Appeals.—(1) An appeal shall lie to the High Court from the following orders of a Commissioner, namely :—

(a) an order awarding as compensation a lump sum whether by way of redemption of a half-monthly payment or otherwise or disallowing a claim in full or in part for a lump sum ;

(b) an order refusing to allow redemption of a half-monthly payment ;

(c) an order providing for the distribution of compensation among the dependants of a deceased workman, or disallowing any claim of a person alleging himself to be such dependant ;

(d) an order allowing or disallowing any claim for the amount of an indemnity under the provisions of sub-section (2) of section 12 ; or

(e) an order refusing to register a memorandum of agreement or registering the same or providing for the registration of the same subject to conditions : Provided that no appeal shall lie against any order unless a substantial question of law is involved in the appeal and, in the case of an order other than an order such as is referred to in clause (b), unless the amount in dispute in the appeal is not less than three hundred rupees :

Provided further, that no appeal shall lie in any case in which the parties have agreed to abide by the decision of the Commissioner, or in which the order of the Commissioner gives effect to an agreement come to by the parties.

(2) The period of limitation for an appeal under this section shall be sixty days.

(3) The provisions of section 5 of the Indian Limitation Act, 1908 (IX of 1908), shall be applicable to appeals under this section.

31. Recovery.—The Commissioner may recover as an arrear of land revenue any amount payable by any person under this Act, whether under an agreement for the payment of compensation or otherwise, and the Commissioner shall be deemed to be a public officer within the meaning of section 5 of the Revenue Recovery Act, 1890 (I of 1890).

CHAPTER IV

RULES

32. Power of the Governor General in Council to make rules.—(1) The Governor General in Council may make rules to carry out the purposes of this Act.

(2) In particular and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :—

(a) for prescribing the intervals at which and the conditions subject to which an application for review may be made under section 6 when not accompanied by a medical certificate ;

(b) for prescribing the intervals at which and the conditions subject to which a workman may be required to submit himself for medical examination under sub-section (1) of section 11 ;

(c) for prescribing the procedure to be followed by Commissioners in the disposal of cases under this Act and by the parties in such cases ;

(d) for regulating the transfer of matters and cases from one Commissioner to another and the transfer of money in such cases ;

(e) for prescribing the manner in which money in the hands of a Commissioner may be invested for the benefit of dependants of a deceased workman



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and for the transfer of money so invested from one Commissioner to another ;

(f) for the representation in proceedings before Commissioners of parties who are minors or are unable to make an appearance ;

(g) for prescribing the form and manner in which memoranda of agreements shall be presented and registered ;

(h) for the withholding by Commissioners, whether in whole or in part, of half-monthly payments pending decision on applications for review of the same ; and

(i) for any other matter which is not, in the opinion of the Governor General in Council, a matter of merely local or provincial importance.

33. Power of Local Government to make rules.—The Local Government may, subject to the control of the Governor General in Council, make rules to provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) for regulating the scales of costs which may be allowed in proceedings under this Act ;

(b) for prescribing and determining the amount of the fees payable in respect of any proceedings before a Commissioner under this Act ;

(c) for the maintenance by Commissioners of registers and records of proceedings before them ; and

(d) generally for carrying out the provisions of this Act in respect of any matter which is, in the opinion of the Local Government, a matter of merely local importance in the province.

34. Publication of rules.—(1) The power to make rules conferred by sections 32 and 33 shall be subject to the condition of the rules being made after previous publication.

(2) The date to be specified in accordance with clause (3) of section 23 of the General Clauses Act, 1897 (X of 1897), as that after which a draft of rules proposed to be made under section 32 or section 33 will be taken into consideration, shall not be less than three months from the date on which the draft of the proposed rules was published for general information.

(3) Rules so made shall be published in the *Gazette of India* or the local official *Gazette*, as the case may be, and on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

SCHEDULE I

[See sections 2 (1) and 4]

List of injuries deemed to result in permanent partial disablement

Injury.	Percentage of loss of earning capacity.
Loss of right arm above or at the elbow ..	70
Loss of left arm above or at the elbow ..	60
Loss of right arm below the elbow ..	60
Loss of leg at or above the knee ..	60
Loss of left arm below the elbow ..	50
Loss of leg below the knee ..	50
Permanent total loss of hearing ..	50
Loss of one eye ..	30
Loss of thumb ..	25
Loss of all toes of one foot ..	20
Loss of one phalanx of thumb ..	10
Loss of index finger ..	10
Loss of great toe ..	10
Loss of any finger other than index finger ..	5

Note.—Complete and permanent loss of the use of any limb or member referred to in this Schedule shall be deemed to be the equivalent of the loss of that limb or member.

SCHEDULE II

[See section 2 (1) (n)]

List of persons who, subject to the provisions of section 2 (1) (n), are included in the definition of workman

The following persons are workmen within the meaning of section 2 (1) (n) and subject to the provisions of that section, that is to say any person who is—

(i) employed in connection with the service of a tramway as defined in section 3 of the Indian Tramways Act, 1886 (XI of 1886), or

(ii) employed within the meaning of clause (2) of section 2 of the Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911), in any place which is a factory within the meaning of sub-clause (a) of clause (3) of that section ; or

(iii) employed within the meaning of clause (d) of section 3 of the Indian Mines Act, 1923 (IV of 1923), in any mine which is subject to the operation of that Act, or

(iv) employed as the master of a registered ship or as a seaman ; or

(v) employed for the purpose of loading, unloading or coaling any ship at any pier, jetty, landing place, wharf, quay, dock, warehouse or shed, on, in or at which steam, water or other mechanical power or electrical power is used ; or



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(vi) employed in the construction, repair or demolition of—

(a) a building which is designed to be, is or has been more than one storey in height above ground level, or

(b) a building which is used, has been used, or is designed to be used, for industrial or commercial purposes and is, has been or is designed to be, not less than twenty feet in height measured from ground level to apex of the roof, or

(c) a bridge which is, has been or is designed to be more than fifty feet in length ; or

(vii) employed in setting up, repairing, maintaining, or taking down any telegraph or telephone line or post or any overhead electric cable ; or

(viii) employed in the construction, inspection or upkeep of any underground sewer ; or

(ix) employed in the service of any fire brigade.

SCHEDULE III

[See section 3]

List of occupational diseases

Occupational disease.	Employment.
Lead poisoning or its sequelæ ..	Any process involving the use of lead or its preparations or compounds.
Phosphorus poisoning or its sequelæ ..	Any process involving the use of phosphorus or its preparations or compounds.

SCHEDULE IV

[See section 5]

Table of assumed wages

Limits.	Assumed wages.
Where the sum arrived at by a calculation under clause (a) or clause (b) of section 5 is—	
Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
less than 9 0 0	8 0 0
not less than 9 0 0	10 0 0
" 11 0 0	12 0 0
" 13 0 0	15 4 0
" 17 8 0	20 0 0
" 22 8 0	25 0 0
" 27 8 0	30 0 0
" 32 8 0	35 0 0
" 37 8 0	40 0 0
" 42 8 0	46 4 0
" 50 0 0	55 0 0
" 60 0 0	65 0 0
" 70 0 0	75 0 0
" 80 0 0	83 5 4
but less than 11 0 0	10 0 0
" 13 0 0	12 0 0
" 17 8 0	15 4 0
" 22 8 0	20 0 0
" 27 8 0	25 0 0
" 32 8 0	30 0 0
" 37 8 0	35 0 0
" 42 8 0	40 0 0
" 50 0 0	46 4 0
" 60 0 0	55 0 0
" 70 0 0	65 0 0
" 80 0 0	75 0 0

H 2-11

EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

PROVISIONS IN THE RUSSIAN LABOUR CODE

The Russian Labour Code, which came into operation on 16th November 1922, contains the following provisions in regard to the employment of women and young persons :

129. Women and young persons under eighteen years of age shall not be employed in particularly heavy and unhealthy work, or in work underground.

A list of specially heavy and unhealthy occupations shall be issued by the People's Labour Commissariat in agreement with the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions together with provisions restricting the carrying of weights ; separate lists shall be issued for women and young persons.

130. Women and young persons under eighteen years of age shall not be employed at night.

Note.—The People's Labour Commissariat in agreement with the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions may authorise the employment at night of adult women in branches of industry in which it is absolutely necessary.

131. The employment at night or on overtime of pregnant women and nursing mothers shall be absolutely prohibited.

132. A woman employed in manual work shall be exempt from work for eight weeks before and eight after her confinement, and a woman employed in office or intellectual work shall be exempt from work for six weeks before and six weeks after her confinement. (Section 181 *)

Note.—A list of the office and intellectual occupations for which, in view of their special nature, the period of leave in connection with maternity is fixed at eight weeks before and eight weeks after confinement, shall be issued by the People's Labour Commissariat.

133. A woman shall not be required to undertake work elsewhere than in the locality where she is permanently employed, without her consent thereto, from the fifth month of pregnancy onward.

134. In addition to the general breaks (section 100)† further break^s shall be granted to nursing mothers for the purpose of nursing their children. The exact duration of these breaks shall be fixed in the rules of employment provided that breaks for nursing shall always be granted at intervals of not more than 3½ hours, and each break shall amount to at least half an hour.

The said breaks shall be included in the working hours.

135. Young persons under sixteen years of age shall not be employed.

Note.—The labour inspector shall be entitled to give permission in exceptional cases for the engagement of young persons who have attained the age of fourteen years, in accordance with special regulations issued by the People's Labour Commissariat in agreement with the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions.

136. The working hours of persons under sixteen years of age who are already employed in undertakings or who are newly engaged under section 135 (note) shall be fixed at four hours a day.

137. The minimum number of minors to be employed in the various branches of industry shall be fixed by order for each industry by the People's Labour Commissariat in agreement with the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions.

*181. Pregnancy and maternity benefit shall be paid to the insured person during the whole period of her absence from work, within the limits specified in section 132 of this Code and the note thereto.

†100. In the case of work which admits of regular interruption, the break shall occur not more than four hours after work begins, and shall amount to at least half an hour and not more than two hours. Within these limits the length of the break shall be fixed in the rules of employment.

Note.—Regulations concerning the special breaks for nursing mothers are laid down in section 134.



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Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1922.	February 1923.	March 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	.. Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	6 8 9	5 11 5	6 1 2
Wheat	.. Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	9 12 0	7 5 6	7 8 9
Do.	.. Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	105 0 0	47 8 0	70 0 0
Do.	.. Jubbulpore	..	40 0 0	80 0 0	3 14 8	47 8 0
Jowari	.. Rangoon	Md.	3 2 6	4 12 2	3 4 6	4 0 4
Barley	.. —	..	3 4 6	4 12 2	3 4 6	3 2 10
Bajri	.. Ghati	..	3 4 6	6 5 7	4 0 4	4 3 9
Pulses—						
Gram	.. Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	4 3 9	6 14 1	4 0 4	4 0 4
Turdal	.. Cawnpore	..	5 10 5	9 9 10	5 4 8	5 1 3
Sugar—						
Sugar	.. Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	22 8 0	23 2 0	28 4 0
Do.	.. Java white	..	10 3 0	24 0 0	23 8 0	27 12 0
Raw (Gul)	.. Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	14 15 5	11 9 0	11 9 0
Other food—						
Turmeric	.. Rajapuri	..	5 9 3	16 9 7	25 2 9	25 13 7
Ghee	.. Deshi	..	45 11 5	91 6 10	85 11 5	85 11 5
Salt	.. Bombay (black)	..	1 7 6	3 5 0	2 7 0	3 8 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—						
Rice	.. Rangoon Small-mill	..	100	139	121	129
Wheat	.. Delhi No. 1	..	100	174	131	135
Do.	.. Khandwa Seoni	..	100	233	156	156
Do.	.. Jubbulpore	..	100	200	119	119
Jowari	.. Rangoon	..	100	151	124	127
Barley	.. —	..	100	145	100	97
Bajri	.. Ghati	..	100	194	123	129
Average—Cereals	..	..	100	177	125	127
Pulses—						
Gram	.. Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	100	162	95	95
Turdal	.. Cawnpore	..	100	170	94	90
Average—Pulses	..	..	100	166	95	93
Sugar—						
Sugar	.. Mauritius No. 1	..	100	245	252	307
Do.	.. Java white	..	100	236	231	272
Raw (Gul)	.. Sangli	..	100	190	147	147
Average—Sugar	..	..	100	224	210	242
Other food—						
Turmeric	.. Rajapuri	..	100	298	451	463
Ghee	.. Deshi	..	100	200	188	188
Salt	.. Bombay (black)	..	100	226	166	238
Average—Other food	100	241	268	296
Average—All food	100	198	167	179



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Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1922.	February 1923.	March 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Linseed	.. Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	13 8 0	12 9 0	13 6 0
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	..	8 0 0	11 0 0	10 2 0	10 9 0
Poppyseed	.. Do.	..	10 14 0	14 0 0	13 4 0	14 2 0
Gingely	.. White	..	11 4 0	15 10 0	15 10 0	16 0 0
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw						
Broach	.. Good	Candy	251 0 0	380 0 0	478 0 0	473 0 0
Oomra	.. Fully good	..	222 0 0	..	..	..
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	..	230 0 0	..	..	..
Khandesh	.. Machine ginned	..	205 0 0	..	..	..
Bengal	.. Do.	..	198 0 0	349 0 0	405 0 0	419 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	.. 40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 9 6	1 8 6	1 10 0
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	15 0 0	12 12 0	12 12 0
White mulls	.. 6,600	..	4 3 0	11 4 0	10 0 0	10 0 0
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	..	10 6 0	27 0 0	25 8 0	25 8 0
Long cloth	.. Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	Lb.	0 9 6	1 10 0	1 6 6	1 6 6
Chudders	.. 54" x 6 yds.	..	0 9 6	1 7 6	1 4 9	1 4 9

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Linseed	.. Bold	..	100	152	141	150
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	..	100	138	127	132
Poppyseed	.. Do.	..	100	129	122	130
Gingely	.. White	..	100	139	139	142
Average—Oilseeds	..	..	100	140	132	139
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw						
Broach	.. Good	..	100	..	..	..
Oomra	.. Fully good	..	100	171	215	213
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	..	100	..	..	..
Khandesh	.. Machine ginned	..	100	..	..	..
Bengal	.. Do.	..	100	176	205	212
Average—Cotton—raw	..	..	100	174	210	213
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	.. 40S	..	100	200	192	204
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	..	100	253	215	215
White mulls	.. 6,600	..	100	269	239	239
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	..	100	260	246	246
Long cloth	.. Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	..	100	274	237	237
Chudders	.. 54" x 6 yds.	..	100	247	218	218
Average—Cotton manufactures	100	251	225	227
Average—Textiles—Cotton	100	231	221	223

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Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1922.	February 1923.	March 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed .. .. .	.....	Maund ..	2 11 3	4 2 0	3 13 6	4 2 0
Rapeseed	3 % admixture ..	Candy ..	51 0 0	66 0 0	62 0 0	61 8 0
Gingelly	Black, 9 % admixture ..	.. ..	62 0 0	84 0 0	83 0 0	92 0 0
Textiles—						
Jute bags—	B. Twills	100 bags ..	38 4 0	44 0 0	51 4 0	52 0 0
Textile—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund ..	20 4 0	36 10 0	45 0 0	43 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Piece ..	10 3 6	22 12 0	22 13 0	23 14 0
Shirting	Liepmann's .. ..	.. ..	10 2 0	25 8 0	24 8 0	24 8 0
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough) ..	Lb. ..	0 12 2	.....	.....	.....
Other Textiles—						
Wool	Kandahar	Maund ..	28 0 0	24 0 0	38 0 0	38 0 0

Expressed as percentage of July 1914

Price in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed .. .. .	.....	.....	100	153	142	153
Rapeseed	3 % admixture ..	.....	100	129	122	121
Gingelly	Black, 9 % admixture ..	.....	100	135	134	148
Average—Oilseeds .. .. .	.....	.....	100	139	133	141
Textiles—						
Jute bags	Twills .. .. .	.....	100	115	134	136
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind .. .. .	.....	100	181	222	212
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill .. ..	.....	100	223	223	234
Shirtings	Liepmann's .. ..	.....	100	252	242	242
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough) ..	.....	100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Cotton manufactures .. .. .	.....	.....	100	238	233	238
Average—Textiles—Cotton .. .. .	.....	.....	100	219	229	229
Other Textiles—Wool .. .. .	.....	.....	100	86	136	136

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	March 1922.	February 1923.	March 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides—						
Hides dry	Sind	Maund ..	21 4 0	14 0 0	14 4 0	14 8 0
.. .. .	Punjab .. .. .	.. ..	21 4 0	14 0 0	14 4 0	14 8 0
Metals—						
Copper Braziers .. .. .	.....	Cwt. ..	60 8 0	83 0 0	76 8 0	81 0 0
Steel Bars .. .. .	.....	.. ..	3 14 0	8 8 0	7 12 0	8 0 0
.. Plates .. .. .	.....	.. ..	4 6 0	11 0 0	8 0 0	7 12 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal ..	Ton ..	16 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0
Kerosene	Chester brand	Case ..	5 2 0	10 1 0	9 14 6	9 14 6
.. .. .	Elephant	2 Tins ..	4 7 0	7 8 6	7 6 0	7 6 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Hides—						
Hides dry	Sind .. .. .	.....	100	66	67	68
.. .. .	Punjab .. .. .	.....	100	66	67	68
Average—Hides .. .. .	.....	.....	100	66	67	68
Metals—						
Copper Braziers .. .. .	.....	.....	100	137	126	134
Steel Bars .. .. .	.....	.....	100	219	200	207
.. Plates .. .. .	.....	.....	100	252	183	177
Average—Metals .. .. .	.....	.....	100	203	170	173
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal ..	.....	100	219	219	219
Kerosene	Chester Brand .. ..	.....	100	196	193	193
.. .. .	Elephant .. .. .	.....	100	170	166	166
Average—Other raw and manufac- tured articles .. .. .	.....	.....	100	195	193	193
Total—Food .. .. .	.....	.....	100	203	126	134
Total—Non-food .. .. .	.....	.....	100	162	161	163
General Average .. .. .	.....	.....	100	179	148	152



Wholesale prices index numbers in Bombay by groups from January 1920
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.
1920														
January	184	178	323	202	215	210	202	312	153	196	297	200	241	231
1921														
January	158	160	306	146	185	138	120	274	163	148	233	216	195	191
February	159	145	324	149	188	133	110	265	163	172	234	216	193	191
March	156	139	338	150	189	129	108	256	163	152	246	216	190	190
April	173	149	329	164	199	146	112	267	163	169	247	216	198	190
May	173	151	314	162	196	150	115	272	142	166	248	232	200	198
June	184	158	267	169	194	161	126	270	109	141	239	222	205	199
July	186	151	234	185	191	171	137	269	138	156	244	206	203	197
August	216	166	229	181	205	160	137	267	138	160	242	210	202	203
September	212	169	230	174	202	150	217	265	138	180	240	206	211	203
October	192	164	207	180	189	130	169	273	138	182	209	202	199	207
November	196	175	203	190	193	129	170	263	138	163	204	198	192	195
December	188	180	200	185	189	136	198	259	138	136	200	198	191	190
1922														
January	182	175	210	190	188	132	166	258	139	167	199	196	190	190
February	179	168	203	211	189	136	156	244	139	148	192	208	185	186
March	177	166	224	241	198	140	174	251	139	168	192	196	189	192
April	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	254	139	137	187	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	191	190
July	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	139	142	177	188	188	186
August	166	132	227	238	188	138	197	248	139	139	183	186	184	186
September	163	127	212	241	185	135	191	229	139	142	182	181	179	181
October	145	119	210	249	178	138	165	226	139	112	182	182	172	174
November	137	111	213	260	176	133	173	224	139	146	185	188	177	176
December	129	105	216	266	170	135	185	220	139	122	186	182	174	173
1923														
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

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, February and March 1923
The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Articles.	Grade.	Rate per	Equivalent in tolas.	July 1914.	February 1923.	March 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in March 1923 over or below	
							July 1914.	February 1923.
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	216	5 10	7 6	7 8	+1 10	+0 2
Wheat	Punjab Pissi	"	212	5 10	8 0	8 0	+2 2	"
Jowari	Madras	"	208	4 3	4 10	4 11	+0 8	+0 1
Bajri	Ghati	"	200	4 7	5 3	5 4	+0 9	+0 1
Gram	Punjab red	"	208	4 4	7 2	7 0	+2 8	-0 2
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	8 0	8 0	+2 1	"
Sugar (raw)	Sangli, middle quality	Seer by weight	28	1 2	2 5	2 5	+1 3	"
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	"	28	1 1	2 3	2 1	+1 0	-0 2
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	10 11	10 11	+3 1	"
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	188	1 9	2 6	3 1	+1 4	+0 7
Beef	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	5 0	5 0	+2 6	"
Mutton	" Average for sheep and goat	"	39	3 0	7 6	8 1	+5 1	+0 7
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	"
Ghee	Belgaum, Deshi	" by weight	28	7 1	12 1	12 1	+5 0	"
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	"	28	0 8	1 2	1 0	+0 4	-0 2
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 9	0 9	+0 6	"
Cocconut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+0 5	"



Retail prices of Articles of food in February and March 1923

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
		February 1923.	February 1923.	February 1923.	February 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.				
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—											
Rice	Maund	6 15 7	6 9 7	8 0 0	7 0 3	8 3 7	7 1 3	6 6 5	8 0 0	7 0 3	8 6 0
Wheat	"	7 8 9	5 8 1	5 11 5	6 15 9	6 8 6	7 8 9	5 0 0	5 11 5	6 15 9	6 8 6
Jowari	"	4 10 8	3 7 8	3 10 10	3 8 3	4 9 8	4 11 9	3 7 8	4 0 0	3 7 2	4 3 11
Bajri	"	5 4 6	4 0 0	5 2 7	4 6 0	5 3 0	5 5 4	4 0 0	5 5 4	4 11 4	5 3 0
Pulses—											
Gram	"	6 14 1	4 9 2	6 6 5	5 3 0	5 1 9	6 12 0	4 8 7	6 0 7	4 14 6	5 0 4
Turdal	"	7 13 6	7 4 4	8 0 0	7 8 2	8 1 7	7 13 6	6 11 9	8 0 0	6 11 9	8 0 0
Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined)	"	17 6 3	15 13 6	17 12 5	18 4 7	17 12 5	17 4 9	17 10 10	20 10 4	19 6 4	19 14 0
Jagri (gul)	"	16 5 3	12 4 11	13 5 4	13 5 4	12 15 3	15 0 5	12 4 11	14 8 9	13 5 4	12 0 6
Tea	Lb.	0 10 11	0 12 5	0 15 7	0 11 4	0 12 0	0 10 11	0 12 5	0 15 7	0 11 4	0 12 0
Salt	Maund	2 9 11	1 14 6	2 8 0	3 13 8	3 6 6	3 3 10	2 8 0	2 15 5	4 13 5	3 14 3
Beef	Seer	0 10 3	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 10 3	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton	"	10 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	1 0 7	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5
Milk	Maund	17 4	7 9 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4	7 9 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 5 4
Ghee	"	86 7 9	73 2 5	75 4 8	71 1 9	74 6 8	86 7 9	75 4 11	80 0 0	71 1 9	74 6 8
Potatoes	"	8 5 0	4 14 9	4 6 2	6 6 5	4 15 3	7 2 3	4 3 4	4 11 4	5 0 0	4 7 11
Onions	"	5 4 7	4 11 4	5 11 5	3 5 4	3 5 5	5 7 1	4 10 2	6 10 8	4 0 0	3 1 0
Cocconut oil	"	28 9 1	25 9 7	32 0 0	26 10 8	28 1 1	28 9 1	25 9 7	32 0 0	26 10 8	28 1 1

NOTE.—1 lb. = 39 tolas ; 1 maund = 82½ lbs. ; 1 seer = 2⅔ lbs. ; 80 tolas = 1 seer ; 40 seers = 1 Indian maund.

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

Cereals—											
Rice	125	99	130	133	143	127	96	130	133	145	
Wheat	135	131	121	135	121	135	119	121	135	121	
Jowari	107	98	97	123	134	109	96	105	126	124	
Bajri	122	95	110	124	126	109	95	113	134	126	
Average—cereals	122	105	115	129	131	124	102	117	131	129	
Pulses—											
Gram	160	120	160	121	105	157	119	151	114	103	
Turdal	134	109	130	129	123	134	101	130	115	121	
Average—pulses	147	115	145	125	114	146	110	141	115	112	
Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined)	228	218	198	183	190	227	243	229	194	212	
Jagri (gul)	191	177	150	172	185	176	177	164	172	171	
Tea	140	180	200	109	146	140	180	200	109	146	
Salt	123	145	166	173	181	152	190	196	218	207	
Beef	199	180	100	240	141	199	180	100	240	141	
Mutton	251	167	200	167	184	249	167	200	167	190	
Milk	191	172	200	183	133	191	172	200	183	133	
Ghee	170	172	169	127	144	170	177	180	127	144	
Potatoes	186	91	115	160	147	159	78	124	125	133	
Onions	341	259	285	133	167	351	255	333	160	153	
Cocconut oil	113	104	160	100	100	113	104	160	100	100	
Average—other articles of food	192	170	177	159	156	193	175	190	163	157	
Average—all food articles (unweighted)	170	148	158	148	145						



Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

Country.	ASIA AND OCEANIA				AFRICA		EUROPE					
	India (Bombay)	Japan.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Egypt (Cairo).	South Africa.	United Kingdom.					
							(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	France.	Italy. (e)
No. of articles.	43	56	92	140	24	188	45	44	150	60	45	
1913 Average ..	*	100	100	100	..	100	100	100	100	100	100	..
1914 ..	100	95	106	104	100	97	100	99	..	102	100	..
1915 ..	..	97	147	123	102	107	127	123	..	102	100	..
1916 ..	..	117	138	134	124	123	160	160	..	140	95	..
1917 ..	..	148	153	151	169	141	206	204	..	188	201	..
1918 ..	..	237	196	178	175	207	226	225	..	262	299	..
1919 ..	..	222	239	189	178	226	242	235	..	339	409	..
1920 ..	..	215	260	228	212	299	295	283	..	356	479	..
1921 November ..	193	214	159	190	181	..	161	166	307	510	366	..
December ..	190	210	155	189	170	..	157	162	168	332	624	..
1922 January ..	190	206	154	186	169	131	156	159	164	326	595	..
February ..	186	204	154	181	169	..	156	158	162	314	595	..
March ..	192	201	153	180	153	..	157	160	160	307	563	..
April ..	188	198	155	180	148	128	159	159	160	314	533	..
May ..	189	195	162	177	141	..	159	162	160	317	527	..
June ..	190	198	163	175	139	..	160	163	160	317	524	..
July ..	188	202	164	177	138	127	158	163	160	326	537	..
August ..	186	196	163	177	139	..	153	158	156	331	558	..
September ..	181	193	164	175	138	..	151	156	154	329	571	..
October ..	174	190	167	174	140	129	153	158	155	337	582	..
November ..	176	188	165	175	144	..	154	159	157	353	601	..
December ..	173	183	..	172	147	..	152	158	155	362	596	..
1923 January ..	177	185	..	171	141	130	153	161	157	387	580	..
February ..	172	..	..	..	..	..	155	163	158	422	575	..
March ..	177	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	582	..

Country.	EUROPE—continued.						NORTH AMERICA.				
	Switzer-land.	Belgium.	Germany. (d)	Nether-lands (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Canada.	United States of America.		
									(5)	(6)	(7)
No. of articles.	71	209	77	..	93	47	33	272	96	325	88
1913 Average ..	..	..	100	100	(e)	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	100	100	105	105	100	116	..	100	..	98	..
1915 ..	..	..	142	145	(f) 159	145	138	109	..	101	..
1916 ..	..	..	153	222	(f) 233	185	164	134	..	127	..
1917 ..	..	..	179	286	341	244	228	175	..	177	..
1918 ..	..	..	217	392	345	339	293	205	..	194	..
1919 ..	..	..	415	297	322	330	294	216	..	206	211
1920 ..	..	..	1,486	281	377	347	..	246	216	226	239
1921 November ..	178	374	3,416	165	276	174	186	168	123	141	145
December ..	176	369	3,487	165	269	172	188	170	123	140	142
1922 January ..	171	366	3,665	161	260	170	178	168	123	138	142
February ..	171	356	4,103	162	253	166	177	169	124	141	146
March ..	163	350	5,433	161	240	164	182	166	126	142	147
April ..	161	344	6,355	162	236	165	178	166	125	143	149
May ..	160	348	6,458	165	231	164	177	167	127	148	158
June ..	161	356	7,030	167	230	164	179	165	129	150	162
July ..	163	360	10,059	162	232	165	180	166	131	155	165
August ..	163	360	17,985	155	227	163	180	164	131	155	165
September ..	163	364	27,419	153	225	158	178	163	131	153	164
October ..	169	385	56,600	156	221	155	176	162	136	154	165
November ..	170	408	115,100	158	221	154	180	164	145	156	164
December ..	175	407	147,480	158	220	155	182	165	149	156	164
1923 January ..	178	434	278,500	159	220	156	181	165	149	156	166
February ..	181	..	558,470	..	..	158	192	166	..	..	166

* July 1914=100. (a) New index numbers. (b) 1914=100. (c) 1920=100. (d) Revised figures. (e) Average Dec. 1913 to June 1914=100. (f) The figures from 1915-19 are for December. NOTE.—The absolute and secondary maxima are indicated in heavier type. (1) Statist. (2) Economist. (3) Board of Trade. (4) Times. (5) Bradstreet. (6) Bureau of Labour. (7) Federal Reserve Board.



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.
	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, light, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, light, 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 and rent.	Food, clothing, heating and lighting, rent 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	99	..	(e) 117	119	103	..	..	105
1916 ..	..	148	102	115	113	116	..	146	140	106	..	..	118
1917 ..	..	180	130	116	119	146	..	190	180	114	..	..	142
1918 ..	..	203	146	118	128	197	..	253	229	118	..	..	174
1919 ..	..	208	155	132	133	205	..	275	261	126	238	..	177
1920 ..	189	252	190	..	149	313	453	..	253	155	..	842	217
1921 July ..	177	219	152	..	157	387	..	209	133	133	..	11,124	..
September ..	185	220	158	145	155	400	386	296	200	130	295	..	177
October ..	183	210	155	..	155	415	391	..	198	128	..	1,308	..
November ..	182	203	153	..	154	423	394	..	192	124	..	1,594	..
December ..	179	192	152	140	152	423	393	283	189	127	297	1,746	174
1922 January ..	173	192	152	..	151	430	387	..	179	122	..	1,825	..
February ..	165	188	149	..	150	426	380	..	177	120	..	2,209	..
March ..	165	186	148	137	148	415	371	257	167	120	291	2,630	167
April ..	162	182	146	..	146	420	367	..	167	122	..	3,175	..
May ..	163	181	145	..	146	427	365	..	157	122	..	3,462	..
June ..	163	180	145	140	145	425	366	249	158	121	302	3,779	167
July ..	165	184	146	..	144	429	366	..	158	120	..	4,990	..
August ..	164	181	147	..	144	431	366	..	156	120	..	7,029	..
September ..	165	179	148	143	144	437	376	249	154	120	289	11,376	166
October ..	162	178	147	..	143	444	376	..	153	121	..	19,504	..
November ..	160	180	147	..	143	439	384	..	158	122	..	40,047	..
December ..	161	180	148	..	143	439	384	238	158	121	300	61,156	170
1923 January ..	156	178	150	..	..	..	383	..	158	120	..	103,400	..
February ..	155	177	150	..	..	..	397	..	..	..	..	240,800	..
March ..	154	176	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
April ..	154	174	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(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 = 100. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base. NOTE.—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India (Bombay).	United Kingdom.	Canada.	South Africa.	Australia.	New Zealand.	United States of America.	France (Paris).	Italy (Rome) (c).	Belgium.	Finland.	Germany.	Holland (g)	Norway.	Sweden (h)	Denmark.	Switzerland.
	No. of stations.	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris.	Rome.	1,028 budgets.	20	47	Amsterdam.	30	44	100	23
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	120	95	..	..	..	114	..	124	128	119
1916	161	114	116	130	119	109	129	111	..	..	..	117	160	142	146	141
1917	204	157	128	126	127	143	163	137	..	..	..	146	214	181	166	179
1918	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..							

Principal Trade Disputes in progress in March 1923

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
*1. The Assur Virji Mills, Ltd., Ferguson Road, Parel, Bombay.	900	....	1923 18 Feb.	1923 1 April	Suspension of work owing to changes in the machinery of the Mill.	Work resumed.
2. The Asarwa Mills Co., Ltd., Asarwa Road, Ahmedabad.	286 (Throstle Department) and 159 (Frame Department.)	....	6 March	7 March	1. Against non-payment of wages due to the men on 27th February 1923. 2. Demand for regular payment of wages every fortnight.	Work resumed on promise that wages would be paid as in other mills.
3. The Ahmedabad New Cotton Mills Co., Ltd., Kankaria Road, Ahmedabad.	164 (Throstle Department.)	....	6 March	8 March	Against dismissal of a jobber and the Manager's ill-treatment of the men.	Work resumed on promise of good treatment by the Manager.
4. The Ahmedabad Astoria Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Kagdaph, Ahmedabad.	55 (Reeling Department.)	....	9 March	11 March	Against the dismissal of a Mukadam.	Strikers paid off.
5. The Jehangir Vakil Mills Co., Ltd., Shahi Bagh Road, Ahmedabad.	250 (Weavers.)	....	12 March	13 March	Demand for payment of 8 pies per lb. (as against 7 pies promised by the Agent) for special quality of cloth which was being produced.	Work resumed on promise of a reasonable increase in the rate of wages.
6. The Whittle Mill No. 3 Whittle Road, Broach.	337	....	13 March	21 March	Protest against refusal of permission to attend marriage and funeral caste dinners.	Work resumed on promise of grant of occasional leave for caste ceremonies.
7. The Crown Mill, Parbhadevi Road, Bombay.	750 (Ring, Carding and Spinning Departments.)	....	14 March	15 March	Omission of 4 day's wages for the last lock-out from 14th to 17th February in the pay-tickets issued on 14th March 1923.	Work resumed on promise of payment of the 4 day's wages.
8. The Ahmedabad Cotton and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Sarangpur Road, Ahmedabad.	70	....	15 March	17 March	Against the dismissal of a Mukadam who could not supply the requisite number of labourers.	Work resumed on the appointment of the dismissed Mukadam's brother as Mukadam.
<i>Engineering.</i>						
1. The N. W. R. Loco Workshops, Karachi.	196	....	29 March	31 March	Against the discharge of one Mahomed Din, a Mistrri in the Painting Department for insolent behaviour.	Work resumed unconditionally.

* This was not a strike but a lockout.

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

Count or Number.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,922	6,776	5,961	57,909	72,399	75,579
Nos. 11 to 20 "	19,735	18,860	19,323	218,490	223,326	223,536
Nos. 21 to 30 "	12,065	12,688	11,533	141,131	145,027	147,377
Nos. 31 to 40 "	952	1,014	812	11,752	11,556	11,318
Above 40 "	88	175	118	1,176	1,869	1,729
Waste, etc.	5	25	9	192	376	99
Total	38,767	39,538	37,756	430,650	454,553	459,638

Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,350	6,186	5,394	53,243	65,305	69,239
Nos. 11 to 20 "	14,952	13,418	13,746	168,940	162,158	158,398
Nos. 21 to 30 "	7,095	7,505	6,767	86,405	87,367	88,541
Nos. 31 to 40 "	397	399	380	4,751	5,481	5,191
Above 40 "	62	76	56	854	918	955
Waste, etc.	1	1	1	141	172	22
Total	27,857	27,585	26,344	314,334	321,401	322,346

Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	140	188	165	1,657	2,335	1,855
Nos. 11 to 20 "	2,240	2,701	2,720	21,177	28,870	31,171
Nos. 21 to 30 "	3,879	3,760	3,610	41,022	41,361	44,102
Nos. 31 to 40 "	464	507	334	5,660	4,875	5,052
Above 40 "	8	73	45	191	664	527
Waste, etc.	....	....	....	3	110	....
Total	6,731	7,229	6,874	69,710	78,215	82,707



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

Bombay Presidency

Description.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chudders Pounds ..	837	782	1,244	14,529	14,731	15,037
Dhotis ..	4,902	6,476	6,999	51,259	71,636	67,502
Drills and jeans ..	800	428	759	11,392	8,285	7,073
Cambrics and lawns ..	50	77	54	560	809	609
Printers ..	188	442	464	2,849	4,294	5,046
Shirtings and long cloth ..	6,477	7,542	6,338	81,591	90,689	86,323
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	908	875	950	15,253	13,178	11,103
Tent cloth ..	149	131	50	1,650	1,266	907
Other sorts ..	622	1,442	1,943	6,604	13,055	20,456
Total ..	14,933	18,195	18,801	185,687	217,943	214,056
Coloured piece-goods ..	4,005	5,437	6,024	76,169	77,910	74,626
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	125	176	168	2,192	1,861	2,124
Hosiery ..	12	9	14	260	185	174
Miscellaneous ..	59	75	115	899	984	1,211
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	2	3	11	119	66	98
Grand Total ..	19,136	23,895	25,133	265,326	298,949	292,289

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chudders Pounds ..	492	456	533	8,243	9,254	7,891
Dhotis ..	1,333	1,792	1,127	13,167	21,847	18,585
Drills and jeans ..	764	417	687	10,678	7,817	6,621
Cambrics and lawns ..	24	51	22	346	602	311
Printers ..	7	29	..	296	..	306
Shirtings and long cloth ..	3,863	5,604	..	54	..	58,678
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	748	712	3,700	52,805	62,908	8,967
Tent cloth ..	129	109	697	12,919	10,577	763
Other sorts ..	306	1,055	43	1,399	1,051	13,815
Total ..	7,666	10,225	8,013	102,723	121,952	115,937

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

Description.	Month of February.			Eleven months of February.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	3,065	4,479	4,381	65,121	65,769	61,801
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	121	162	157	2,167	1,774	2,040
Hosiery ..	7	5	9	117	111	103
Miscellaneous ..	59	75	106	898	981	1,189
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	2	2	11	110	57	86
Grand Total ..	10,920	14,948	12,677	171,136	190,644	181,156

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of February.			Eleven months ended February.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
Grey and bleached piece-goods—	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Chudders Pounds ..	251	275	506	5,345	4,162	5,659
Dhotis ..	2,660	3,781	4,878	29,418	39,055	38,231
Drills and jeans ..	9	10	52	287	282	260
Cambrics and lawns ..	7	17	21	96	110	222
Printers ..	129	311	319	1,780	2,862	3,256
Shirtings and long cloth ..	1,709	1,456	2,111	20,597	20,272	21,643
T. cloth, domestic, and sheetings ..	135	140	232	2,096	2,327	1,877
Tent cloth ..	..	..	2	31	24	24
Other sorts ..	125	170	536	1,851	2,806	4,154
Total ..	5,025	6,160	8,657	61,501	71,900	75,326
Coloured piece-goods ..	276	296	923	4,610	4,316	5,582
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods ..	1	..	1	3	21	9
Hosiery ..	4	4	7	142	74	72
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	9	..	..	21
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	1	..	..	9	8	11
Grand Total ..	5,307	6,460	9,597	66,265	76,319	81,021



CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

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

United Kingdom.—In reply to a question in the House of Commons, the Minister of Labour stated that he had decided to appoint a Committee "to inquire into the present conditions as to the supply of female domestic servants, and in particular, to inquire into effect of the Unemployment Insurance scheme in this connexion and to make recommendations". Mrs. E. M. Wood, C.B.E., is to be chairman of the Committee, and acceptances have been received from Lady Askwith, C.B.E., Mrs. Harrison Bell, Mrs. Burgwin, Mrs. Cohen, Lady Procter, C.B.E., Miss Julia Varley and Mrs. Wintringham, M.P.

Replying to another question, Sir Montague Barlow said that he saw no reason for departing from the attitude of the late Government in regard to the Washington Hours Convention, viz., that they could not ratify the Convention. There was much difficulty in applying the provisions of the Convention relating to the limitation of the working day and to the limitation of overtime to the industries of the United Kingdom, the working conditions in which were already covered by voluntary agreements in respect of a majority of workers. The normal working week of forty-eight hours or less has been in operation in almost all industrial undertakings and therefore he saw no reason for departing from the attitude of the late Government. The Government, however, suggested that the Governing Body of the International Labour Office should consider the advisability of reconsidering the whole question at a future conference with a view to the drawing up of a new hours Convention adapted to meet the varying needs of the different industries in the respective countries.

According to the Report of the Registrar-General for 1921, infantile mortality was 83 per 1,000 births, the lowest rate yet recorded except in 1920 when it fell to 80. The decrease during the past 80 years may be seen

from the following figures:—

Decade.	Rate per 1,000.
1841-50	153
1871-80	149
1901-1910	126
1911-1920	100

South Africa.—The report of the Mining Industry Board in connexion with the strikes of last year in South Africa has been published. The Commission was so constituted as to give exceptional weight and authority to its findings. Sir William Solomon, one of the judges of the Appellate Division, presided, and the Board included Mr. William Brace, Labour Adviser to the British Board of Trade, Sir Robert Kotze, the Government Mining Engineer, and Sir Carruthers Beattie, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Capetown. The report of the Mining Industry Board while holding that the proposals of the employers which were made the occasion of the strike were fully justified, finds some ground for criticism in the procedure adopted by the employers at certain stages of the different disputes, and emphasises the importance of the fullest information being furnished to the employees, and ample opportunities of discussion being given in order to make clear economic considerations which may render necessary reduction of wages or other alterations in terms of employment. The Mining Industry Board in its report has drawn up, in consultation with representatives of the three industries concerned (gold mining, coal mining and power supply), a scheme for permanent conciliation machinery. The trade unions are given full recognition, and, if the workmen so desire, the Conciliation Boards can be undertaken by trade unions on their behalf; but on the other hand, if the trade unions decline to co-operate, the Conciliation Boards can function without their assistance. The scheme has been in operation since October 1922. The limited experience so far gained has been satisfactory. It appears that some legislation will be required in the coming session in order to amend provisions of the Transvaal Industrial Disputes Prevention Act which, if applied, would conflict with the working of this voluntary conciliation machinery.

France.—By an Act of 15th December 1922 the Government has extended the existing legislation on Workmen's Compensation for



accidents, with suitable modifications, to manual and non-manual workers employed in agricultural undertakings, in stock-raising and training establishments, stud farms, and in warehouses, shops, and all other enterprises subsidiary to agricultural undertakings. The original Workmen's Compensation Act of 1898 covered by implication only such agricultural workers as were employed in establishments in which machinery run by motive power other than that of men or animals was utilised. Under the new Act, men employed as gardeners are regarded as agricultural workers. Small farmers working alone, or with the aid of members of their family, or with occasional assistance are exempted from liability, but if they insure the members of their family or their occasional assistants against accident, they come within the scope of the Act. Thus, compensation is secured to the latter class of workers. This concession extends to all farmers, whether subject to the law or otherwise, who insure themselves against accident. The new Act comes into force one year after the official publication of the regulations for its administration.

Spain.—The Madrid Gazette for 13th February 1923 published a decree of the Ministry of Labour defining the functions of the new "Labour Office" of the Ministry of Labour, Commerce and Industry (*Delegación Regia del Trabajo*) for Barcelona and district. The office will have jurisdiction over the provinces of Barcelona, Gerona, Lerida, Tarragona and the Balearic Isles. The Ministry of Labour has power to extend its activities to the neighbouring provinces. The provincial statistical offices and other public bodies are required to supply the Labour Office with all the information it may require. The functions of the Office are as follows:—

(1) To collect and centralise information concerning the activities and working of trade associations of employers and workers and to record the progress of strikes and lock-outs and other disputes of a social character.

(2) To inform the Ministry of Labour promptly of all circumstances likely to give rise to disputes between employers and workers in certain industries.

(3) To intervene in disputes which may arise with a view to arriving at an amicable solution, and to proceed either on its own initiative or at the request

of the parties concerned to institute provisional joint committees, or to recommend to the Ministry the institution of permanent or *ad hoc* committees in conformity with the Decree of 5th October 1922.

(4) To promote the voluntary formation of trade associations in conformity with the Decree of 3rd November 1922.

(5) To discharge any further functions which may be entrusted to it by the Ministry of Labour.

Hungary.—Early in January 1923 the following resolution was submitted to Parliament:—

The greatest obstacle to industrial peace and an increase in output lies in the fact that employers who refuse to accept the principle of regulation of wage conditions by mutual agreement are free to fix wages arbitrarily. Discipline can only be maintained in industrial establishments if the complaints and justifiable desires of the workers are dealt with through the medium of recognised works committees (*Betriebs Ausschüsse*). Accordingly the National Assembly approves the regulation of wage and labour conditions by collective agreement and considers the legal recognition of collective agreements essential. The National Assembly, therefore, invites the Government to institute a Labour Department (*Arbeitsamt*) at the Ministry of Commerce, with the following functions:—

(a) to collect, co-ordinate and publish statistical data concerning wage and labour conditions of manual and non-manual workers and also concerning prices of food stuffs and rents, with corresponding index numbers;

(b) to organise conciliation procedure in collaboration with employers' and workers' organisations, with a view to avoiding labour disputes;

(c) to study foreign labour legislation and the decisions of the International Labour Conference and to take steps with a view to giving effect to these decisions;

(d) to set up works committees and direct their activities.

Japan.—The new Department of Social Affairs, created by an Imperial Ordinance of 1st November 1922, has concentrated within itself all those departments which have recently dealt with labour matters. The new department will henceforth deal with—

(1) general labour questions, (2) the administration and enforcement of the Factory Act, (3) protection of miners as prescribed by the Mining Act, (4) social insurance, (5) relief and prevention of unemployment, (6) international labour, (7) poor relief, (8) protection of children, (9) relief of families of soldiers on service, (10) other social welfare work and (11) labour statistics.