



BOOKS RECEIVED

Official Publications

UNITED KINGDOM

(H. M.'s Stationery Office, London)

The Ministry of Labour Gazette.—Vol. XXXI, No. 3, for March 1923.

The Board of Trade Journal.—Vol. CIX, Nos. 1369—1372.

Monthly Bulletin of Information.—Vol. VII, No. 3, for March 1923 (Department of Overseas Trade).

Census of England and Wales, 1921: County of London Tables, Part II, 1923.

The birthplace of nearly 50,000 persons was Scotland; 52,000 Ireland; 15,000 India; 7,000 Australia; 5,000 Union of South Africa; 5,000 Canada; 35,000 Russia; 31,000 Poland; 14,000 France; 12,000 Italy; 9,000 America (U.S.A.) and 9,000 Germany out of a total of 4,485,000.

CANADA

The Labour Gazette.—Vol. XXIII, No. 2, for February (Published by the Department of Labour).

AUSTRALIA

The New South Wales Industrial Gazette.—Vol. XXIII, No. 2, for February 1923 (Published by the Department of Labour and Industry).

The Queensland Industrial Gazette.—Vol. VIII, No. 2, for February 1923 (Published by the Department of Labour).

Quarterly Summary of Australian Statistics.—No. 90, for December 1922.

NEW ZEALAND

Monthly Abstract of Statistics.—Vol. X, No. 1, for January 1923. (Census and Statistics Office, Wellington).

BELGIUM

Rapports Annuels de L'inspection du Travail.—for the year 1921, published by the Ministry of Industries and Labour, Brussels.

The report refers to the inspection of dangerous, unhealthy and similar establishments, and is divided into seven sections according to provinces. The report contains detailed information on industrial accidents, the classes of dangerous establishments, the employment of women and children, the inspections carried out during the year and industrial arbitration. Separate portions of the report refer to the rates of wages paid in different occupations.

NETHERLANDS

Maandschrift—for February 1923.

ITALY

Bolletino del Lavoro.—Vol. XXXIX, No. 1, for January 1923.

FRANCE

Bulletin de la Statistique General de la France—for January 1923.

GERMANY

Wirtschaft und Statistik—Vol. II, Nos. 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Reichs-Arbeitsblatt—Nos. 5 and 6.

SWITZERLAND

Dar Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt—for March 1923.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Monthly Labour Review—Vol. XV, No. 5, for November 1922. (U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor.)

The Industrial Bulletin—Vol. II, No. 3, for December 1922 (Issued by the Industrial Commissioner, New York State).

GENEVA (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE)

International Labour Review—Vol. VII, Nos. 2-3, February, March 1923.

Official Bulletin—Vol. VII, Nos. 6—11.

Industrial and Labour Information—Vol. V, Nos. 8—13.

Industrial and Labour Information (Russian Supplement)—Vol. V, Nos. 3—6.

Hours of Labour in Industry (Studies and Reports), Series D (*Wages and Hours*)—No. 4—Germany, No. 5—Belgium, No. 6—France.

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics—Vol. V, Nos. 1 and 2, for January and February 1923 (League of Nations).

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THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Employment

DURING the month ended 15th May 1923, the supply of labour in the Presidency excluding Bombay City and Island was plentiful. In Bombay the majority of the Cotton Mills for which returns have been received report a shortage of labour. In other industries in Bombay the supply of labour was adequate. In several representative cotton mills in Bombay for which reports have been received the attendance of labour was below normal, the average absenteeism during the month being 19·4 per cent. as compared with 18·8 per cent. in the previous month, and 25·4 per cent. two months ago. Absenteeism in the mills in Bombay City for which returns have been received rose by about two-thirds (from 20·5 per cent. to 34·3 per cent.) after the monthly pay day which was on 14th instant.

In regard to Ahmedabad a general strike has been in progress from 1st of April 1923 and all mills except five are closed. In Sholapur the supply of labour with one exception in the four reporting mills was equal to the demand. All the mills report an increase in absenteeism, an increase of 13·3 per cent. as against the previous month. The average percentage absenteeism was 22·03 as compared with 19·45 per cent. as in the previous month. The question of the scarcity of water, referred to in the February issue, is again agitating the minds of all concerned. In Broach, the supply of labour was, as in the last month, adequate and normal. The average absenteeism was about 7·43 per cent. during the month as compared with 12·8 per cent. in the previous month. In Surat, the supply of labour was not equal to the demand. Absenteeism was about 7·33 per cent. as compared with 6·4, the figure for the last month.

In the Engineering Industry in Bombay, the supply of unskilled labour was adequate. Reports show that there was plenty of labour available but generally of a low standard. A fair number of supervisors, foremen, etc., are seeking work and many are reported to be willing to accept any pay to get work. As in the previous month absenteeism in Engineering Workshops as a whole showed a slight increase from 17·80 per cent. in the previous month (based on the returns from three large workshops) to 18·95 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., 4·5 per cent. as against 4·75 per cent. last month. On the construction of *chawls* (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, however, an increase in absenteeism from 6 to 8 per cent. was recorded. This increase is said to be due to plague and dengue fever.

The supply of unskilled labour, employed by the Bombay Port Trust, was not equal to the demand, as in the previous month. This shortage was reported to be mainly due to the seasonal exodus for agricultural purposes and also to absence on account of the marriage season, the propitious months being March, April and May. Absenteeism among the monthly paid labour rose slightly from 16·9 per cent. last month to 18·9 per cent. in the month under review. This figure, however, was, as in the case of the previous month, below the figure recorded in the corresponding month of the last year, when absenteeism was as high as 22·27 per cent. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust, the supply of labour continued to be



equal to the demand. The percentage absenteeism decreased from 9 per cent. in the previous month to 8 per cent. in the month under review.

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 of whom a record is kept increased to 7 per cent. from 5 per cent. last month.

The Cost of Living

In April 1923 the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was approximately one point above 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 155 for all articles and 150 for food-articles only. There is a fall of 4 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 20 per cent. below the highwater mark (October 1920).

The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living because an index number purporting to combine movements in prices with movements in consumption would present great difficulties in construction, interpretation and application. Moreover, such an index would not be materially different from a simple index of the general movement of prices in the case of the working classes. A further reference to the cost of living index will be found on page 7.

The Wholesale Index Number

The general level of wholesale prices as indicated by the index number of wholesale prices fell by 2 points or more than one per cent. in April as compared with the previous month. As will be seen from the table below there was an appreciable decrease in the prices of food-articles, while the average for non-food articles remained stationary. The general level is now 75 per cent. above the pre-war level. The movement by groups will be found on page 46 in the article on wholesale prices in

April. 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.				
	December 1922.	January 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.
	Foods ..	70	73	67	79	74
Non-foods ..	74	79	75	76	76
All articles ..	73	77	72	77	75

Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes increased from 9 in March to 14 during April 1923. The number of disputes involving stoppage of work as beginning in April was 13. The number of disputes settled in April was 8. During April, 51,807 work-people were involved as compared with 3,167 in the previous month, and 5,081 in April 1922. The aggregate duration of all disputes during April was over 1,116,000 working days as compared with nearly 37,000 working days in March 1923 and 18,000 days in April 1922. The increase in the number of work-people involved as well as in the number of working days lost is due to the general strike in the cotton mills of Ahmedabad. An article on this strike will be found on page 23 of this issue.

Cotton Mill Production

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

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	March			March		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	28	27	26	15	16	15
Ahmedabad ..	7	8	7	10	9	9
Other centres ..	4	3	4	2	3	3
Total, Presidency ..	39	38	37	27	28	27



	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Twelve months ended March			Twelve months ended March		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	342	349	348	186	207	196
Ahmedabad ..	77	86	90	76	85	90
Other centres ..	51	58	59	30	35	33
Total, Presidency ..	470	493	497	292	327	319

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

	Net rate per lb. in annas.		
	April 1922	March 1923	April 1923
Longcloth ..	26	22½	21
T. Cloths ..	23	21	19½
Chudders ..	23½	20½	19½

The piece-goods market at the end of April was dull, the upcountry buyers being unwilling to replenish their stocks. The market for local mill-cloth is also sluggish.

The Outlook

Unbalanced budgets

The dangers of an unbalanced budget are very clearly brought out in a publication of the Disconto Gesellschaft, one of Germany's leading banks :—

Of 488 billions of expenditure incurred during the first ten days of March, 352 billions alone relate to allowances granted to the State Railway Administration. As, owing to the Ruhr occupation, the most important part of the railway system has been entirely disorganised and traffic over many sections has come to a complete standstill, enormous losses in receipts have been sustained; on the other hand, a large part of the expenditure, especially for salaries and wages, is continuing. Moreover the fact of regular collections of taxes, customs duties and other imposts being prohibited in the occupied regions likewise results in great losses of revenue, which can only be compensated by an increase of the Floating Debt. Thus, the Franco-Belgian invasion caused the German State Debt to be doubled within the space of six weeks. Besides direct obligations, also indirect ones are accruing to the Reich, seeing that it is assuming responsibility for the financial deficit in the

western industrial districts, which is the natural consequence of the difficulties connected with production, traffic impediments and restrictions of outlets. If large industrial undertakings in Rhineland-Westphalia are to be enabled to keep their goods in store during weeks, and thus to carry on in spite of the custom barrier levied by the French, they must be granted credits on a large scale. Such enormous funds cannot be drawn from the remainder of Germany unless the monetary shortage already prevailing there is to be intensified to an intolerable degree. These funds can, therefore, only be obtained by new issues of paper money. The position being an extraordinary one, exceptional measures are required to effectually deal with it. The defensive action in the Ruhr region is being financed by the note-printing press. Much as Government is convinced of the detrimental effect resulting from another very large increase of inflation, no alternative course remains at the present moment."

The other side of the picture is seen in the United States where the iron and steel industry as in the United Kingdom is flourishing. The latest reports show that in the United Kingdom there has been a fall in the cost of living index to a level 70 per cent. above the pre-war level. In April 1923 the output of construction materials, transportation equipment, and manufactured goods generally has never been surpassed.

The Balance of Trade

During April 1923, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to 2,37 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1922 was an adverse balance of 3,85 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India and Bombay and Karachi are given below :—

	India					
	In lakhs of rupees					
	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	28,83	27,80	29,45	31,60	32,63	30,68
Imports do.	20,64	19,20	21,38	19,37	18,54	21,10
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 8,19	+ 8,60	+ 8,07	+ 12,23	+ 14,09	+ 9,58
Balance of transactions in treasure (private)	- 2,97	- 3,48	- 6,42	- 10,78	- 7,19	- 7,97
Visible balance of trade including securities	+ 5,96	+ 5,62	+ 94	- 32	+ 7,06	+ 2,37

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

Bombay

In lakhs of rupees

	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	7.84	8.21	11.68	12.29	12.92	12.23
Imports do.	3.23	7.28	7.92	6.80	6.91	8.68
Balance of Trade in merchandise	- 39	+ 95	+ 3.76	- 5.51	+ 6.01	3.55
Exports of treasure	2.82	3.15	5.96	10.39	7.09	7.70
Imports of treasure	4	5	-	7	23	9
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 2.78	- 3.10	- 5.96	- 10.32	- 6.96	- 7.61

Karachi

	November 1922	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	2.44	2.66	3.31	3.65	2.94	2.69
Imports do.	1.65	2.08	1.70	2.77	1.82	2.107
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 79	+ 58	+ 1.61	+ 88	1.14	+ 42
Exports of treasure	4	2	3	6	7	9
Imports of treasure	-	-	6	-	-	-
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 4	- 2	+ 3	- 3	- 7	- 6

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

Business Conditions

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

Month	1922	1923
June	1 11/16	1 3 15/16
July	1 3 5/8	1 4 1/8
August	1 2 1/2	1 4 1/2
September	1 3 1/2	1 4 3/8
October	1 3 1/2	1 4 1/8
November	1 3 5/8	1 4 3/8
December	1 3 1/2	1 4 1/8
January	1 3 1/2	1 4 1/8
February	1 3 1/2	1 4 1/8
March	1 3 1/2	1 4 1/8
April	1 3 1/2	1 4 1/8
May	1 3 1/2	1 4 1/8

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

There was an increase of five crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in April as compared with the preceding month. Karachi clearings were the same while those in Calcutta and Rangoon decreased by 3 and 2 crores respectively. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees

	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	Total January to April
Bombay	67	62	67	244
Karachi	3	3	3	304
Calcutta	77	79	76	40
Rangoon	9	11	9	155
Total (four ports)	156	155	155	

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 62 as against 63 in March 1923 and 64 in February 1923.

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

Month	1922	1923
January	1,650	1,510
February	1,595	1,480
March	1,604	1,286
April	1,613	1,232
May	1,616	1,250
June	1,559	1,216
July	1,626	1,125
August	1,572	1,190

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

The Late Sir Narayan Chandavarkar

With the death of the Hon. Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, LL.D., President of the Legislative Council, this Presidency loses one whose interest in social matters, including the welfare of the working classes, is well known. He was President of the Social Service League and of the Social Reform Association. His memory remains fast in the affections of many of us for his sage and kindly wisdom, for his erudition, carried with the humility which is the true garb of the scholar, and for his loyalty to a large circle of friends, especially in the Legislative Council. Sir Narayan possessed a dominating sense of public duty, and we are the poorer by the death of one of the ablest of Bombay's citizens. He discharged his duties as President of the Legislative Council not only with devotion and assiduity, but with great foresight, much tact, and with most beneficent results.

THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR APRIL 1923
A rise of one point

All articles . . . 55 per cent.

Food only . . . 50 per cent.

In April 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 above the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 154 in March and 155 in April 1923. The general index is 20 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 10 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921 and 5 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922. The cost of living index has fallen nearly to the level of August 1918.

There was a further increase in the prices of two principal food-grains in April, rice rising by 5 points and jowari by 1 point. The price of gram remained stationary, while turdal fell by 11 points and wheat by 2 points. There was no change in the miscellaneous food-group, a rise in the price of sugar, salt and tea being counterbalanced by a fall in raw sugar, beef and mutton. The increase in the price of salt in April was 28 per cent. as against an increase of 24 per cent. in March 1923. The prices of ghee, milk, potatoes, onions and coconut oil did not change during the month.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	34	82	83	69	73	56
February	34	76	81	62	65	55
March	36	72	77	60	65	54
April	44	67	72	60	62	55
May	47	68	73	67	63	
June	46	74	81	73	63	
July	49	86	90	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	60	
December	83	74	81	79	61	
Yearly average	54	75	82	72	64	

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

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in March and April 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	March 1923	April 1923	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in April 1923 over or below March 1923
Rice	100	127	132	+ 5
Wheat	100	135	133	- 2
Jowari	100	109	110	+ 1
Bajri	100	124	119	- 5
Gram	100	157	157	..
Turda	100	134	123	- 11
Sugar (raw)	100	176	167	- 9
Sugar (refined)	100	227	223	+ 46
Tea	100	140	154	+ 14
Salt	100	152	195	+ 43
Eggs	100	109	166	- 39
Mutton	100	249	224	- 25
Milk	100	191	191	..
Ghee	100	170	170	..
Potatoes	100	159	159	..
Onions	100	351	351	..
Coconut oil	100	113	113	..
All food articles (weighted average)	100	149	150	+ 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.	March 1923.	April 1923.	July 1914.	March 1923.	April 1923.
<i>Cereals—</i>								
Rice	Maund	70	Rs. 5·594	Rs. 7·078	Rs. 7·391	Rs. 391·56	Rs. 495·46	Rs. 517·37
Wheat	"	21	5·594	7·547	7·458	117·47	158·49	156·62
Jowari	"	11	4·354	4·734	4·781	47·89	52·07	52·99
Bajri	"	6	4·313	5·333	5·120	25·88	32·00	30·72
Total and Average—Cereals	—	—	100	127	130	582·82	738·02	757·30
<i>Pulses—</i>								
Gram	Maund	10	4·302	6·750	6·734	43·02	67·50	67·34
Turdal	"	3	5·844	7·844	7·177	17·53	23·53	21·53
Total and Average—Pulses	—	—	100	150	147	60·55	91·03	88·87
<i>Other food articles</i>								
Sugar (raw)	Maund	7	8·557	15·026	14·287	59·90	105·18	100·01
Sugar (refined)	"	2	7·620	17·297	20·781	15·24	34·59	41·56
Tea	"	1	40·000	56·141	61·537	1·00	1·40	1·54
Salt	"	40	2·130	3·240	4·146	10·65	16·20	20·73
Beef	Seer	28	0·323	0·641	0·547	9·04	17·95	15·32
Mutton	"	33	0·417	1·037	0·932	13·76	34·22	30·76
Milk	Maund	14	9·198	17·583	17·583	128·77	246·16	246·16
Ghee	"	1½	50·792	86·484	86·484	76·19	129·73	129·73
Potatoes	"	11	4·479	7·141	7·141	49·27	78·55	78·55
Onions	"	3	1·552	5·443	5·443	4·66	16·33	16·33
Cocconut Oil	"	½	25·396	28·568	28·568	12·70	14·28	14·28
Total and Average—Other food articles	—	—	100	182	182	381·18	694·59	694·77
Total and Average—All food articles	—	—	100	149	150	1,024·55	1,523·64	1,541·14
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>								
Kerosene oil	Case	5	4·375	7·500	7·500	21·88	37·50	37·50
Firewood	Maund	48	0·792	1·281	1·281	38·02	61·49	61·49
Coal	"	1	0·542	0·365	0·385	0·54	0·37	0·39
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting	—	—	100	164	164	60·44	99·36	99·38
<i>Clothing—</i>								
Chudders	Lb.	27	0·594	1·297	1·250	16·04	35·02	33·75
Shirtings	"	25	0·641	1·432	1·417	16·03	35·80	35·43
T. Cloth	"	36	0·583	1·313	1·266	20·99	47·27	45·58
Total and Average—Clothing	—	—	100	223	216	53·06	118·09	114·76
House rent	Per month	10	11·302	18·700	18·700	113·02	187·0	187·00
Grand Total and General Average	—	—	100	154	155	1,251·07	1,928·09	1,942·17

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 April 1923 at April price levels was Rs. 1,942·17, i.e., an increase of 55 per cent. (Rs. 1,251·07 = 100; Rs. 1,942·17 = 155).

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.	
		March 1923.	April 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.
<i>Cereals—</i>					
Rice	31·4	127	132	3,987·8	4,141·8
Wheat	9·4	135	133	1,269·0	1,250·2
Jowari	3·8	109	110	414·2	418·0
Bajri	2·1	124	119	260·4	249·9
Total and Average Index No.	46·7	127	130	5,931·4	6,062·9
<i>Pulses—</i>					
Gram	3·1	157	157	486·7	486·7
Turdal	1·3	134	123	174·2	159·9
Total and Average Index No.	4·4	150	147	660·9	646·6
<i>Other food articles—</i>					
Sugar (raw)	4·8	176	167	844·8	801·6
Sugar (refined)	1·2	227	273	272·4	327·6
Tea	0·1	140	154	14·0	15·4
Salt	0·9	152	195	136·8	175·5
Beef	0·7	199	169	139·3	118·3
Mutton	1·1	249	224	273·9	246·4
Milk	10·3	191	191	1,967·3	1,967·3
Ghee	6·1	170	170	1,037·0	1,037·0
Potatoes	4·0	159	159	636·0	636·0
Onions	0·4	351	351	140·4	140·4
Cocconut oil	1·0	113	113	113·0	113·0
Total and Average Index No.	30·6	182	182	5,574·9	5,578·5
<i>Fuel and lighting—</i>					
Kerosene oil	1·8	171	171	307·8	307·8
Firewood	3·0	162	162	486·0	486·0
Coal	0·1	67	71	6·7	7·1
Total and Average Index No.	4·9	163	163	800·5	800·9
<i>Clothing—</i>					
Dhories	1·3	218	210	283·4	273·0
Shirtings	1·3	223	221	289·9	287·3
T. Cloth	1·7	225	217	382·5	368·9
Total and Average Index No.	4·3	222	216	955·8	929·2
House rent	9·1	165	165	1,501·5	1,500·6
Grand total of weights	100				
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)	....	154	155	15,425·0	15,518·7



WHOLESALE PRICES IN APRIL

BOMBAY*

The general level of wholesale prices in Bombay as shown by the index number of wholesale prices, fell by about one per cent. in April as compared with March 1923. There was an appreciable fall in food prices while the general average for non-food articles did not change during the month. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year prices have fallen by 7 per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1922 being about 5 per cent.

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

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 (April 1923 as compared with	
		the preceding month (March 1923).	the corresponding month of last year (April 1922).
1. Cereals	7	+ 1	- 28
2. Pulses	2	- 1	- 43
3. Sugar	3	.. .. .	+ 6
4. Other food	3	- 9	+ 27
Total food	15	- 3	- 10
5. Oilseeds	4	- 1	- 4
6. Raw cotton	5	- 4	+ 15
7. Cotton manufactures	6	- 4	- 14
8. Other textiles	2	.. .. .	.. .. .
9. Hides and skins	3	+ 25	+ 22
10. Metals	5	- 1	- 1
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	3	- 1	- 24
Total non-food	28	.. .. .	- 5
General average	43	- 1	- 7

* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 43-45.

The index number of food articles stood at 174 in April as against 179 in March 1923, thus showing a fall of nearly 3 per cent. There was a slight rise in the price of cereals while pulses fell by nearly one per cent. 'Other food' declined by 9 per cent. and salt, a constituent of the group 'other food', also fell by 9 per cent. The price of sugar was stationary during the month.

There was no fall in the level of non-food articles, as compared with the previous month. With the exception of hides and skins which rose by 25 per cent., all the other groups fell during the month. The decrease in raw cotton and cotton manufactures amounted to 4 per cent. each while oilseeds, metals, and other raw and manufactured articles fell by one per cent.

The subjoined table compares April 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.	April 1922.	July 1922.	Oct. 1922.	Jan. 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.
I. Cereals	109	103	88	75	77	71
II. Pulses	114	95	85	73	66	66
III. Sugar	105	101	97	93	112	112
IV. Other food	91	98	107	131	128	116
Total food	104	101	96	93	96	91
V. Oilseeds	103	108	98	93	99	99
VI. Raw cotton	99	108	91	110	118	111
VII. Cotton manufactures	103	105	93	93	93	89
VIII. Other textiles	100	100	100	99	100	100
IX. Hides and skins	97	100	79	117	94	118
X. Metals	100	95	97	104	100	99
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles	100	99	96	78	76	76
Total non-food	101	103	94	97	96	96
General average—all articles	102	102	94	96	96	95

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
Four-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.	April 1923.			
			Total Numbers.	Average.		
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri).	7	Index Nos.	700	893	128
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal).	2	" "	200	183	92
3	Sugar (Refined and raw).	3	" "	300	727	242
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.).	3	" "	300	807	269
5	Total, all food	15	" "	1,500	2,610	174
6	Oilseeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and groundnuts).	4	" "	400	534	134
7	Raw cotton	5	" "	300	613	204
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, shadders, etc.).	6	" "	600	1,304	217
9	Other textiles (Silk)	2	" "	200	277	139
10	Hides and skins	3	" "	300	502	167
11	Metals (Copper, brass, steel bars, tinplates, etc.).	5	" "	500	924	185
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (Kerosene and coal)	3	" "	300	431	144
13	Total, non-food	26	" "	2,600	4,585	176
14	General Average	41	" "	4,100	7,196	175

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 March and April 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 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
Cocconut 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

Bombay prices in April 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice	100	89	108	95	115
Wheat	100	67	83	94	88
Jowari	100	76	83	73	88
Bajri	100	79	108	87	101
Average—Cereals	100	78	96	87	98
Pulses—					
Gram	100	63	77	64	72
Turdal	100	88	101	89	111
Average—Pulses	100	76	89	77	92
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined)	100	100	123	119	105
Jagri (Gul)	100	99	109	93	80
Tea	100	104	130	104	100
Salt	100	74	80	120	103
Beef	100	103	69	69	69
Mutton	100	67	80	67	77
Milk	100	51	57	76	79
Ghee	100	85	93	82	97
Potatoes	100	51	72	93	56
Onions	100	80	113	92	40
Cocconut oil	100	91	112	93	98
Average—Other articles of food	100	82	94	92	82
Average—All food articles	100	80	94	89	87

On page 47 will be found statistics of food prices in March and April 1923 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.



These are official prices supplied through the Director of Agriculture to the Labour Office, and are averages of prices taken eight times a month from retail shopkeepers patronised by the labouring classes. The articles selected, seventeen in number, are those commonly consumed by the working classes.

On the same page, the prices are expressed as percentages of prices in July 1914, thus showing in each individual case the increase since the beginning of the War. The general index number for each place is the simple arithmetic average of the percentages of prices, and shows the average increase in food prices since July 1914. The index numbers for April 1923 show that in comparison with the previous month there was a rise in prices in all the centres except Poona.

INDIAN AND ENGLISH PRICE LEVELS

LONG PERIOD FLUCTUATIONS

The Labour Office has of late received requests from various quarters, to be furnished with comparative prices of India and the United Kingdom, over the last fifty years.

PRICES SINCE 1920

The statistics of wholesale prices in recent years in India and other important countries are given in the table on page 48, and the movements are shown in the chart on wholesale prices in India and foreign countries (Chart no. 3). It will be seen from the chart that, while prices in the United Kingdom have fallen from 325 (the high-water mark in April 1920) to 160 in March 1923, a fall of 60 per cent., in India the fall from the high-water mark (the high-water mark was 230 in January 1920), amounts to only 24 per cent.

From 1920 the Indian wholesale price level has been steadier than in most other countries. During the war period, in fact up to 1918, the curve was nevertheless as upward as in most other countries.

GROUP FLUCTUATIONS

The following table shows the movement of prices in India and in the United Kingdom over the last fifty years.

Index numbers of wholesale prices in India and the United Kingdom 1913=100

Year.	United Kingdom (Statist.)				India (Department of Statistics).		
	Vegetable foods	Total foods.	Textiles.	Total all articles.	Food-grains (rice and wheat)	Textiles.	Total all articles.
1873	154	139	123	131	58	96	70
1880	130	122	96	104	68	77	73
1890	94	95	79	85	68	71	70
1900	90	90	79	88	76	81	78
1910	94	96	87	92	82	92	85
1913 (pre-war year)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1920	329	304	312	295	170	284	197

The noticeable features in the movements of wholesale prices, from this table are (1) wholesale prices in 1913, the pre-war year, were 43 per cent. above the level of 1873 in India and 23 per cent. below the level in the United Kingdom; (2) prices in the United Kingdom began with a downward course in 1873, reached a minimum somewhere about 1890 and rose steadily to the level of 1920; (3) in India prices in 1873 started upward, attained a maximum in or about 1880, were downward slightly after 1880 to reach a minimum about 1890 and then rose again up to 1920.

SUMMARY

The following table shows at a glance the rise in wholesale prices in India and in the United Kingdom over long periods:—

	India.	United Kingdom.
Increase (+) or decrease (—) per cent. in 1922 as compared with—		
1873 (50 years ago)	+ 131	+ 18
1880 (approx. 40 years ago)	+ 122	+ 48
1890 (" 30 " ")	+ 131	+ 81
1900 (" 20 " ")	+ 100	+ 75
1910 (" 10 " ")	+ 91	+ 67
1920 (" 2 " ")	— 18	— 46

The rise in prices in India in the last fifty years is approximately 131 per cent. as compared with 18 per cent. in the United Kingdom. These figures are approximate, as the construction of the two indexes is not identical, and in drawing conclusions from the data the limitation of the statistics in this respect must be remembered.



INDEX NUMBERS AND WAGES

The publication of a monthly cost of living index by Labour Offices and Labour Departments throughout the world must not be utilised for the purpose of immediately scaling down wages in times of falling prices and for the purpose of immediately raising wages in times of rising prices.

It is true that in some occupations, for example, in England, wages are based on the "cost of living" figure of a Government department. At the same time it is not to be forgotten that the distributable wealth of a country is the aggregate earnings of its population, and this, divided by the total number of inhabitants, gives the average standard of living. It follows that the natural standard of living will vary with the prosperity and the efficiency of the people. When times are good, crops abundant, profits in industries large, the standard will be considerably higher than when crops are poor, profits small, and trade depression general. At the same time it is also indisputable that interminable disputes about wages have been avoided and more harmonious working made possible by the publication of such an index regularly by an impartial authority.

AGRICULTURAL WAGES

PROGRESS OF THE ENQUIRY.

In the March issue of the *Labour Gazette* a reference was made to the Enquiry that is being undertaken into agricultural wages. Preliminary results have already been obtained for Head Quarters Talukas in each District in the Presidency excluding Sind. The Sind returns are under compilation and Collectors of Districts have been addressed regarding the selection of a representative non-Head Quarters Taluka for each District.

As compared with the pre-war year agricultural labour has, it would seem from the preliminary figures, risen most in Gujarat. The Konkan takes the second place in this respect and the Deccan the third. This order also applies to skilled labour and ordinary labour in or near the Head Quarters town of each District.

The agricultural population in the Bombay Presidency (including Sind) was 12,282,000

in 1921 as compared with 13,273,000 in 1911. The influenza epidemic of some years ago seems to have had a considerable effect on the supply of labour, but this will be dealt with in detail in the Report.

WAGES IN JAMAICA

According to the Annual Report of the Immigration Department for 1921, referred to on page 26, the weekly average earnings for the whole island during the quarter ended March 1921, of indentured labourers employed in the estates of the Colony were Rs. 8-8-11* for men and Rs. 5-3-5 for women as compared with Rs. 9-9-5 and Rs. 6-5-7 in 1920, and Rs. 7-6-0 and Rs. 5-3-2 in 1919. The report furnishes instances of high wages earned by certain Madras Coolies. The following table shows the percentage of working days in the past three years and the percentage of days lost by reason of absence (a) on account of leave, (b) on account of unlawful absence from work and (c) on account of sickness.

	1919-20.		1920.		1921. (Mar.) (Qr.)	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Percentage of days worked	72.71	65.26	72.22	62.77	68.86	60.64
(a) Percentage of days lost on account of leave	15.95	23.96	22.65	33.44	24.48	35.72
(b) Percentage of days lost on account of unlawful absence	3.33	2.64	5.13	3.79	6.66	3.64
(c) Percentage of days lost on account of sickness	8.01	8.85	5.99	7.49	6.98	10.35

SHORT TIME IN THE COTTON INDUSTRY

Owing to continued lack of business in the Cotton Industry, Textile Mills in several countries of the world have stopped working their full complement of spindles. The table on the following page, taken from the *International Cotton Bulletin* (March 1923), shows the number of the weeks of 48 hours each during which the total number of spindles, from which returns had been received, were stopped:—

Countries.	Half-year ending 31st January 1923.
Great Britain	5,757
France	1,496
Germany	Not available.
Italy	1,916
Czechoslovakia	11,559
Spain	Nil.
Belgium	3,462
Switzerland	2,220
Poland	4,674
Austria	7,468
Holland	401
Sweden	3,435
Portugal	100
Finland	967
Denmark	1,124
Norway	10,183
Japan	6,690
Canada	10,183
Mexico	161

*The overtime worked in some mills counterbalances the short time of others.

†This figure represents working weeks of 48 hours. The general working week in Japan is 132 hours; calculated in Japanese working weeks, the stoppage is equal to 4.56 weeks.

SHORT TIME IN BOMBAY

THE COTTON MILL INDUSTRY

At a meeting of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association, held on Monday, the 50th April 1923, the question of organised short time was discussed. The Committee were generally of the opinion that the quantity of stocks held did not at the present time require combined action on the question of short time. The position will be reviewed again in June 1923.

The Textile Industry in the Bombay Presidency has, during the last six to eight months, been experiencing less prosperous times. Prices of raw cotton have been increasing; hours of labour have been shortened and wages have been maintained at all centres with the exception of Ahmedabad. As a result of these three factors production costs may have increased. Laccahure and Japan continue to be competitors in the Indian market for the sale of piece-goods. The Bombay manufacturer, moreover, has been producing a higher priced article than the consumer can afford to buy. Consequently, stocks of manufactured cloth and yarn have been increasing in almost all mills in the Presidency. The position in Ahmedabad has been dealt with fully in the April number of the *Labour Gazette*. The

Bombay Millowners' Association have laid under consideration the alternative questions of (1) a reduction of wages and (2) a curtailment in production. With this object in view, returns of stocks held by each of the mills affiliated to the Association were invited on dates separated by a period of two months. It is understood from independent enquiries that stocks of cloth have increased by 17 per cent. and stocks of yarn by 55 per cent. during the period separating the two returns.

Owing to a favourable monsoon last year good crops have been assured and it is believed that the purchasing power of the cultivator will accordingly be greater when the present harvest is reaped. One group of mills have, for the last five to seven weeks, been selling actually more than they are producing and existing stocks show symptoms of a material reduction for this group. In other cases adjustments of machinery have been made in order to avoid further accumulation.

EMPLOYMENT OF HALF-TIMERS

The following questions of a Correspondent and the answers thereto are of interest:—

Question.—Has there been any marked difference in the number of half-timers employed in Mills since the raising of the age from 9 to 12 years?

Answer.—The average daily number of children employed in factories in the whole Presidency for 1921, i.e., prior to the introduction of the new Act and that for the year 1922, is as under:—

	1921	1922
	15,766	13,378

The figure for 1922 is based on incomplete returns. There is however no doubt that the number of half-timers in mills has decreased since the Act was brought into force in July 1922.

Question.—Is the law with regard to prohibiting the working of children in Mills under 12 years of age frequently broken?

Answer.—There were seven prosecutions in connection with employment of children in 1922 by the full-time inspectors, most of which were for employment of children without certificates. There is no reason to suppose that breaches of the law in this respect have become more numerous since the Act was amended.

SOME FEATURES OF THE YEAR'S TRADE

A SLOW RETURN TO NORMAL

There are one or two features of the returns of Indian foreign trade for the twelve months ended March 1923 that are of interest to those interested in industries and labour. There has in the first place been an increase in exports and a decrease in imports. The balance of trade unlike the abnormal balances of the previous two years is a "favourable" balance, the visible balance of exports exceeding imports to the extent of 28 crores* of rupees.

An analysis of the exports for the official year ended 31st March shows in the exports of articles wholly or mainly manufactured no percentage change as compared with the pre-war average while the percentage change in the exports of foodgrains, etc., has fallen and that of raw materials has increased. The following are the percentages for each group:—

Exports	Exports			
	Pre-war average (1909—14)	War average (1914—19)	1921-22	1922-23
Food, drink and tobacco ..	28.7	27.6	23.1	23.2
Raw materials, etc. ..	46.7	39.3	49.2	52.3
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	23.6	32.1	26.7	23.6
Miscellaneous ..	1.0	1.0	2.0	.9
	100	100	100	100

Imports	Imports			
	Pre-war average (1909—14)	War average (1914—19)	1921-22	1922-23
Food, drink and tobacco ..	15.0	17.9	19.0	13.3
Raw materials, etc. ..	6.9	6.4	8.3	8.0
Articles wholly or mainly manufactured ..	76.6	73.4	71.1	77.1
Miscellaneous ..	1.5	2.3	1.6	1.6
	100	100	100	100

* 1 crore of rupees=26,667,000 at the rate of 15 Rs. to the £.

In imports there is a slight percentage increase in articles wholly or mainly manufactured and also a noticeable increase in raw materials. The decrease under food, drink and tobacco is due to poor harvests in India and a lack of buying power on some of our customers, especially in distressed Europe.

There has not been, it will be seen from these percentages, any great change in the nature of our foreign trade as compared with the pre-war years.

If our six main exports and our six main imports be examined in the year 1922-23 the after effects of the war will be seen not to have entirely disappeared. A return to normal is, however, noticeable. It may be noted that the six main exports represented in the year under review 79.2 per cent. of the total exports of Indian merchandise and the six main imports 65.5 per cent. of the total imports of merchandise.

Quantity of Exports

Commodities.	Units.	Pre-war average (1909—14)		1921-22, 1922-23	
		1909—14	1914—19	1921-22	1922-23
Cotton—Raw ..	1,000 tons	430	391	534	600
Manufactures:—					
Piece-goods ..	Million yds.	90	155	160	157
Twist and Yarn ..	Million lbs.	193	130	81	57
Jute—Raw ..	1,000 tons	764	464	468	578
Manufactures:—					
Canvas-bags ..	Millions	339	716	387	343
Coarse Cloth ..		970	1,177	1,121	1,254
Grains, Pulses, Flour, etc. ..	1,000 tons	4,611	3,141	1,623	2,559
Tea ..	Million lbs.	266	323	314	288
Seeds ..	1,000 tons	1,453	708	725	1,177
Hides and Skins ..		50	57	48	46

Quantity of Imports

Commodities.	Units.	Pre-war average (1909—14)		1921-22, 1922-23	
		1909—14	1914—19	1921-22	1922-23
Cotton manufactures:—					
Piece-goods ..	Million yds.	2,616	1,810	1,080	1,593
Twist and Yarn ..	Million lbs.	42	34	57	59
Handkerchiefs and shawls ..	Millions	24	9	3	4
Metals and Ores ..	1,000 tons	784	346	651	801
Sugar ..		733	554	783	442
Railway Plant and Rolling stock (India) ..	Lakhs of Rs.	611	348	1,891	1,063
Machinery and Millwork (India) ..		561	514	3,426	776
Oils ..	Million Gals.	92	84	123	127



Treasure

India in 1922-23 imported gold on private account to the extent of Rs. 41 crores or at Rs. 15 = £1, the equivalent of £27,300,000. It will be remembered that the gold production in 1922 is estimated to have been £65 millions. Thus India took the equivalent of 42 per cent. of the world's gold production in the twelve months ended March 1922. Silver imports amounted to Rs. 21 crores or at the same rate of exchange £14 millions. The silver production of 1922 was valued at £34 millions, so on this basis India's share was 41 per cent.

Distressed Europe

If the trade of India with markets abroad be grouped into three main classes (1) the British Empire; (2) Distressed Europe (comprising Germany, France, Russia, Belgium, Italy, Austria, Hungary and Turkey); and (3) other foreign countries, it will be seen how Indian trade (of no small importance) has been affected by the prevalent depression in many parts of continental Europe where inflation, especially in Germany, is at the moment a most serious problem. The return to normal is impeded by the violent fluctuation in the foreign exchanges and by inflation.

Exports

	Prewar average (1909-14)	War average (1914-19)	1921-22	1922-23
(i) British Empire ..	41.1	51.7	41	39.6
(ii) Distressed Europe.	30.4	12.9	16.8	20
(iii) Other foreign countries ..	28.5	35.4	42.2	40.4
	100	100	100	100

There is, it will be noted, an interesting sign of progress in the percentage share of distressed Europe in the year's total exports in 1922-23 as against its immediate predecessor.

Imports

	Prewar average (1909-14)	War average (1914-19)	1921-22	1922-23
(i) British Empire ..	69.7	65.4	66.6	67.2
(ii) Distressed Europe.	13.5	4.1	6.4	9.7
(iii) Other foreign countries ..	16.8	30.5	27	23.1
	100	100	100	100

Other foreign countries, notably Japan and the United States, have increased their share in 1922-23 as against the pre-war year but have lost ground as compared with the war average and the year 1921-22.

In this connection, Mr. F. Clayton, M.L.C., Chairman, Karachi Chamber of Commerce, remarks:—

“Internally the outlook has improved, crops generally are excellent, Indian exchange appears to have settled down within limits that can be grasped, the political situation is showing itself in a more favourable light, and from purely an Indian outlook it would appear that a spirit of confidence and high endeavour is all that is necessary to pull us safely to prosperity. Unfortunately, the other side of the picture shows a scene that makes one hesitate to prophesy regarding the future. The economical, financial and political condition of many countries of Europe on whom India depends to purchase its products remains unstable and unsatisfactory. There is a close relationship between sound and honest finance, politically satisfactory conditions, stabilized prices which have an economic relation with producing costs, stability of exchange and good trade and prosperity.”



WORKING CLASS EXPENDITURE

DRINK AND OCCASIONAL EXPENDITURE

The Report on an enquiry into working class budgets shows that for the year ending March 31st, 1921, 4½ millions of people in Bombay City and in the four neighbouring districts, which are the main source of Bombay's labour, consumed about 1¼ times as much liquor as did 11½ millions in the rest of the Presidency excluding Sind. The expenditure on liquor of the Bombay workman is most difficult to arrive at because he is generally averse to giving true information on this account. The analysis of about 3,000 working class family budgets shows that, for families who indulge in drink, the expenditure is from eight to ten per cent. of the total expenditure. This is the average for male workers only because women with certain exceptions do not drink. The causes for the Bombay workman's indulging in liquor may be summed up thus—congestion of population owing to high rents and cost of building, lack of intellectual and other interests, and want of opportunity for open air recreations. This drinking habit affects the workman's health by making him a poor consumer and consequently there is a waste in his productive power. Also, an increase in wages tends to a corresponding though not equal increase in the consumption of liquor. As against the rise in wages in the cotton mill industry of 87 per cent. above the pre-war (1914) rate the consumption of liquor has increased by 32 per cent.

The cause of the labourer's indebtedness is, in most cases, the occasional expenditure on marriage and funerals. Assuming the life-time of a generation to be 30 years in a family of five persons, there may be five such events as marriages and funerals during the period. The average cost of a marriage is, according to the Report, Rs. 214 excluding clothing bought on the occasion, and the cost of a funeral Rs. 35 for the first fortnight. The cost of five funerals and five marriages amounts to Rs. 1,245 for a generation or about Rs. 42 for a year. In addition to marriage and funerals there are also annual festivals (Rs. 11) and anniversaries (Rs. 7), the total occasional expenditure amounting to Rs. 60 per annum.

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DEATHS BY OCCUPATION

The question is sometimes raised whether the mortality of the textile worker in Bombay is greater or less than in other industries. Before any conclusions can be drawn, it is necessary to point out that mortality depends on two factors, namely (1) the worker and (2) his environment, including his occupation. In these circumstances mortality of occupation alone cannot be measured. There are differences between one man and another which react differently upon environments. It must be admitted, however, that occupation more than anything else determines the other elements in environment. Again, there are differences in ages which determine occupations, the older following certain occupations and the younger other occupations. Certain sections of the community are specially fitted for certain kinds of work owing to physical reasons. Agricultural workers, for example, are usually recruited from the more healthy rural population. The abnormally low death rates among engine drivers and Motor Car drivers is similarly due to selective recruitment of men of a high standard of fitness, or the selective discharge of those unable to stand the strain. This operates especially among younger men who have not made a final choice of occupation. Some of these factors are dealt with in detail in Part IV of the Supplement to the Seventy-fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General for England and Wales. In this report it is shown that mortality experience is greatest among “general labourers” in England and Wales, and this is attributed to their low standard of living. The high mortality, however, is also due to the transfer of individuals of diminished physical health, who have drifted into it through inability to follow a former occupation.

BOMBAY STATISTICS

According to the Executive Health Officer of the Bombay Municipality, the following are the death rates among textile workers in Bombay in 1922 and among certain other classes which are added for purposes of comparison: the two standards taken being the death rates among all occupied persons and among persons occupied or unoccupied in the



working years of life which have been assumed to cover the ages between 15 and 55 years.

Occupation or Class.	Deaths per 1,000.
(a) Transport by water	9
(b) Bank managers, money lenders and employees ..	15
(c) Mill-hands and other textile workers ..	16
(d) Medical and Veterinary Practitioners and Dentists ..	17
(e) All occupied persons	17
(f) All persons aged 15-55 whether occupied or not ..	21
(g) Clerks	23
(h) Plumbers	38
(i) Pensioners	40
(j) Dependants aged 15 years and upwards ..	43
(k) Dependants of all ages	54

As compared with the average rates of other occupations in Bombay it will be seen that textile workers occupy a not unfavourable position. Their death rate is for example 1 point below that of all occupied persons and 5 below all persons aged 15-55.

The work demands a much higher standard of physique than is required in clerks. The wages paid are sufficient to satisfy the essential needs of life, and judging by the ages of those who die, the proportion of aged workers is much lower than it is amongst all occupied persons. The Census Tables unfortunately do not classify occupations by age, and further do not give any group, with the exception of medical practitioners, which can be taken as representing the well-to-do middle classes.

The excessive mortality among plumbers may be received with hesitation. They suffer from the effects of chronic lead poisoning, but not to the extent which the Bombay figures suggest.

The high rate amongst dependants, that is to say the unoccupied, is in accordance with the experience of other countries and is due in a large measure to the inclusion in their ranks of all infants and young children. The withdrawal of all under the age of 15 years from the unoccupied population and from the deaths which occur among them reduces the death rate from 54 to 43. That part of the excess which is not due to the inclusion of infants arises from the presence in the unoccupied population of a large proportion of persons who are unoccupied through sickness and old age.

From the comparisons made the inference is justified that the conditions under which the

textile worker is employed in Bombay do not produce a high death rate and that the health of textile workers as judged by their mortality compares favourably with the health of the generality of workers in the City. The death rate in Bombay also compares favourably with the figure for textile workers in England and Wales as shown by the Registrar General's Report for 1910-12. The death rate among textile workers for that period is 14 per 1,000 living—10 points below that of "general labourers."

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE, 1923.

AGENDA FOR THE FIFTH SESSION.

On page 8 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1923, a brief reference was made to the agenda of the fifth session of the International Labour Conference. At the eighteenth session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office held on 10th April 1923, it was decided that the 1923 session should open on the 22nd October next, the single item on the agenda being "General Principles for the organization of Factory Inspection". The session would last not more than a week, but the following session to be held in June 1924 will be of the normal length. It was also decided that the question of night work in bakeries should be placed on the agenda for the 1924 session.

As at previous conferences, each state should be represented by four delegates, of whom two will represent Government, one the employers and one labour. The right of nominating all the delegates rests with the Government of India, but in regard to non-Government delegates due importance will be attached to the recommendations made by organized representative associations of the employers and the employed. Travelling expenses for all the delegates finally nominated will be paid by the Government of India. All suggestions as to the nomination of non-Government delegates should reach the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour not later than 30th June 1923;

HOUSING IN BOMBAY

DEVELOPMENT CHAWLS

Considerable interest has been taken recently in the press in regard to the *chawls* which are under construction by the Bombay Development Directorate. Out of a total number of 1,600 rooms now ready for occupation, 150 rooms have been reserved for the Bombay Improvement Trust in the DeLisle Road *chawls*. Out of the remaining 1,450 rooms, 1,400 rooms were let on 5th May 1923 as follows:—

Occupation.	Number of tenants.	Percentage to total.
Millhands	656	46.9
Police	120	8.6
Railway employees	96	6.9
Municipal employees	94	6.7
Clerks	86	6.1
Artisans	79	5.6
Bombay Development employees.	65	4.6
Bombay Improvement Trust employees	45	3.2
Other Daily labourers	42	3.0
Port Trust employees	37	2.6
Dockyard employees	25	1.8
Tramway Company employees ..	17	1.2
Infant Welfare Society	10	0.7
Time keepers	8	0.6
Contractors	7	0.5
Ticket Collectors and Examiners ..	7	0.5
Cart Drivers	5	0.4
Schoolmasters	1	0.1
Total	1,400	100.0

It will be seen from this statement that after excluding 120 rooms let to the Police at the economic rent of Rs. 14-8-0 per room and 10 rooms to the Infant Welfare Society at the same rent, only 86 rooms are occupied by clerical classes and 23 rooms by other classes which are made up of Time-keepers, Contractors, Ticket Examiners and Collectors, Cart Drivers and Schoolmasters. The remaining 1,161 rooms are let to working classes by which is meant manual workers in industry and transport including ordinary wage-earners in the employ of the Municipality, the Improvement Trust, the Development Directorate, the Port Trust and the Royal Indian Marine Dockyard. Therefore, out of 1,400 tenants 83 per cent. belong to the working classes, and if the rooms occupied by the Police and the Infant Welfare Society are excluded, in both of which cases the full economic rent is

recovered, the percentage of tenants who belong to the working classes generally is over 91 per cent.

In the early days of the *chawls* when the few rooms available were offered at the full economic rent of Rs. 14-8-0 per room, the statement made by the *Times of India* to the effect that "the majority of the tenants when they are not workers under the Development Directorate belong to the lower middle class such as clerks, petty traders, canvassers and so on" may have been approximately correct, but it is obviously no longer so.

The rents at which rooms are let are as follows:—

Ground floor ..	Rs. 9-8-0 per room.
1st floor	" 10-0-0 " "
2nd floor	" 10-8-0 " "
3rd floor	" 10-8-0 " "

An extra charge of Re. 1 per room is made for every corner room.

The following table shows the allocation of rooms to each class of worker in the *chawls* in different areas:—

Particulars of rooms.	Situation of chawls.			Total.
	Naigaum.	DeLisle Road.	Worli.	
Number of rooms ..	720	320 of which 150 are reserved for the Improvement Trust.	560	1,600
Number of rooms let to working classes ..	641	38	482	1,161
Number of rooms let to clerks ..	65	6	15	86
Number of rooms let to other classes ..	13	126 of which 120 let to Police and 5 to I. W. S.	14 5 let to I. W. S.	153
Total number of rooms let ..	719	170	511	1,400

Thus on the 5th of May there were 1,600 rooms in the Development Directorate tenements of which 1,400 were let. Of the remaining 200 rooms, 150 are set apart for the



Bombay Improvement Trust to house those who will be dishoused as a result of the Improvement Trust pulling down certain *chawls* at Tulsiram Wada for the purpose of widening roads according to their Schemes Nos. 31 and 47. On the 5th May 1923 there were only 50 rooms unlet.

The importance of these Development *chawls* to the solution of the housing problem of Bombay will be realised when it is remembered that by the date of the expiry of the Rent Act, i.e., 31st December 1925 nearly half the programme of 50,000 tenements will have been completed. If there are 4 or 5 occupants per room this works out to the housing of no fewer than from 200,000 to 250,000 people.

ENQUIRY INTO HOUSE RENTS IN BOMBAY

PROGRESS OF THE ENQUIRY

With a view to obtaining correct information regarding the increase in house-rents, a special enquiry has been undertaken by the Labour Office. The enquiry is being conducted on the following lines:—

(A) Working Class Tenements.

(1) Figures of privately owned tenements were collected for nearly 10,000 working class tenements for the years 1914-15 and 1920-21. Figures for the years 1921-22 and 1922-23 are in process of collection.

(2) Tenements owned by Public bodies, viz., the Development Directorate, the Improvement Trust, the Port Trust and the Bombay Municipality. These *chawls* are further classified under two heads: (a) New *chawls* built after January 1st, 1916, (b) *chawls* which existed in 1914.

(B) Middle Class Tenements—Information is being collected for nearly 10,000 tenements. So far rents for the years 1914-15 and 1922-23 have been obtained. When the statistics have been collected and tabulated and a certain proportion of the *chawls* (tenements) inspected, the results will be published in the *Labour Gazette*. The results will also be of value for the rent figure published in the monthly cost of living index.

INDIAN LABOUR IN NATAL.

The Labour Office has received from the Census and Statistics Office of the South African Government at Pretoria the following information in regard to the conditions of the working classes in Natal.

WAGES

The ordinary Indian labourers on Sugar Estates are paid £2 2s. 6d. (Rs. *31-12-0) per month, with rations, quarters and medical attendance. The machine hands and others engaged on special work in the factories draw from £3 (Rs. 44-13-0) to £6 (89-10-0) per month with rations, etc. The Indians employed on the Railway get from £1 15s. (Rs. 25-24) to £3 (Rs. 44-13-0) per month with quarters, rations, etc. Indians employed on the surface in coal mines draw £2 (Rs. 29-14-0) per month with rations, etc. Those employed under-ground on special work get from £4 (Rs. 59-12-0) to £8 (Rs. 119-3-0) per month and overtime. Those employed on farms get much the same as the ordinary labourer on the Sugar Estates. Many of the labourers on Farms and Sugar Estates get double rations.

COST OF LIVING

It costs free Indians living on their own land from 15s. (Rs. 11-3-0) to 20s. (Rs. 14-15-0) per adult per month.

HOUSING CONDITIONS

The accommodation given to labourers on Sugar Estates, Coal Mines, etc., is at the present time very good in almost every case. The free Indian small farmers or gardeners, who live on their own land, live in small tin huts put up by themselves, but the wealthy Indian, the better class, are nowadays having very good houses built for themselves.

Special Reports

The Labour Office has recently published the following reports which may be obtained from the Superintendent, Government Printing (Bombay), Poona:—

1. Report on an Enquiry into the Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry with statistical tables and coloured charts. Price Rs. 3.
2. Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay with statistical tables and coloured charts. Price Rs. 3-14-0.

*Rs. 1 = 12 4/10d.



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

Disputes in April .. 15

On pages 50 and 51 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during April 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 April 1923.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in April 1923.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in April 1923.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in April 1923.*
	Started before 1st April.	Started in April.	Total.		
Textile .. .. .	..	7	7	47,193	1,100,665
Engineering .. .. .	..	2	2	2,260	4,070
Miscellaneous	1	5	6	2,354	1,568
Total, April 1923	1	14	15	51,807	1,116,303
Total, March 1923	1	8	9	3,167	37,298

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

There were 15 industrial disputes in April 1923, 7 of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 52,000, and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced)

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Workpeople involved .. 51,807

1,116,303, which is a considerable increase on the March 1923 statistics. This large increase was due to the general strike in cotton mills in Ahmedabad.

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

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results December 1922 to April 1923

	December 1922.	January 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.
Number of strikes and lock-outs	10	6	22	9	15
Disputes in progress at beginning	2	1	* 2	1	1
Fresh disputes begun	8	5	20	8	14
Disputes ended	9	4	22	9	9
Disputes in progress at end	1	2	..	..	6
Number of workpeople involved	5,016	3,288	11,789	3,167	51,807
Aggregate duration in working days	22,806	14,508	68,590	37,298	1,116,303
Demands—					
Pay	6	3	13	3	8
Bonus	3	1	2	..	..
Personal	1	..	5	4	1
Leave and leave .. .. .	..	..	..	1	..
Others .. .. .	..	2	2	1	6
Results—					
In favour of employees .. .. .	..	1	7	6	1
Compromised	1	..	1	1	2
In favour of employers	8	3	14	2	6

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.
			In favour of employ-ees. (Per cent.)	In favour of employ-ers. (Per cent.)	Com-promised. (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 ..	19	79,894	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	62,999	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	58,899	55	..	..	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.	19	22,896	80	..	10	10
January 1923 ..	6	14,798	50	17	..	33
February 1923 ..	22	68,790	64	32	4	..
March 1923 ..	9	37,298	72	67	11	..
April 1923 ..	14	1,116,203	40	7	13	40
Total or (cols. 4 to 7) Average	344	5,266,898	57	16	10	17

A General Review of Disputes

During April 1923 there were 15 industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency, 7 of which were in the cotton mill industry. Eight of

these were on account of the question of pay and only one of the disputes was settled in favour of the employees, while 6 were settled in favour of the employers. The number of disputes increased again from 9 in March to 15 during April.

BOMBAY

There were nine disputes in Bombay during the month.

Cotton Mills

About 100 weavers in the Dinshaw Petit Mill, Parel Road, went on strike as a protest against notice of dismissal to two head jobbers on account of unsatisfactory work, but resumed work unconditionally after 3 days. The management of the Textile Mill decided to discontinue the night shift from 1st April 1923 and to select the men required for the day shift from men of both shifts. As a protest against this, about 2,400 out of 3,000 men struck work. The strikers were ultimately paid off and new hands engaged instead. (A reference to this was made on page 13 of the April *Labour Gazette*.) There was another strike in this mill of 180 spinners owing to their being given less material to work with resulting in less wages. The men demanded as much work as was formerly given or in the alternative 50 per cent. increase in the rates of wages. They had to resume work unconditionally. In the Presidency Mill, there was a strike of 400 weavers, against the management's stopping certain looms for want of sufficient yarn and refusing to pay for the idle looms. The strikers were paid off and discharged and new hands engaged. About 300 weavers of the Bradbury Mills struck work over the question of an increased rate of wages for a new kind of *sari* which was being turned out. The weavers demanded 24 pies per lb. in place of 16 pies per lb. The men returned to work unconditionally after holding out for four days. As in the case of the Textile Mills, the discontinuance of the double shift caused a strike in the Simplex Mills which went on to a single shift from 1st May 1923. The men demanded payment of a bonus for the first six months of 1923. The strike was in progress at the end of the month.

There was a small strike in the Matunga Workshop of the G. I. P. Railway. The bag



THE AHMEDABAD STRIKE

The Ahmedabad strike which commenced on the 1st of April was reviewed up to the middle of the last month on page 19 of the April issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The causes were (1) the 20 per cent. cut in wages decided on by the mill-owners with effect from 1st April 1923, (11) the alleged non-payment by many mills of the bonus on the precise terms agreed on by the arbitrators.

The "Mogwari" (cost of living) allowance was introduced in cotton mills in Ahmedabad from the middle of April 1921. The amount was granted according to the following scale:—

Rs. 1-10 per *hapta* of 16 days to spinners.
Rs. 1 per *hapta* to doffers in the spinning and frame departments.

Rs. 1-8 per *hapta* to operatives in the drawing and roving departments so as to bring their average wages per *hapta* to Rs. 16.

Rs. 1 per *hapta* in the blow and card rooms.

On the arrival of Principal A. B. Dhruva of the Benares Hindu University, who was one of the arbitrators in the *Diwali Bonus* award in September last, it was expected that a settlement would be effected. The matter was placed before Principal Dhruva who discussed it with both parties but no settlement was effected. Mr. S. C. Banker on behalf of the Labour Union also discussed the question of the previous year's award with the President of the Association and declared his intention to proceed to Benares and refer the matter to Pandit Malaviya who was referred to on the last occasion. The President of the Association objected to this proposal on the ground that he would not give his consent to it unless all the issues of the dispute were referred to Mr. Malaviya.

One of the five working mills informed its workers that stocks of cloth on hand were large and the old rate of wages could not therefore be continued. The owner therefore declared that he would be compelled to close the mill unless the work people accepted a 20 per cent. reduction in wages. The work men were given four days for consideration.

Principal Dhruva has addressed a letter to Miss Anusuya Sarabhai, in which she has been advised to send back the strikers to work and withdraw all her demands except two, viz.,

Cargo coolies of the Bombay Port Trust Docks about 1,000 in number went on strike against a reduction in the rate of daily wages. They were later joined by 1,000 boy coolies doing truck work, and the men demanded not only the restoration of their old wages, but a definite increase. The strikers, however, resumed work after a couple of days on payment of the old rate of pay from the date of stoppage of work. The rumour that the Bombay Port Trust coolies had got an increase in wages caused a strike amongst the daily wage coolies of the B. B. & C. I. Railway Goods shed at Carnac Bunder. An increase in wages was not sanctioned. Some work people were replaced, the others resuming work on old terms.

AHMEDABAD

During the month under review, there has been in Ahmedabad one of the largest strikes in the Presidency during the last two years. The main cause of the strike was the proposal of the Millowners to reduce the wages of operatives by 20 per cent. with effect from the 1st April 1923, in view of the marked decline in the cost of living and the continued depression of the local textile industry. A secondary cause was the alleged non-payment by many mills of the bonus on the precise terms agreed on by the arbitrators. Out of a total strength of 48,000 men, over 43,000 are on strike and 56 out of 61 mills are closed. Both the sides to the dispute, the Millowners' Association and the Labour Union, have issued from time to time a number of pamphlets explaining their position. About half the number of strikers are reported to have left Ahmedabad for their villages. The remaining are in the city and have been advised to take up other employment. At the end of the month both parties seemed obdurate and the chances of a speedy settlement were remote.

OTHER CENTRES

In Karachi there were two strikes of labourers employed by the various firms for increased wages and another strike in the Sind Flour Mills, Ltd., for overtime wages. The latter was in progress at the end of the month.



about interpretation of the bonus award and the settlement of the reduction question through arbitration.

The strike which has extended over a month and a half has not only affected the industrial position but as is pointed out by the *London Times* on another dispute the "process of arriving at an agreement may be attended by serious friction and a disastrous disorganization of the industrial life of the country, together with an immense loss and wastage of money and energy and a vast amount of privation for the workers and their families".

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN INDIA

FIRST QUARTER OF 1923

The Department of Industries and Labour in the Government of India estimates that during the quarter ended March 1923 there were altogether 71 disputes in India of which 35 occurred in Bombay and 23 in Bengal. No less than 33 disputes affected the cotton industry involving over 21,000 men and the loss of 320,000 days, 21 of them being connected with questions of pay or bonus. Eight disputes occurred in the Jute Mills of Bengal involving nearly 20,000 men and the loss of nearly 43,000 days. The total number of men involved in all strikes was 68,759 and the number of days lost 6,17,005. Of the total number of strikes, 16 ended in favour of the employees, 43 in favour of the employers, eight were compromised, two were indefinite and two were in progress at the end of March.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

DIFFICULTIES OF LEGISLATION

The dangers of hasty legislation in industrial disputes, as in other subjects, sometimes lead to what is known as "Skeleton legislation". The legislature in other words passes an act which contains merely an outline, while it is left to Government Departments under Orders, Rules and Regulations to supply the details. During the war, this was, of course, necessary but now-a-days it is essential that before any legislation is passed the greatest care should be taken with the actual details of the measures. As far back as 1911 the Master of the Rolls (Lord Cozens-Hardy) pointed out that "administrative action generally meant something

done by a man whose name they did not know sitting at a desk in a Government office, very apt to be a despot if free from the interference of the Courts of Justice". In the last issue of the *Journal of Comparative Legislation and International Law*, Sir Lynden Macassey, the author of the recently published book *Labour Policy—False and True* says: "Government Bills are forced through Parliament under the pressure of the Government Whips. . . . legislation is passed in the most general terms, and left to some Government Department to apply as it thinks fit under machinery" or rules to be made by it. The Cabinet is therefore in a position through its member at the head of a Government Department to embark on a particular policy which has never in any detail been discussed in Parliament or communicated to the public".

Legislation, therefore, on conciliation and arbitration is no easy matter and, therefore, requires the very greatest care in drafting. The details of such legislation have, as pointed out by the Honourable the Home Member, been under the consideration of the Government of Bombay. The question, however, requires closest study.

Sir Lynden Macassey in his book *Labour Policy* classifies the machinery for conciliation and arbitration under two main heads:—(1) Conciliation machinery within the industry and (2) State machinery. Under (1) are included (a) Joint Industrial Councils, in which are represented equally employers and employees in accordance with the recommendations of a Committee appointed in 1916 and presided over by the Right Honourable J. H. Whitley, now the Speaker of the House of Commons; (b) Permanent Voluntary Conciliation Boards, an older form of conciliation, the board being equally representative of employers and workpeople, but differing from the Joint Industrial Council in that the conciliation boards tend to confine their activities mainly to questions of wages and working conditions while the Councils take into consideration all matters appertaining to the industry; (c) recognised procedure arranged by organisations of employers and workpeople, not having a formally constituted conciliation board, providing for the discussion of differences as and when they arise.



CONCILIATION MACHINERY

In regard to State conciliation machinery, Sir Lynden's views are as follows:—

"Supplementary to the Whitley Councils, voluntary conciliation boards and similar procedure, which are responsible for the settlement of the bulk of the differences that arise, there exists the State machinery—on the one hand, the Industrial Court; on the other hand, the Trade Boards for poorly organised trades. The Industrial Courts Act, 1919 (which for practical purposes embodied the Conciliation Act, 1896), defines the Government's powers of intervention in industrial disputes, such intervention being necessary in cases where the joint machinery is not adequate or where the joint machinery has failed to effect a settlement. The Act sets up a permanent Court of Arbitration, to which recourse can be had by parties to industrial disputes if both parties to the dispute consent. Although permanent provision for voluntary arbitration is thus made by the establishment of the Industrial Court, it has been the policy of the Ministry of Labour, if not always the practice of the Cabinet, that trade disputes should be settled as far as possible by negotiation between Employers' Associations and Trade Unions. When this fails, or a Joint Industrial Council, or a Conciliation Board cannot arrive at an agreement, the Industrial Court is an independent authoritative tribunal to which such differences can be referred. Should the parties so desire, a dispute can be referred by the Minister of Labour under the Act either to a single arbitrator appointed by him or to a special Board of Arbitration composed of members selected by the parties from panels of persons appointed by him to act on these Boards. Reference to the Industrial Court is, however, the normal procedure. A dispute may be referred for settlement under the Industrial Courts Act only after the exhaustion of all available means for conciliation already existing in the trade. Under the Industrial Courts Act, the Minister has power to establish a Court of Inquiry to investigate the causes and circumstances of any industrial dispute, whether the dispute exists or is merely apprehended; moreover, to this course the consent of the parties is not required. These Courts have no power to settle the dispute by arbitration, but are restricted to making a report which serves to put before the public an impartial account of the merits of the case, with possibly a recommendation as to the best course to be pursued to effect a settlement. The policy of the Ministry of Labour is to place the prime responsibility for the harmonious working of industry upon the employers and employed in each industry, and only to intervene when negotiations between the employers and the Trade Unions have broken down, and then merely for the purpose of bringing them together again and trying to promote

a solution of the difficulty acceptable to both sides. Since the armistice, the industrial situation has been peculiarly difficult, and in certain disputes, there has been a political as well as an industrial element which would have made a settlement almost impossible whatever machinery existed, but on the whole it may be claimed that the existing policy of the Ministry of Labour has been fully justified by the results."

ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

STATISTICS FOR APRIL 1923

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency published on pages 38 and 39 of this issue contain details of (1) the accidents reported during April in Bombay City and Island and (2) the accidents reported during the same period in Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres.

During April, in Bombay City and Island, there were in all 153 factory accidents of which 9 were serious and 144 minor accidents. None of the accidents were fatal. Of the total number of accidents 52 or 34 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 101 or 66 per cent. were due to other causes. As in the previous months by far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the percentages classified according to class of factory being 67 per cent. in workshops, 27 per cent. in textile mills and 6 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad there were two accidents, both in cotton Mills. Both these were due to causes other than machinery in motion, one of which was serious and the other a minor accident. In Karachi there were three accidents, all in Railway Workshops and due to causes other than machinery in motion. Of these one was serious and two minor accidents.

In other centres the total number of accidents was 27, of which three were in textile mills, and 24 in workshops. Three were due to machinery in motion and 24 to other causes. There was no fatal accident but there were 5 serious and 22 minor accidents.

There were no prosecutions under the Factories Act either at Bombay or in the other centres in the month of April 1923.



MAY, 1923

INDIAN LABOUR OFFICES

In addition to the Labour Office of this Government the following offices or departments in India deal with Labour questions:—

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

In the Government of India the Department of Industries and Labour under the Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee, C.I.E., includes among other subjects, labour legislation, inter-provincial migration, the Factories Act and International Labour Organization. Messrs. A. H. Ley, C.I.E., J. C. B. Drake and A. G. Clow are the Secretary, Deputy Secretary and Under-Secretary respectively.

BENGAL

In view of the necessity for a separate organization in Bengal to deal properly with labour matters and to keep Government informed about them, the Government of Bengal created the post of a Labour Intelligence Officer temporarily for two years in the first instance. Mr. R. N. Gilchrist is the officer in charge and his address is Commerce Department, Writers Buildings, Calcutta. The Resolution of the Government of Bengal on the subject was published on page 6 of the Labour Gazette for March 1922.

BURMA

The Government of Burma have recently created a Labour Department in charge of a Labour Officer, Mr. E. J. L. Andrew. His address is, Office of the Development Commissioner, Burma, Rangoon. The scope of the Department is to include, besides enquiries into the methods of recruitment and the conditions in which labour works, the collection and compilation of information relating to a wage census, industrial workers' budget and the preparation of a cost of living index. The questions and answers relating to the Department in the Burma Legislative Council will be found on page 37.

MADRAS

The Labour Commissioner under the Government of Madras, in addition to collecting information about labour matters in the Presidency, is entrusted with the work of amelioration of the depressed classes. Mr. G. F. Paddison is Labour Commissioner and his address is Victoria Buildings, Egmore, Madras.

INDIAN LABOUR IN JAMAICA
REPORT FOR 1921

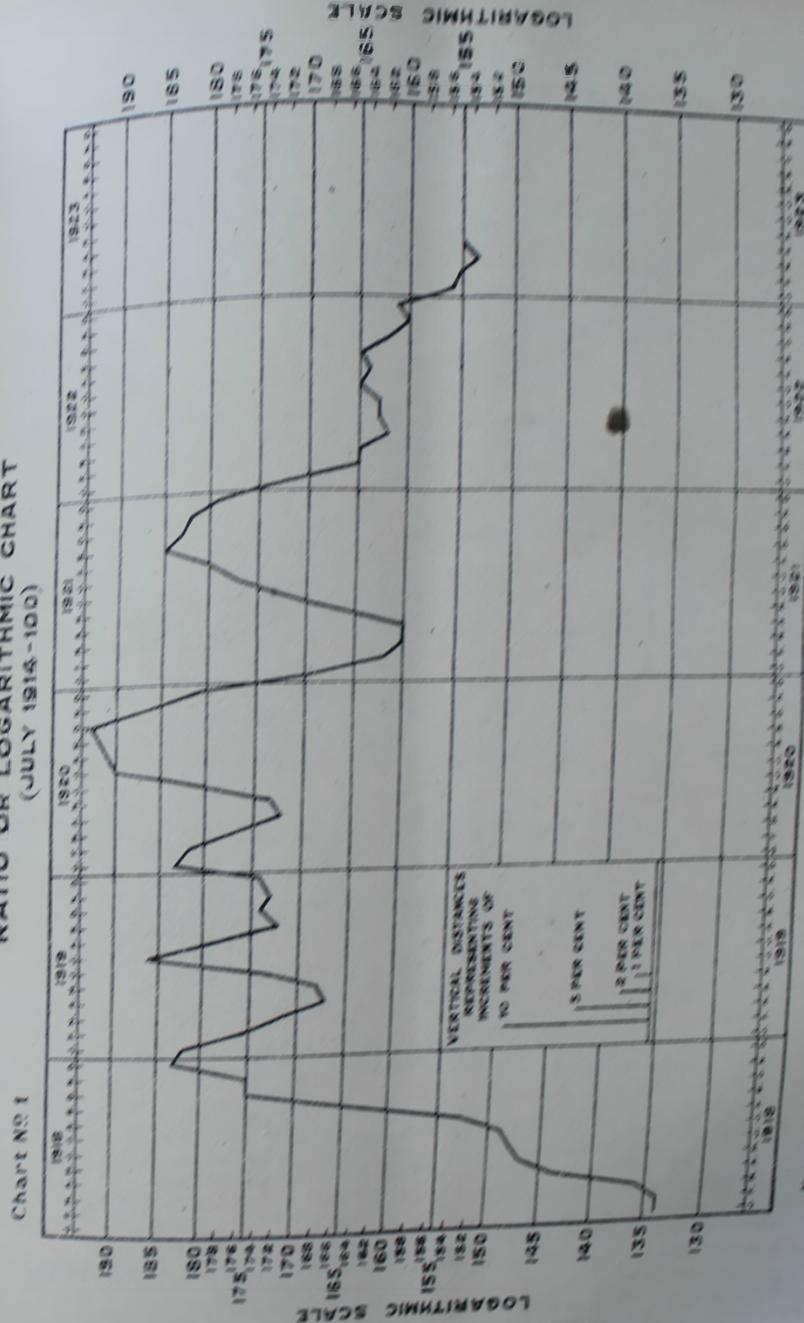
The Government of Jamaica has forwarded to the Labour Office the Annual Report of the working of the Immigration Department for 1921. The previous report (for 1920) of the Department was referred to on pages 16 and 48 of the Labour Gazette for February and March 1922 respectively. During the year 1921 no immigrants were introduced, while 575 were repatriated. On the 31st December 1921, the total number of free East Indians in the Colony was estimated at 18,219, most of whom were engaged in various manual occupations—agricultural labourers, planters, shopkeepers, market-gardeners, traders, goldsmiths, and domestic servants. Indians born in Jamaica or who have completed ten years' residence in the island possess the same political rights as the native section of the population. The number of East Indians registered as voters in the year was 329. It is interesting to note that 1,128 Indian children were attending Government Elementary Schools during the year.

There were 4 deaths and 5 births among the indentured population, the deaths in 1921 per 10,000 being 70 as compared with 124 in 1920. For the sixth consecutive year there were no suicides. During the year the number of immigrants admitted into public hospitals for the treatment of malaria was 385 and 42 for hookworm, as compared with 561 and 15 respectively in 1920. The statistics for the last five years show a gradual decrease in the number of admissions for both diseases.

No strikes occurred during the year, nor was there any new legislation introduced. On 31st December 1921 there were 177 destitute Indians in receipt of relief either in almshouses, industrial schools or other asylums. The land owned by Indians covers over 5,997 acres of the value of Rs. 5,86,892* and the livestock owned by them is valued at Rs. 1,68,870. It is estimated that Rs. 2,696 was remitted to India by immigrants during the year. A reference to the conditions of work and wages of the immigrant labourers will be found on page 13.

* Rs. 1 = 16. 4 1/16d.

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



Note.—This chart is intended to show the proportional increase in the cost of living. It will be seen that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus, an increase of 5 points over 200 is half as much as an increase of 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal increments. Note the straightness of the curve in 1921.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

CHART No 2.

Abbreviations: S Scanty F Fair N Normal EX Excess

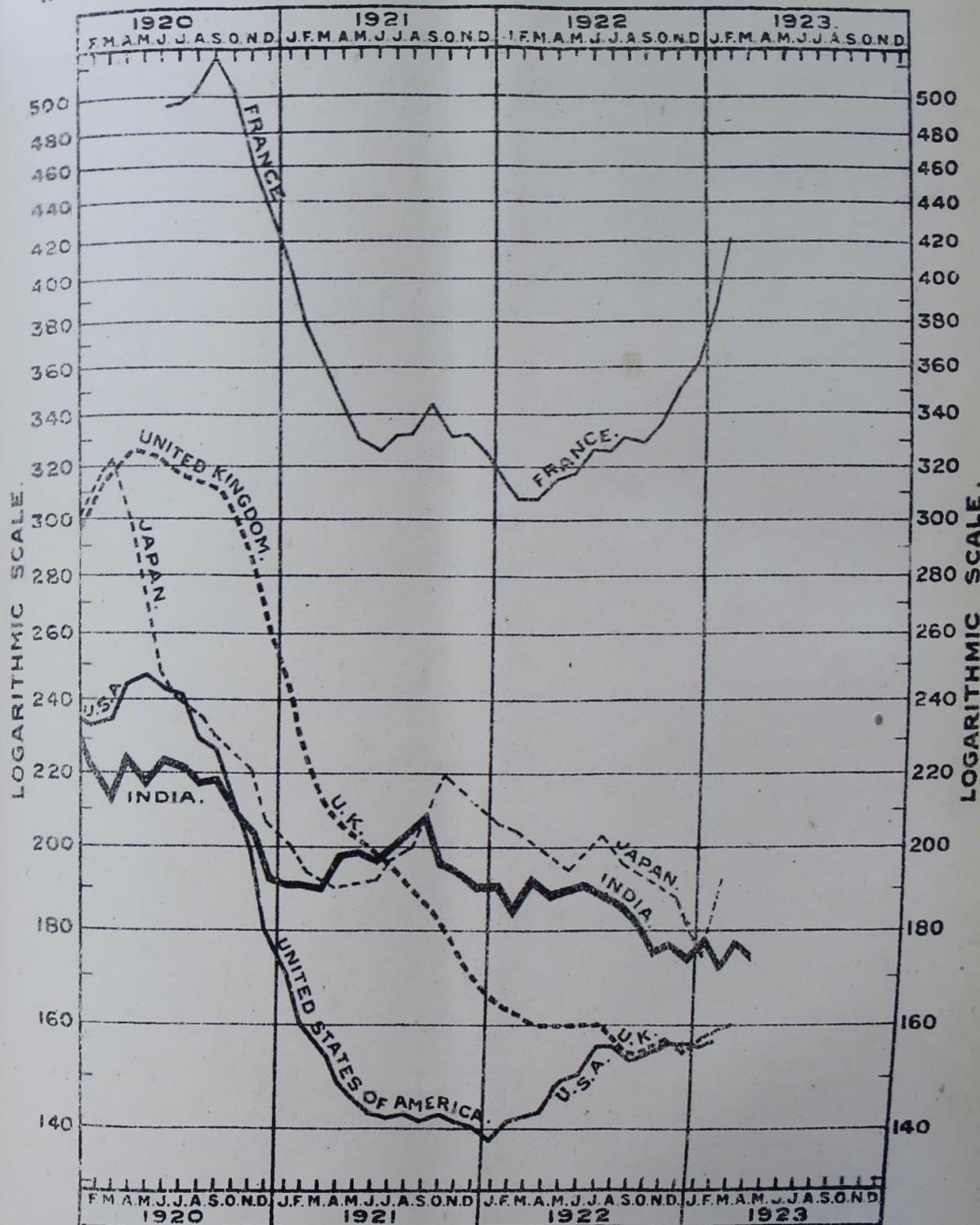
PROVINCE OR STATE.	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER				
	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st	7 th	14 th	21 st	28 th	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY					N	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	F	N	EX	EX	EX	EX			
1. SIND (RIVER RAINFALL)	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	S	S	S	F	EX	S	S	F	F	EX	EX	EX	EX			
2. GUJARAT	S	S	EX	EX	S	F	EX	N	S	S	F	S	EX	F	N	F	N	F	F		
3. DECCAN	S	S	EX	EX	F	N	EX	S	S	S	EX	F	N	F	N	F	F	F			
4. KONKAN	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	S	S	S	EX	F	N	F	N	F	F			
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY					N	F	F	F	EX	F	N	F	EX	F	N	F	EX	F	F	F	F
1. MALABAR	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	S	S	F	F	EX	F	S	EX	F	N	F	F	N	EX	S
2. DECCAN	F	S	F	S	S	F	EX	S	F	EX	S	EX	F	N	F	F	F	N	S	F	N
3. COAST NORTH	EX	S	F	S	F	S	EX	S	F	EX	S	EX	F	F	S	F	F	F	N	F	N
4. SOUTH EAST.					N	F	N	EX	S	N	F	F	N	F	F	F	S	S	F	EX	S
III. MYSORE	F	S	EX	F	N	F	N	EX	S	N	F	F	N	F	F	F	S	S	F	EX	S
IV. HYDERABAD					F	F	S	S	S	S	F	F	N	EX	F	N	EX	F			
1. NORTH	N	F	N	EX	EX	S	F	EX	S	S	S	S	EX	N	F	S	N				
2. SOUTH	F	S	N	F	F	F	S	EX	S	S	S	S	EX	N	F	S	N				
V. CENTRAL PROVINCES					N	F	F	EX	EX	F	S	S	S	EX	EX	S	S	S			
1. BERAR	S	N	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	S	N	N	EX	EX	EX	S	S	S			
2. WEST	S	S	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	S	N	N	EX	EX	EX	S	S	S			
3. EAST	S	EX	N	N	F	EX	EX	F	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	S	S			
VI. CENTRAL INDIA					N	EX	N	EX	S	S	F	S	EX	EX	EX	S	N	N			
1. WEST	S	EX	N	N	N	EX	N	EX	S	S	F	S	EX	EX	EX	S	N	N			
2. EAST	S	S	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	N	N	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	N	N			
VII. BENGAL PRESIDENCY	EX	F	EX	N	F	EX	N	N	EX	F	F	EX	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	F	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					N	EX	N	EX	S	EX	F	F	N	F	S	EX	EX	N			
1. BIHAR	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	EX	F	F	N	F	S	EX	EX	N				
2. ORISSA	N	F	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	N	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX				
X. UNITED PROVINCES					N	S	EX	EX	EX	N	EX	S	F	EX	EX	N	EX	EX			
1. EAST					N	S	EX	EX	EX	N	EX	S	F	EX	EX	N	EX	EX			
2. WEST					N	F	F	EX	EX	N	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	F				
XI. PUNJAB					S	S	EX	N	EX	F	S	N	F	N							
1. EAST & NORTH					S	S	EX	N	EX	F	S	N	F	N							
2. SOUTH & WEST																					
XII. RAJPUTANA					S	F	S	F	F	EX	S	S	F	S	F						
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	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 - 90-120 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.

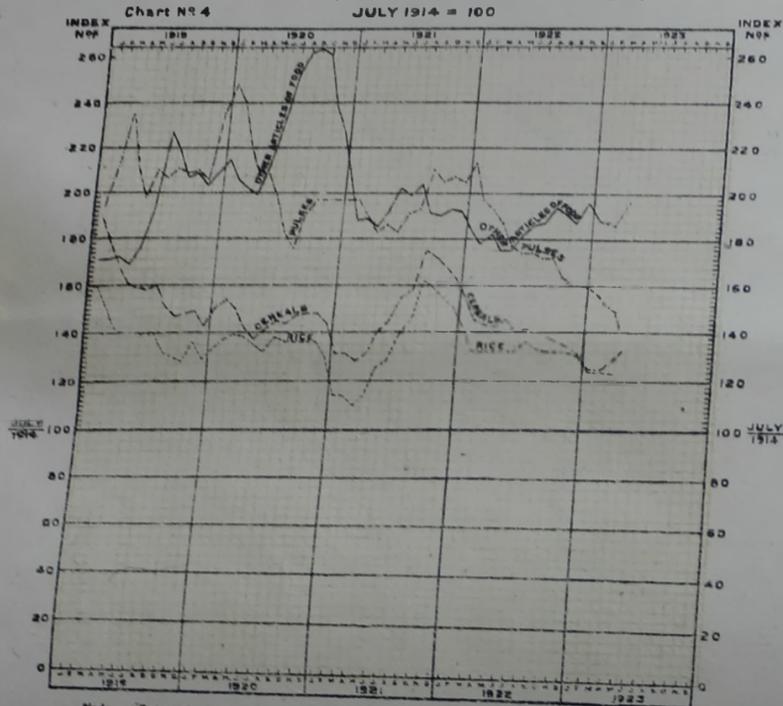
INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

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.



Note: - Pulses - Average Price of Gram and Turdal.
Rice - Clean.
Cereals - Average price of Rice, Wheat, Jowar and Sorghum.
Other articles of food - Average price of Sugar, Tea, Salt, Beef, Mutton, Milk, Eggs, Potatoes, Onions, Coconut Oil, etc.

COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

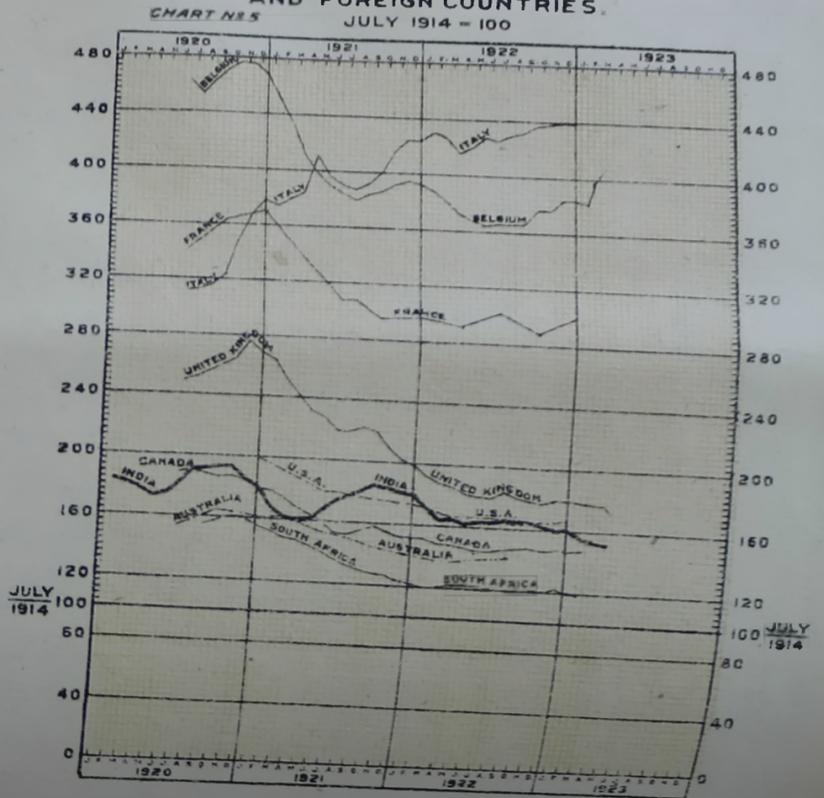
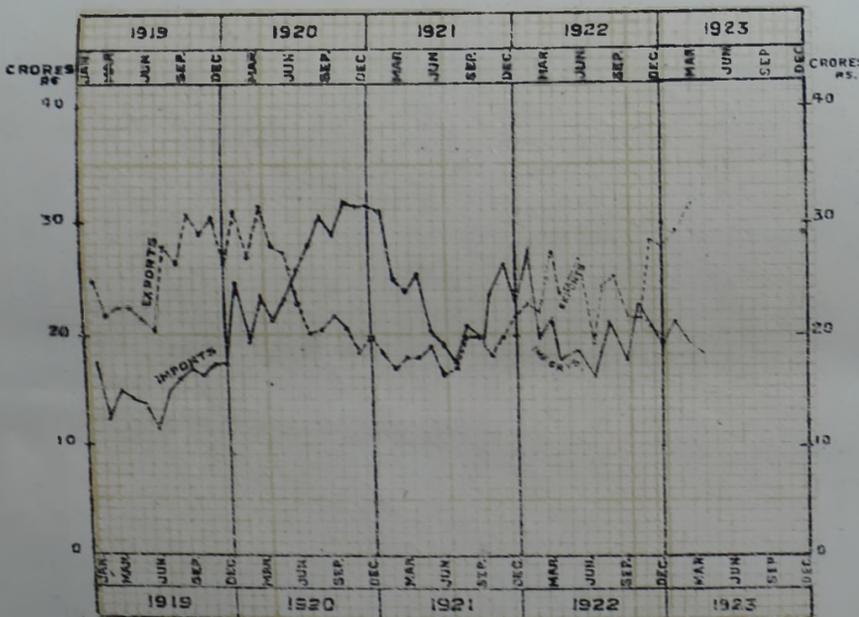


CHART No 6.

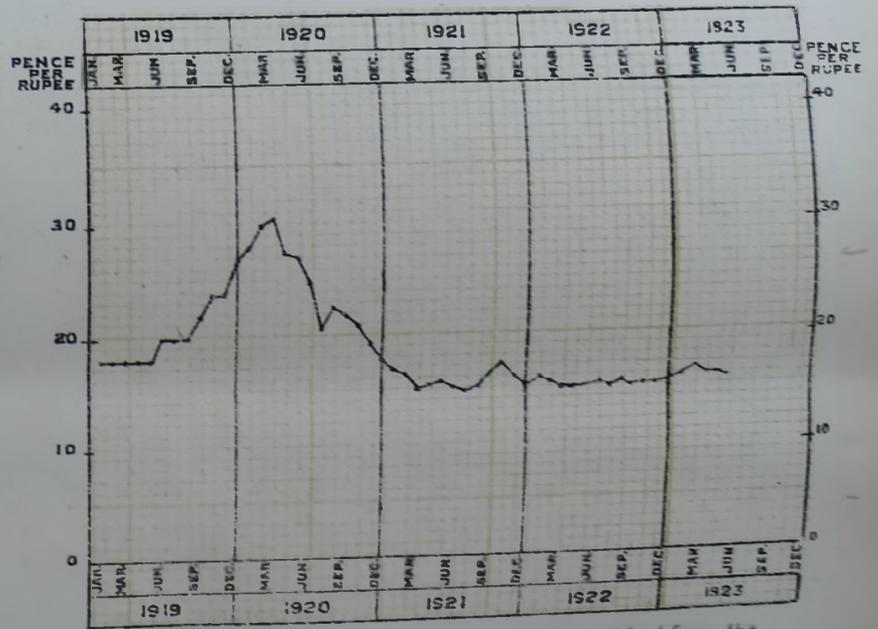
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA.



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

CHART No 8

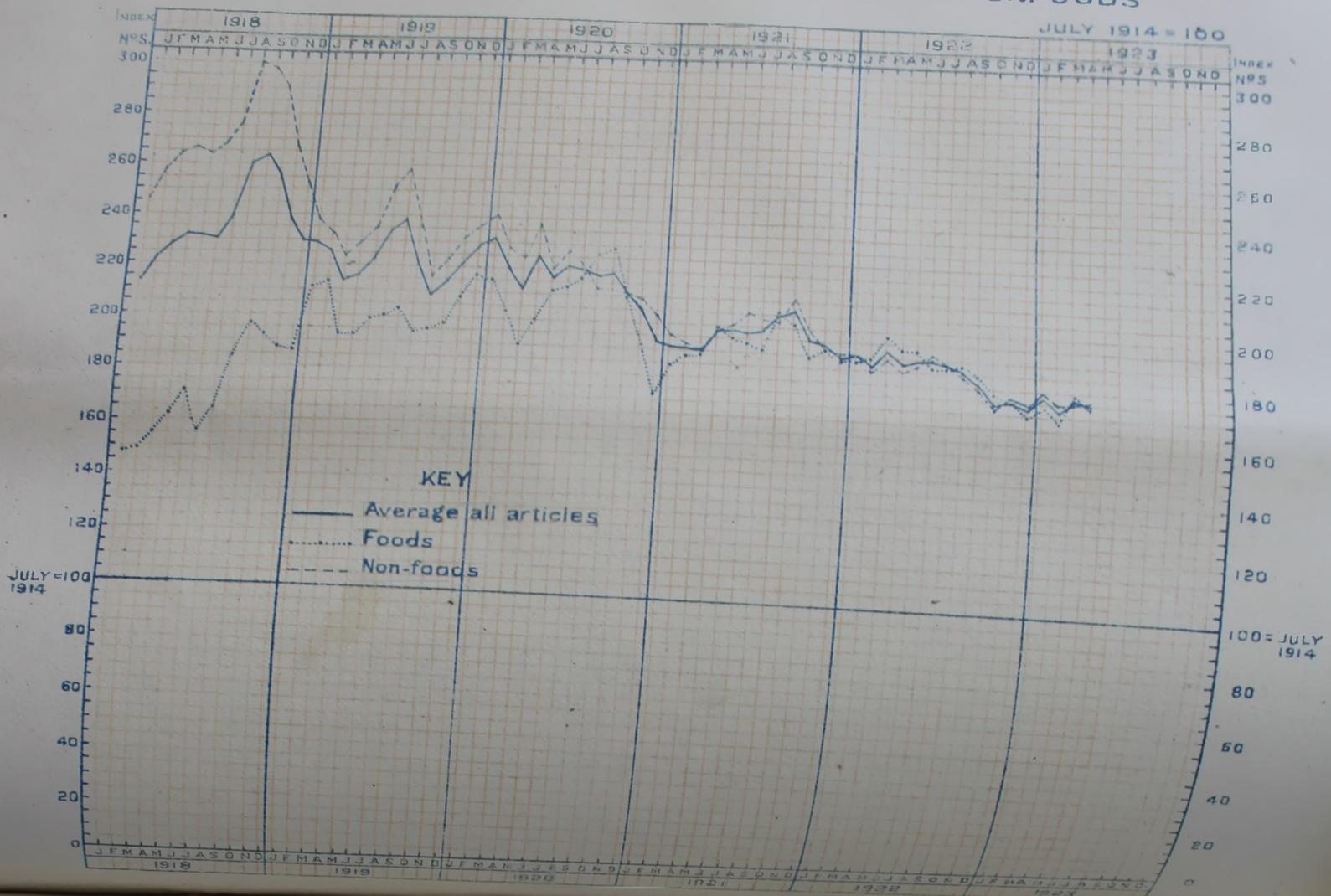


CHART No 9

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED

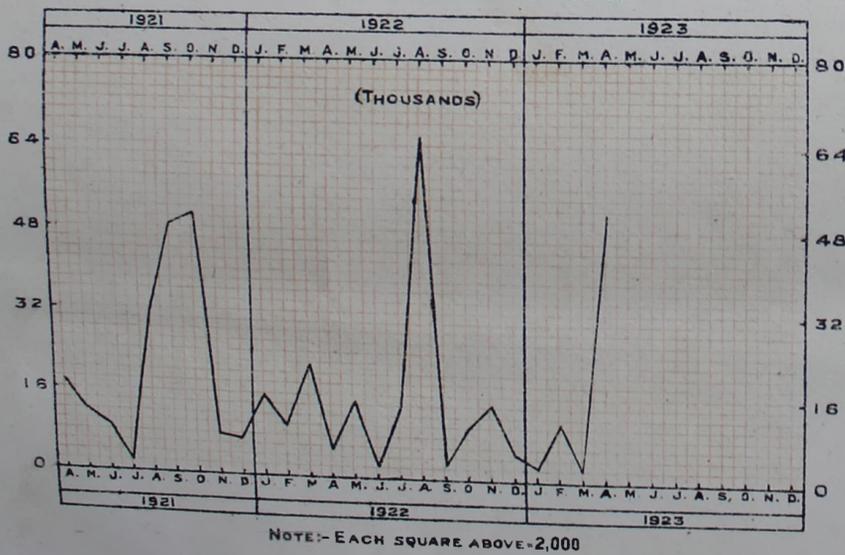
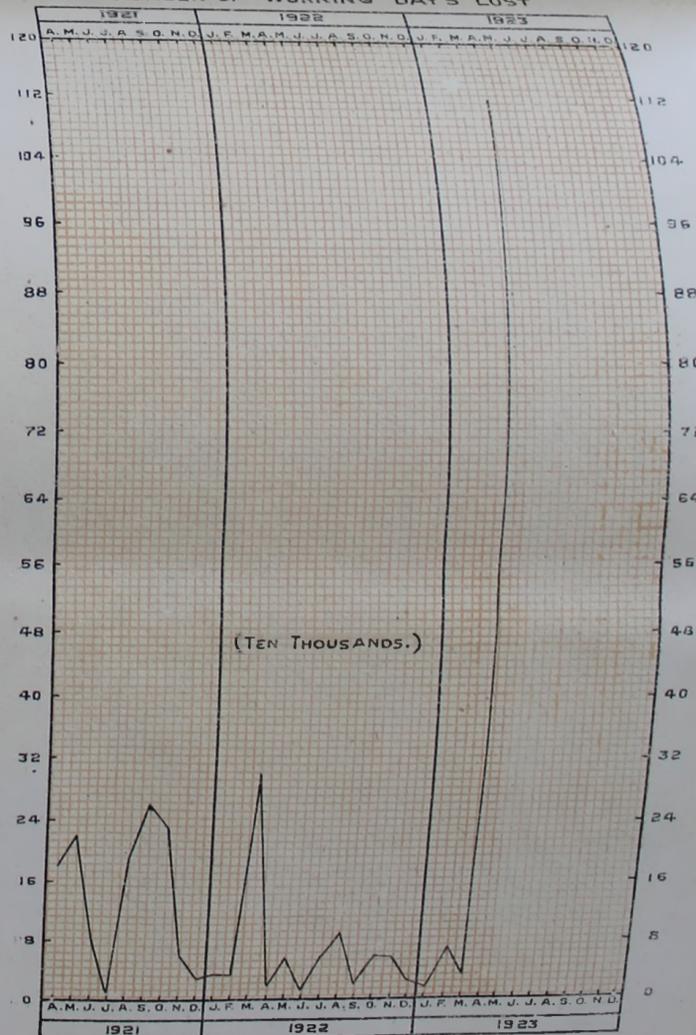
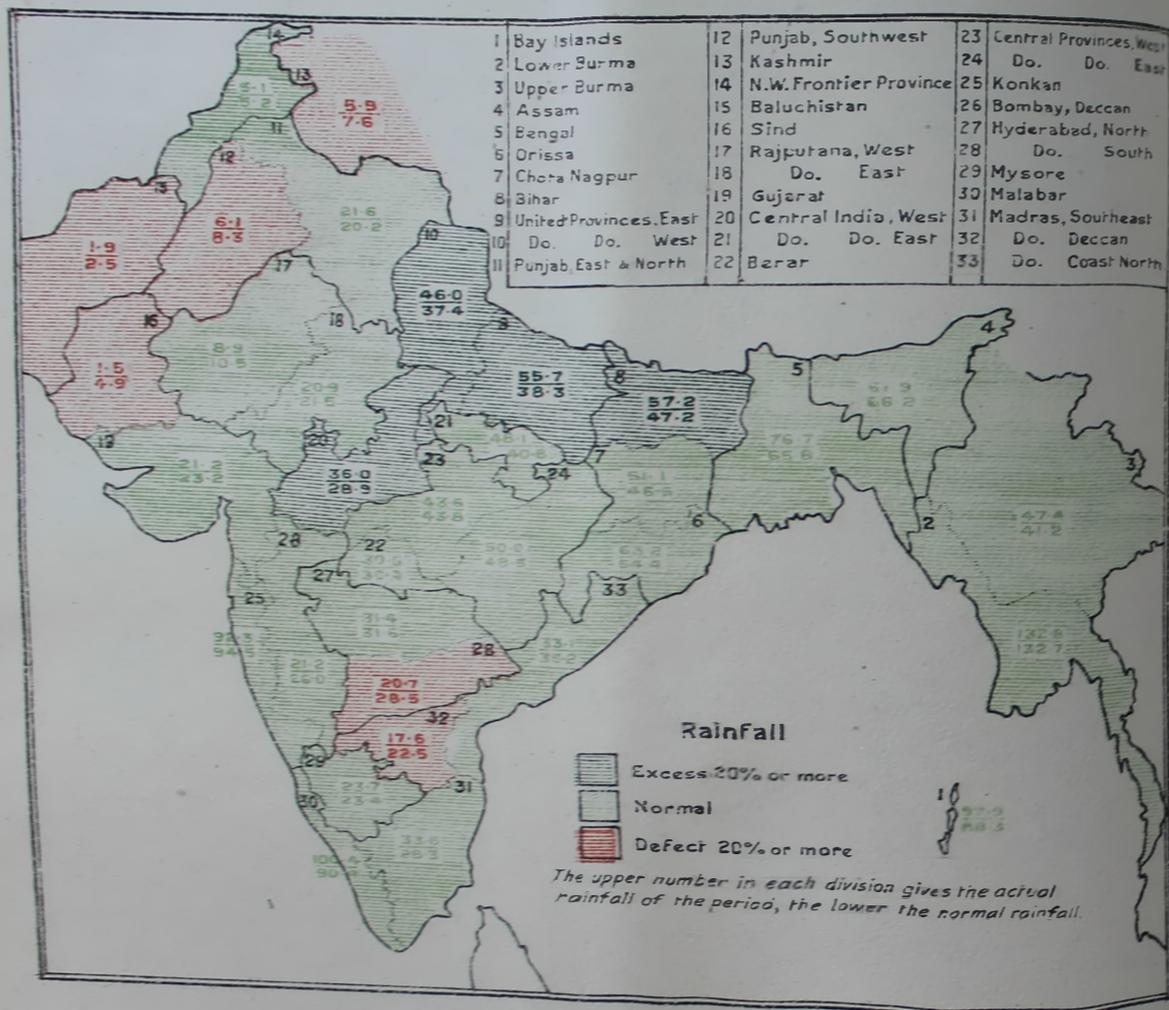


CHART No 10



NOTE: - (1) THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN JULY 1921 & JUNE 1922 IS OWING TO THE SHORT DURATION OF STRIKES.
 (2) THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN APRIL 1923 IS DUE TO THE BIG GENERAL STRIKE IN AHMEDABAD COTTON MILLS.
 (3) EACH SQUARE ABOVE = 10,000.

RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER, 1922.



LEGISLATION ON INDIAN MINES The New Act

The following Act of the Indian Legislature received the assent of the Governor-General on the 23rd February 1923:—

ACT No. IV OF 1923

An Act to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation and inspection of mines.

WHEREAS it is expedient to amend and consolidate the law relating to the regulation and inspection of mines; it is hereby enacted as follows:—

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. *Short title, extent and commencement.*—(1) This Act may be called the Indian Mines 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. *Saving of Reg. XII of 1887.*—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the provisions of the Upper Burma Ruby Regulation, 1887 (XII of 1887).

3. *Definitions.*—In this Act unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context,—

(a) "agent," when used in relation to a mine, means any person appointed or acting as the representative of the owner in respect of the management of the mine or of any part thereof, and as such superior to a manager under this Act;

(b) "Chief Inspector" means the Chief Inspector of Mines appointed under this Act;

(c) "child" means a person under the age of thirteen years;

(d) a person is said to be "employed" in a mine who works under appointment by or with the knowledge of the manager, whether for wages or not, in any mining operation, or in cleaning or oiling any part of any machinery used in or about the mine, or in any other kind of work whatsoever incidental to, or connected with, mining operations;

(e) "Inspector" means an Inspector of Mines appointed under this Act, and includes a District Magistrate when exercising any power or performing any duty of an Inspector which he is empowered by this Act to exercise or perform;

(f) "mine" means any excavation where any operation for the purpose of searching for or obtaining minerals has been or is being carried on, and includes all works, machinery, tramways and sidings, whether above or below ground, in or adjacent to or belonging to a mine:

provided that it shall not include any part of such premises on which a manufacturing process is being carried on unless such process is a process for coke making or the dressing of minerals;

(g) "owner," when used in relation to a mine, means any person who is the immediate proprietor or lessee or occupier of the mine or of any part thereof, but does not include a person who merely receives a royalty, rent or fine from the mine, or is merely the proprietor of the mine subject to any lease, grant or license for the working thereof, or is merely the owner of the soil and not interested in the minerals of the mine; but any contractor for the working of a mine or any part thereof shall be subject to this Act in like manner as if he were an owner, but not so as to exempt the owner from any liability;

(h) "prescribed" means prescribed by regulations, rules or bye-laws;

(i) "qualified medical practitioner" means any person registered under the Medical Act, 1858 (21 and 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, and includes, 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) "regulations," "rules" and "bye-laws" mean respectively regulations, rules and bye-laws made under this Act;

(k) "serious bodily injury" means any injury which involves, or in all probability will involve, the permanent loss of the use of, or permanent injury to, any limb, or the permanent loss of or injury to the sight or hearing, or the fracture of any limb or the enforced absence of the injured person from work for a period exceeding twenty days; and

(l) "week" means the period between midnight on Saturday night and midnight on the succeeding Saturday night.

CHAPTER II

INSPECTORS

4. (1) *Chief Inspector and Inspectors.*—The Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the Gazette of India, appoint a duly qualified person to be Chief Inspector of Mines for the whole of British India, and duly qualified persons to be



Inspectors of Mines subordinate to the Chief Inspector.

(2) No person shall be appointed to be Chief Inspector or an Inspector, or, having been appointed shall continue to hold such office who is or becomes directly or indirectly interested in any mine or mining rights in India.

(3) The District Magistrate may exercise the powers and perform the duties of an Inspector subject to the general or special orders of the Local Government:

Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall be deemed to empower a District Magistrate to exercise any of the powers conferred by section 19 or section 32.

(4) The Chief Inspector and every Inspector shall be deemed to be a public servant within the meaning of the Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

5. *Functions of Inspectors.*—(1) The Chief Inspector may, by order in writing, prohibit or restrict the exercise by any Inspector named, or any class of Inspectors specified, in the order of any power conferred on Inspectors by this Act, and shall, subject as aforesaid, declare the local area or areas within which, or the group or class of mines with respect to which, Inspectors shall exercise their respective powers.

(2) The Inspectors shall give information to owners, agents and managers of mines, situate within the local area or areas or belonging to the group or class of mines, in respect of which he exercises powers under sub-section (1) as to all regulations and rules which concern them respectively and as to the places where copies of such regulations and rules may be obtained.

6. *Powers of Inspectors of Mines.*—The Chief Inspector and any Inspector may—

(a) make such examination and inquiry as he thinks fit in order to ascertain whether the provisions of this Act and of the regulations, rules and bye-laws and of any orders made thereunder are observed in the case of any mine;

(b) with such assistants (if any) as he thinks fit, enter, inspect and examine any mine or any part thereof at any reasonable time by day or night, but not so as unreasonably to impede or obstruct the working of the mine;

(c) examine into, and make inquiry, respecting the state and condition of any mine or any part thereof, the ventilation of the mine, the sufficiency of the bye-laws for the time being in force relating to the mine, and all matters and things connected with or relating to the safety of the persons employed in the mine.

7. *Powers of special officer to enter, measure, etc.*—Any person in the service of the Government duly authorised by a special order in writing of the Chief

Inspector or of an Inspector in this behalf may, for the purpose of surveying, levelling or measuring in any mine, after giving not less than three days' notice to the manager of such mine, enter the mine and may survey, level or measure the mine or any part thereof at any reasonable time by day or night, but not so as unreasonably to impede or obstruct the working of the mine.

8. *Facilities to be afforded to Inspectors.*—Every owner, agent and manager of a mine shall afford the Chief Inspector and every Inspector and every person authorised under section 7 all reasonable facilities for making any entry, inspection, survey, measurement, examination or inquiry under this Act.

9. *Secrecy of information obtained.*—(1) All copies of, and extracts from, registers or other records appertaining to any mine, and all other information acquired by the Chief Inspector or an Inspector or by any one assisting him, in the course of the inspection of any mine under this Act or acquired by any person authorised under section 7 in the exercise of his duties thereunder, shall be regarded as confidential.

(2) If the Chief Inspector, or an Inspector or any other person referred to in sub-section (1) discloses to any one, other than a Magistrate or an officer to whom he is subordinate, any such information as aforesaid without the consent of the Governor-General in Council or of the Local Government, he shall be guilty of a breach of official trust, and shall be punishable in the manner provided by section 4 of the Indian Official Secrets Act, 1889 (XV of 1889).

(3) No Court shall proceed to the trial of any offence under this section except on complaint made by order of, or under authority from, the Governor-General in Council or the Local Government, or made by a person aggrieved by the offence.

CHAPTER III

MINING BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

10. *Mining Boards.*—(1) The Local Government may constitute for the province, or for any part of the province, or for any group or class of mines in the province, a Mining Board consisting of—

(a) a person in the service of the Government, not being the Chief Inspector or an Inspector, nominated by the Local Government to act as chairman;

(b) the Chief Inspector or an Inspector;

(c) two persons, neither of whom shall be the Chief Inspector or an Inspector nominated by the Local Government, of whom one shall be a person qualified to represent the interests of persons employed in mines;



(d) two persons nominated by owners of mines or their representatives in such manner as may be prescribed.

(2) The chairman shall appoint a person to act as secretary to the Board.

(3) The Local Government may give directions as to the payment of travelling expenses incurred by the secretary or any member of any such Mining Board in the performance of his duty as such secretary or member.

11. *Committees.*—(1) Where under this Act any question relating to a mine is referred to a Committee, the Committee shall consist of—

(a) a chairman nominated by the Local Government or by such officer or authority as the Local Government may authorise in this behalf;

(b) a person nominated by the chairman and qualified by experience to dispose of the question referred to the Committee; and

(c) two persons of whom one shall be nominated by the owner, agent or manager of the mine concerned and, the other shall be nominated by the Local Government to represent the interest of the persons employed in the mine.

(2) No Inspector or person employed in or in the management of any mine concerned shall serve as chairman or member of a Committee appointed under this section.

(3) Where an owner, agent or manager fails to exercise his power of nomination under clause (c) of sub-section (1), the Committee may, notwithstanding such failure, proceed to inquire into and dispose of the matter referred to it.

(4) The Committee shall hear and record such information as the Chief Inspector or the Inspector, or the owner, agent or manager of the mine concerned, may place before it, and shall intimate its decision to the Chief Inspector or the Inspector and to the owner, agent or manager of the mine, and shall report its decision to the Local Government.

(5) On receiving such report the Local Government shall pass orders in conformity therewith, unless the Chief Inspector or the owner, agent or manager of the mine has lodged an objection to the decision of the Committee, in which case the Local Government may proceed to review such decision and to pass such orders in the matter as it may think fit. If an objection is lodged by the Chief Inspector, notice of the same shall forthwith be given to the owner, agent or manager of the mine.

(6) The Local Government may give directions as to the remuneration, if any, to be paid to the members of the Committee or any of them, and as to the payment of the expenses of the inquiry including such remuneration.

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12. *Powers of Mining Boards.*—(1) Any Mining Board constituted under section 10 and any Committee constituted under section 11 may exercise such of the powers of an Inspector under this Act as it thinks necessary or expedient to exercise for the purpose of deciding or reporting upon any matter referred to it.

(2) Every Mining Board constituted under section 10 and every Committee appointed under section 11 shall have the powers of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908), for the purpose of enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of documents and material objects; and every person required by any such Mining Board or Committee to furnish information before it shall be deemed to be legally bound to do so within the meaning of section 176 of the Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

13. *Recovery of expenses.*—The Local Government may direct that the expenses of any inquiry conducted by a Mining Board constituted under section 10 or by a Committee appointed under section 11 shall be borne in whole or in part by the owner or agent of the mine concerned, and the amount so directed to be paid may, on application by the Chief Inspector or an Inspector to a Magistrate having jurisdiction at the place where the mine is situated or where such owner or agent is for the time being resident, be recovered by the distress and sale of any moveable property within the limits of the Magistrate's jurisdiction belonging to such owner, agent or manager.

CHAPTER IV

MINING OPERATIONS AND MANAGEMENT OF MINES

14. *Notice to be given of mining operations.*—The owner, agent or manager of a mine shall, in the case of an existing mine within one month from the commencement of this Act, or, in the case of a new mine, within three months after the commencement of mining operations, give to the District Magistrate of the district in which the mine is situated notice in writing in such form and containing such particulars relating to the mine as may be prescribed.

15. *Managers.*—(1) Save as may be otherwise prescribed, every mine shall be under one manager who shall have the prescribed qualifications and shall be responsible for the control, management and direction of the mine, and the owner or agent of every mine shall appoint himself or some other person, having such qualifications, to be such manager.

(2) If any mine is worked without there being a manager for the mine as required by sub-section (1), the owner and agent shall each be deemed to have contravened the provisions of this section.

16. *Duties and responsibilities of owners, agents and managers.*—(1) The owner, agent and manager of every mine shall be responsible that all operations



carried on in connection therewith are conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Act and of the regulations, rules and bye-laws and of any orders made thereunder.

(2) In the event of any contravention of any such provisions by any person whomsoever, the owner, agent and manager of the mine shall each be deemed also to be guilty of such contravention unless he proves that he had taken all reasonable means, by publishing and to the best of his power enforcing those provisions, to prevent such contravention:

Provided that the owner or agent shall not be so deemed if he proves—

(a) that he was not in the habit of taking, and did not in respect of the matter in question take, any part in the management of the mine; and

(b) that he had made all the financial and other provisions necessary to enable the manager to carry out his duties; and

(c) that the offence was committed without his knowledge, consent or connivance.

(3) Save as hereinbefore provided, it shall not be a defence in any proceedings brought against an owner or agent of a mine under this section that a manager of the mine has been appointed in accordance with the provisions of this Act.

CHAPTER V

PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH AND SAFETY

17. *Conservancy.*—There shall be provided and maintained for every mine latrine and urinal accommodation of such kind and on such scale, and such supply of water fit for drinking, as may be prescribed.

18. *Medical appliances.*—At every mine in respect of which the Local Government may, by notification in the local official Gazette, declare this section to apply, such supply of ambulances or stretchers, and of splints, bandages and other medical requirements, as may be prescribed, shall be kept ready at hand in a convenient place and in good and serviceable order.

19. *Powers of Inspectors when causes of danger not expressly provided against exist or when employment of persons is dangerous.*—(1) If, in any respect which is not provided against by any express provision of this Act or of the regulations, rules or bye-laws or of any orders made thereunder, it appears to the Chief Inspector or the Inspector that any mine, or any part thereof or any matter, thing or practice in or connected with the mine, or with the control, management or direction thereof, is dangerous to human life or safety, or defective so as to threaten, or tend to, the bodily injury of any person, he may give notice in writing thereof to the owner, agent or manager of the mine, and shall state in the notice the particulars in which he considers the mine, or part thereof, or the matter,

thing or practice, to be dangerous or defective and require the same to be remedied within such time as he may specify in the notice.

(2) If the Chief Inspector or an Inspector authorised in this behalf by general or special order in writing by the Chief Inspector is of opinion that there is urgent and immediate danger to the life or safety of any person employed in any mine or part thereof, he may, by an order in writing containing a statement of the grounds of his opinion, prohibit, until the danger is removed, the employment in or about the mine or part thereof of any person whose employment is not in his opinion reasonably necessary for the purpose of removing the danger.

(3) Where an order has been made under sub-section (2) by an Inspector, the owner, agent or manager of the mine may, within ten days after the receipt of the order, appeal against the same to the Chief Inspector who may confirm, modify or cancel the order.

(4) The Chief Inspector or the Inspector making a requisition under sub-section (1) or an order under sub-section (2), and the Chief Inspector making an order (other than an order of cancellation in appeal under sub-section (3)), shall forthwith report the same to the Local Government and shall inform the owner, agent or manager of the mine that such report has been so made.

(5) If the owner, agent or manager of the mine objects to a requisition made under sub-section (1) or to an order made by the Chief Inspector under sub-section (2), or sub-section (3), he may, within twenty days after the receipt of the notice containing the requisition or of the order or after the date of the decision of the appeal, as the case may be, send his objection in writing, stating the grounds thereof, to the Local Government, which shall refer the same to a Committee.

(6) Every requisition made under sub-section (1) or order made under sub-section (2), or sub-section (3) to which objection made under sub-section (5), shall be complied with pending the receipt at the mine of the decision of the Committee;

Provided that the Committee may, on the application of the owner, agent or manager, suspend the operation of a requisition under sub-section (1) pending its decision on the objection.

(7) Nothing in this section shall affect the powers of a Magistrate under section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1898 (V of 1898).

20. *Notice to be given of accidents.*—When any accident occurs in or about a mine causing loss of life or serious bodily injury, or when an accidental explosion, ignition, outbreak of fire or irruption of water occurs in or about a mine, the owner, agent or manager of the mine shall give such notice of the occurrence to such authorities, and in such form, and within such time, as may be prescribed.



21. *Power of Government to appoint court of inquiry in cases of accidents.*—(1) When any accidental explosion, ignition, outbreak of fire or irruption of water or other accident has occurred in or about any mine, the Local Government, if it is of opinion that a formal inquiry into the causes of, and circumstances attending, the accident ought to be held, may appoint a competent person to hold such inquiry, and may also appoint any person or persons possessing legal or special knowledge to act as assessor or assessors in holding the inquiry.

(2) The person appointed to hold any such inquiry shall have all the powers of a Civil Court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (V of 1908) for the purpose of enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of documents and material objects; and every person required by such person as aforesaid to furnish any information shall be deemed to be legally bound to do so within the meaning of section 176 of the Indian Penal Code (XLV of 1860).

(3) Any person holding an inquiry under this section may exercise such of the powers of an Inspector under this Act as he may think it necessary or expedient to exercise for the purposes of the inquiry.

(4) The person holding an inquiry under this section shall make a report to the Local Government stating the causes of the accident and its circumstances, and adding any observations which he or any of the assessors may think fit to make.

22. *Publication of reports.*—The Local Government may cause any report submitted by a Committee under section 11 or by a court of inquiry under section 21 to be published at such time and in such manner as it may think fit.

CHAPTER VI

HOURS AND LIMITATION OF EMPLOYMENT

23. *Hours of employment.*—No person shall be employed in a mine—

(a) on more than six days in any one week,

(b) if he works above ground, for more than sixty hours in any one week,

(c) if he works below ground, for more than fifty-four hours in any one week.

24. *Supervising Staff.*—Nothing in section 23 shall apply to persons who may by rules be defined to be persons holding positions of supervision or management or employed in a confidential capacity.

25. *Exemption from provisions regarding employment.*—In case of an emergency involving serious risk to the safety of the mine or of persons employed therein, the manager may, subject to the provisions of section 19, permit persons to be employed in contravention of section 23 on such work as may be necessary to protect the safety of the mine or of the persons employed therein:

Provided that, where such occasion arises, a record of the fact shall immediately be made by the manager and shall be placed before the Chief Inspector or the Inspector at his next inspection of the mine.

26. *Children.*—No child shall be employed in a mine, or be allowed to be present in any part of a mine which is below ground.

27. *Disputes as to age.*—(1) If any question arises between the Chief Inspector or the Inspector and the manager of any mine as to whether any person is a child, the question shall, in the absence of a certificate as to the age of such person granted in the prescribed manner, be referred by the Chief Inspector or the Inspector for decision to a qualified medical practitioner.

(2) Every certificate as to the age of a person which has been granted in the prescribed manner and any certificate granted by a qualified medical practitioner on a reference under sub-section (1) shall, for the purposes of this Act, be conclusive evidence as to the age of the person to whom it relates.

28. *Register of employees.*—For every mine there shall be kept in the prescribed form and place a register of all persons employed in the mine, of their hours of work, of their days of rest, and of the nature of their respective employments.

CHAPTER VII

REGULATIONS, RULES AND BYE-LAWS

29. *Power of Governor-General in Council to make regulations.*—The Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, make regulations consistent with this Act for all or any of the following purposes, namely:—

(a) for prescribing the qualifications to be required by a person for appointment as Chief Inspector or Inspector;

(b) for prescribing and regulating the duties and powers of the Chief Inspector and of Inspectors in regard to the inspection of mines under this Act;

(c) for prescribing the duties of owners, agents and managers of mines and of persons acting under them;

(d) for prescribing the qualifications of managers of mines and of persons acting under them;

(e) for regulating the manner of ascertaining, by examination or otherwise, the qualifications of managers of mines and persons acting under them, and the granting and renewal of certificates of competency;

(f) for fixing the fees, if any, to be paid in respect of such examinations and of the grant and renewal of such certificates;

(g) for determining the circumstances in which and the conditions subject to which it shall be lawful



for more mines than one to be under a single manager, or for any mine or mines to be under a manager not having the prescribed qualifications;

(h) for providing for the making of inquiries into charges of misconduct or incompetency on the part of managers of mines and persons acting under them and for the suspension and cancellation of certificates of competency;

(i) for regulating, subject to the provisions of the Indian Explosives Act, 1884 (IV of 1884), and of any rules made thereunder, the storage and use of explosives;

(j) for prohibiting, restricting or regulating the employment in mines or in any class of mines of women either below ground or on particular kinds of labour which are attended by danger to the life, safety or health of such women;

(k) for providing for the safety of the persons employed in a mine, their means of entrance thereto and exit therefrom, the number of shafts or outlets to be furnished, and the fencing of shafts, pits, outlets, path-ways and subsidences;

(l) for providing for the safety of the roads and working places in mines, including the siting and maintenance of pillars and the maintenance of sufficient barriers between mine and mine;

(m) for providing for the ventilation of mines and the action to be taken in respect of dust and noxious gases;

(n) for providing for the care, and the regulation of the use, of all machinery and plant and of all electrical apparatus used for signalling purposes;

(o) for requiring and regulating the use of safety lamps in mines;

(p) for providing against dangers arising out of the accumulation of water in mines;

(q) for prescribing the notices of accidents and dangerous occurrences, and the notices, reports and returns of mineral output, persons employed and other matters provided for by regulations, to be furnished by owners, agents and managers of mines, and for prescribing the forms of such notices, returns and reports, the persons and authorities to whom they are to be furnished, the particulars to be contained in them, and the time within which they are to be submitted;

(r) for prescribing the plans to be kept by owners, agents and managers of mines and the manner and places in which such plans are to be kept for purposes of record;

(s) for regulating the procedure on the occurrence of accidents or accidental explosions or ignitions in or about mines;

(t) for prescribing the form of, and the particulars to be contained in, the notice to be given by the

owner, agent or manager of a mine under section 14; and

(u) for prescribing the notice to be given by the owner, agent or manager of a mine before mining operations are commenced at or extended to any point within fifty yards of any railway subject to the provisions of the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890), or of any public work or classes of public works which the Local Government may, by general or special order, specify in this behalf.

30. Power of Local Governments to make rules.—

The Local Government may, subject to the control of the Governor-General in Council, by notification in the local official Gazette, make rules consistent with this Act for all or any of the following purposes, namely:—

(a) for providing for the appointment of chairmen and members of Mining Boards, and for regulating the procedure of such Boards;

(b) for providing for the appointment of courts of inquiry under section 21, for regulating the procedure and powers of such courts, for the payment of travelling allowance to the members, and for the recovery of the expenses of such courts from the manager, owner or agent of the mine concerned;

(c) for prescribing the scale of latrine and urinal accommodation to be provided at mines, the provision to be made for the supply of drinking water, the supply and maintenance of medical appliances and comforts, the formation and training of rescue brigades, and the training of men in ambulance work;

(d) for defining the persons who shall, for the purposes of section 24, be deemed to be persons holding positions of supervision or management or employed in a confidential capacity;

(e) for prohibiting the employment in mines of persons or any class of persons who have not been certified by a qualified medical practitioner to be more than thirteen years of age, and for prescribing the manner and the circumstances in which such certificates may be granted and revoked;

(f) for prescribing the form of register required by section 28;

(g) for prescribing abstracts of this Act and the vernacular in which the abstracts and the regulations, rules and bye-laws shall be posted as required by sections 32 and 33;

(h) for requiring the fencing of any mine or part of a mine, whether the same is being worked or not, where such fencing is necessary for the protection of the public;

(i) for the protection from injury, in respect of any mine when the workings are discontinued, of property vested in His Majesty or any local authority



or railway company as defined in the Indian Railways Act, 1890 (IX of 1890);

(j) for requiring notices, returns and reports in connection with any matters dealt with by rules to be furnished by owners, agents and managers of mines, and for prescribing the forms of such notices, returns and reports, the persons and authorities to whom they are to be furnished, the particulars to be contained in them, and the times within which they are to be submitted; and

(k) generally to provide for any matter not provided for by this Act or the regulations, provision for which is required in order to give effect to this Act.

31. *Prior publication of regulations and rules.*—(1) The power to make regulations and rules conferred by sections 29 and 30 is subject to the condition of the regulations and 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 regulations or rules proposed to be made will be taken under consideration, shall not be less than three months from the date on which the draft of the proposed regulations or rules is published for general information.

(3) Before the draft of any regulation or rule is published under this section it shall be referred in the case of a regulation to every Mining Board constituted in British India, and in the case of a rule to every Mining Board constituted in the province; and the regulation or rule shall not be so published until each such Board has had a reasonable opportunity of reporting as to the expediency of making the same and as to the suitability of its provisions.

(4) Regulations and rules shall be published in the *Gazette of India* and the local official Gazette, respectively, and, on such publication, shall have effect as if enacted in this Act.

32. *Bye-laws.*—(1) The owner, agent or manager of a mine may, and shall, if called upon to do so by the Chief Inspector or Inspector, frame and submit to the Chief Inspector or Inspector a draft of such bye-laws, not being inconsistent with this Act or any regulations or rules for the time being in force, for the control and guidance of the persons acting in the management of, or employed in, the mine as such owner, agent or manager may deem necessary to prevent accidents and provide for the safety, convenience and discipline of the persons employed in the mine.

(2) If any such owner, agent or manager—

(a) fails to submit within two months a draft of bye-laws after being called upon to do so by the Chief Inspector or Inspector, or

(b) submits a draft of bye-laws which is not in the opinion of the Chief Inspector or Inspector sufficient, the Chief Inspector or Inspector may—

(i) propose a draft of such bye-laws as appear to him to be sufficient, or

(ii) propose such amendments in any draft submitted to him by the owner, agent or manager as will, in his opinion, render it sufficient, and shall send such draft bye-laws or draft amendments to the owner, agent or manager, as the case may be, for consideration.

(3) If within a period of two months from the date on which any draft bye-laws or draft amendments are sent by the Chief Inspector or Inspector to the owner, agent or manager under the provisions of sub-section (2), the Chief Inspector or Inspector and the owner, agent or manager are unable to agree as to the terms of the bye-laws to be made under sub-section (1), the Chief Inspector or Inspector shall refer the draft bye-laws for settlement to the Mining Board or, where there is no Mining Board, to such officer or authority as the Local Government may, by general or special order, appoint in this behalf.

(4) (a) When such draft bye-laws have been agreed to by the owner, agent or manager and the Chief Inspector or Inspector, or, when they are unable to agree, have been settled by the Mining Board or such officer or authority as aforesaid, a copy of the draft bye-laws shall be sent by the Chief Inspector or Inspector to the Local Government for approval.

(b) The Local Government may make such modifications of the draft bye-laws as it thinks fit.

(c) Before the Local Government approves the draft bye-laws, whether with or without modifications, there shall be published, in such manner as the Local Government may think best adapted for informing the persons affected, notice of the proposal to make the bye-laws and of the place where copies of the draft bye-laws may be obtained, and of the time (which shall not be less than thirty days) within which any objections with reference to the draft bye-laws, made by or on behalf of persons affected, should be sent to the Local Government.

(d) Every objection shall be in writing and shall state—

(i) the specific grounds of objection and

(ii) the omissions, additions or modifications asked for.

(e) The Local Government shall consider any objection made within the required time by or on behalf of persons appearing to it to be affected, and may approve the bye-laws either in the form in which they were published or after making such amendments thereto as it thinks fit.



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(5) The bye-laws, when so approved by the Local Government, shall have effect as if enacted in this Act, and the owner, agent or manager of the mine shall cause a copy of the bye-laws, in English and in such vernacular or vernaculars as may be prescribed, to be posted up in some conspicuous place at or near the mine, where the bye-laws may be conveniently read or seen by the persons employed; and, as often as the same become defaced, obliterated or destroyed, shall cause them to be renewed with all reasonable despatch.

(6) The Local Government may, by order in writing, rescind, in whole or in part, any bye-law so made, and thereupon such bye-law shall cease to have effect accordingly.

33. *Posting up of extracts from Act, regulations, etc.*—There shall be kept posted up at or near every mine in English and in such vernacular or vernaculars as may be prescribed, the prescribed abstracts of the Act and of the regulations and rules.

CHAPTER VIII

PENALTIES AND PROCEDURE

34. *Obstruction.*—(1) Whoever obstructs the Chief Inspector, an Inspector or any person authorised under section 7 in the discharge of his duties under this Act, or refuses or wilfully neglects to afford the Chief Inspector, an Inspector or such person any reasonable facility for making any entry, inspection, examination or inquiry authorised by or under this Act in relation to any mine, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

(2) Whoever refuses to produce on the demand of the Chief Inspector or Inspector any registers or other documents kept in pursuance of this Act, or prevents or attempts to prevent or does anything which he has reason to believe to be likely to prevent, any person from appearing before or being examined by an inspecting officer acting in pursuance of his duties under this Act, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to three hundred rupees.

35. *Falsification of records, etc.*—Whoever—

(a) counterfeits, or knowingly makes a false statement in, any certificate, or any official copy of a certificate, granted under this Act, or

(b) knowingly uses as true any such counterfeit or false certificate, or

(c) makes or produces or uses any false declaration, statement or evidence knowing the same to be false, for the purpose of obtaining for himself or for any other person a certificate, or the renewal of a certificate, under this Act, or any employment in a mine, or

(d) falsifies any plan or register or record the maintenance of which is required by or under this Act, or

(e) makes, gives or delivers any plan, return, notice, record or report containing a statement, entry or detail which is not to the best of his knowledge or belief true,

shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

36. *Omission to furnish plans, etc.*—Any person who, without reasonable excuse the burden of proving which shall lie upon him, omits to make or furnish in the prescribed form or manner or at or within the prescribed time any plan, return, notice, register, record or report required by or under this Act to be made or furnished shall be punishable with fine which may extend to two hundred rupees.

37. *Contravention of provisions regarding employment of labour.*—Whoever, save as permitted by section 25, contravenes any provision of this Act or of any regulation, rule or bye-law or of any order made thereunder prohibiting, restricting or regulating the employment or presence of persons in or about a mine shall be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees.

38. *Notice of accidents.*—Whoever, in contravention of the provisions of section 20, fails to give notice of any accidental occurrence shall, if the occurrence results in serious bodily injury, be punishable with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or, if the occurrence results in loss of life, be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three months, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

39. *Disobedience of orders.*—Whoever contravenes any provision of this Act or of any regulation, rule or bye-law or of any order made thereunder for the contravention of which no penalty is hereinbefore provided shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, and, in the case of a continuing contravention, with a further fine which may extend to one hundred rupees for every day on which the offender is proved to have persisted in the contravention after the date of the first conviction.

40. *Contravention of law with dangerous results.*—(1) Notwithstanding anything hereinbefore contained, whoever contravenes any provision of this Act or of any regulation, rule or bye-law or of any order made thereunder, shall be punishable, if such contravention results in loss of life, with imprisonment which may extend to one year, or with fine which may extend to two thousand rupees, or with both; or, if such contravention results in serious bodily injury, with imprisonment which may extend to six months, or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees,



or with both; or, if such contravention otherwise causes injury or danger to workers or other persons in or about the mine, with imprisonment which may extend to one month, or with fine which may extend to five hundred rupees, or with both.

(2) Where a person having been convicted under this section is again convicted thereunder, he shall be punishable with double the punishment provided by sub-section (1).

(3) Any Court imposing, or confirming in appeal, revision or otherwise, a sentence of fine passed under this section may, when passing judgment, order the whole or any part of the fine recovered to be paid as compensation to the person injured, or, in the case of his death, to his legal representative:

Provided that, if the fine is imposed in a case which is subject to appeal, no such payment shall be made before the period allowed for presenting the appeal has elapsed, or, if an appeal has been presented, before the decision of the appeal.

41. *Prosecution of owner, agent or manager.*—No prosecution shall be instituted against any owner, agent or manager for any offence under this Act except at the instance of the Chief Inspector or of the District Magistrate or of an Inspector authorised in this behalf by general or special order in writing by the Chief Inspector.

42. *Limitation of prosecutions.*—No Court shall take cognizance of any offence under this Act unless complaint thereof has been made within six months of the date on which the offence is alleged to have been committed.

43. *Cognizance of offences.*—No Court inferior to that of a Presidency Magistrate or Magistrate of the first class shall try any offence under this Act which is alleged to have been committed by any owner, agent or manager of a mine or any offence which is by this Act made punishable with imprisonment.

44. (1) *Reference to Mining Board or Committee in lieu of prosecution in certain cases.*—If the Court trying any case instituted at the instance of the Chief Inspector or of the District Magistrate or of an Inspector under this Act is of opinion that the case is one which should, in lieu of a prosecution, be referred to a Mining Board or Committee, it may stay the criminal proceedings and report the matter to the Local Government with a view to such reference being made.

(2) On receipt of a report under sub-section (1), the Local Government may refer the case to a Mining Board or a Committee, or may direct the Court to proceed with the trial.

CHAPTER IX.
MISCELLANEOUS.

45. *Decision of question whether a mine is under this Act.*—If any question arises as to whether any

excavation or working is a mine within the meaning of this Act, the Local Government may decide the question, and a certificate signed by a Secretary to the Local Government shall be conclusive on the point.

46. (1) *Power to exempt from operation of Act.*—The Governor-General in Council may, by notification in the *Gazette of India*, exempt any local area or any mine or group or class of mines or any part of a mine or any class of persons from the operation of all or any specified provisions of this Act:

Provided that no local area of mine or group or class of mines shall be exempted from the provisions of section 26 unless it is also exempted from the operation of all the other provisions of this Act.

(2) On the occurrence of any public emergency, the Local Government may, by an order in writing, confer any exemption which might be conferred by the Governor-General in Council under sub-section (1). When such an order is made, a copy thereof shall forthwith be sent to the Governor-General in Council.

47. *Power to alter or rescind orders.*—The Governor-General in Council and every Local Government may reverse or modify any order passed under this Act by any authority subject to his or its control, as the case may be.

48. *Application of Act to Crown mines.*—This Act shall apply to mines belonging to the Crown.

49. *Saving.*—No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding whatever shall lie against any person for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act.

50. *Repeals.*—On and from the commencement of this Act, the enactments mentioned in the Schedule shall be repealed to the extent specified in the fourth column thereof.

THE SCHEDULE

(See section 50)

ENACTMENTS REPEALED

Year.	No.	Short title.	Extent of repeal.
1901	VIII	The Indian Mines Act, 1901.	The whole.
1914	IV	The Decentralisation Act, 1914.	So much of the Schedule as relates to the Indian Mines Act, 1901.
	X	The Repealing and Amending Act, 1914.	So much of the Second Schedule as relates to the Indian Mines Act, 1901.



THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

PREPARATION OF ECONOMIC STATISTICS

The Council of the League of Nations last September decided, in pursuance of a recommendation of the Genoa Conference, that steps should be taken to ascertain how far it was possible to increase the comparability of methods adopted in various countries in the preparation of economic statistics. With this end in view, the Economic Committee of the League of Nations has conferred with the International Statistical Institute which proposes to hold its next general meeting at the beginning of October 1923. At a meeting held in London in December of the Mixed Committee of representatives of the Economic Committee of the League of Nations, the International Labour Office, and the International Institute of Statistics, a programme was unanimously drawn up.

The President of the Mixed Committee is Sir H. Llewellyn Smith, G.C.B., Chief Economic Adviser to His Majesty's Government. A preparatory Committee of experts, limited to twelve members in addition to two Secretaries, has drawn up very useful memoranda. The preparatory Committee included M. M. A. Delatour (Chairman), L. March (Vice-Chairman), A. W. Flux, B. Hanosek, M. A. Jensen, A. Julin, A. Loveday, Mataja, Royal Meeker, H. W. Methorst, Prof. Ricci, Sir Henry Rew, Verrija Stuart, and Wuerzburger.

The programme is as follows:—

1. *Statistics of International Commerce.*
Scope and definition of "imports" and "exports"; classification of imports and exports, calculation of values, quantities, periods, etc.; presentation of statistics by measure, weight, and length, etc.
2. *Statistics of production.*
Scope and definition of "output"; measurement of net output; study of the various systems for estimating; treatment of materials used; classification by categories of products; statistics of productive capacity; calculation of quantity and values.
3. *Index Numbers. Indexes of Economic conditions.*
 1. Index numbers of prices of commodities (wholesale and retail).
 2. Index numbers of cost of living.
 3. Index numbers of value of stock exchange securities.
 4. Composite indexes of economic prosperity.

The composition of this Preparatory Committee was confined for obvious reasons to statisticians resident in Europe. Invitations have also been sent by the President of the Mixed Committee, League of Nations, Geneva, to the following 12 persons overseas to act as Corresponding Members:—

M. Leo Affonseca, Directoria de Estatistica Commercial, Rio de Janeiro.

Mr. R. H. Coats, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Canada.

Mr. C. W. Cousins, Census and Statistics Office, Pretoria, South Africa.

Mr. Irving Fisher, Yale University, U. S. A.

Mr. Julius Klein, Department of Commerce, Washington.

Mr. G. H. Knibbs, Director, Institute of Science and Industry, Melbourne, Australia.

Mr. Wesley C. Mitchell, New York.

Mr. Warren Persons, Harvard University, U. S. A.

Mr. William E. Stewart, Director of Census, Washington.

Mr. Ethelbert Stewart, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington.

Mr. G. Findlay Shirras, Director, Labour Office, Government of Bombay.

Mr. W. F. Willcox, Cornell University, New York.

TRADE UNION CONFERENCE IN BOMBAY

A meeting representative of the following Trade Unions was held on the 13th and 19th April 1923 at the Servants of India Society Hall:—The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union, The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union, The Port Trust Workshop Union, The Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union, The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union, The Clerks' Union, The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma.

The meeting was convened for the purpose of considering the desirability of holding a Bombay Provincial Trade Union Conference. It was decided to hold the conference before the end of this year and a committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements.

The chief organisers of the movement are Messrs. N. M. Joshi, C.I.E., M.L.A., F. J. Ginwala and S. H. Jhabwalla.



QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

BURMA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Proposed Labour Office

The following questions were asked and answered in the Burma Legislative Council on the 5th February 1923.

Mr. Narayana Rao (Rangoon East, Indian) asked: Will the Government be pleased to state

(a) the objects for which a Labour Office is proposed to be created;

(b) the qualifications and the training of Mr. Andrews to occupy the above office;

(c) the reasons for placing the said labour Officer under the Development Commissioner?

The Honourable the Home Member replied: The Labour Office is required for the purpose of collecting and compiling varied information which it is desirable to have regarding labour conditions in Burma, e.g., the industrial workers' budget; the pitch of wages; the conditions in which labour has to work; the cost of living, etc., and for the purpose of dealing with statistical matters and of making enquiries out of doors, especially when statistics supplied seem to be faulty and require investigation, and of advising on all questions affecting labour.

(b) Mr. Andrews has been selected on account of his experience in statistical work in the office of the Commissioner of Settlements and Land Records; his knowledge of languages and the experience he has gained of labour conditions as Assistant Protector of Immigrants and Emigrants.

(c) The Development Commissioner has to deal with Industries and Labour questions, because the separate appointment of Director of Industries has been abolished.

Labour Bureau

Mr. Narayana Rao (Rangoon East, Indian) asked: Will the Government be pleased to consider the desirability of creating at the headquarters of the Government a Labour Bureau in charge of a Labour Commissioner fully conversant with the conditions and problems of labour and some Deputy Commissioners at important centres of the Province where labour is largely employed?

The Honourable the Home Member replied: It is premature at present to consider the desirability of creating appointments of Labour

Commissioners and Deputy Commissioners, until the small Labour Office which it is now proposed to start has got to work and collected some information regarding labour conditions.

LABOUR SCHOOLS IN AHMEDABAD

ACCOUNTS FOR 1922

On page 6 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1922 a reference was made to the funds of the schools maintained by the Labour Unions of Ahmedabad for educating the children of the working classes. The February number of the *Majur*, the Gujarati monthly organ of the Unions, has published a statement of accounts and attendance at the schools for the year 1922. There are altogether 38 schools of which 28 are day and 10 night schools, with 98 men and 3 women teachers. Of these 18 day and 6 night schools educate the children of the depressed classes. The total number of students on the registers was 23,107 and the average attendance was 15,628.5 or about 68 per cent. of the total. The total number of students of the depressed classes alone was 13,213 and their average attendance 8,823.5 or about 67 per cent. The total expenditure for the year amounted to Rs. 41,983-0-11.

NOTICE

The "Labour Gazette" is a journal for the use of all interested in obtaining prompt and accurate information on matters specially affecting labour. It is edited and published monthly by the Labour Office, Secretariat, Bombay.

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May, 1923

Accidents in Factories during April 1923

1. Bombay City and Island

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.*		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to April 1923.	April 1923.		
	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.				
I. Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills	131	26	48	10	2		14	3	163	33	179	36		
Woolen Mills	3		1						4		4			
Others	4	4	1	1					5	5	5	5		
Total	138	30	50	11	2		14	3	172	38	188	41		
II. Workshops—														
Engineering	7		43	9	1		3		46	9	50	9		
Railway	41	16	226	24	2		9	2	256	88	267	90		
Misc.			4						4		4			
Others	6	2	2	1			3		5	3	8	3		
Total	54	18	275	84	3		15	2	311	100	329	102		
III. Miscellaneous—														
Chemical Works			4				1		3		4			
Flour Mills	2	1	1						3	1	3	1		
Printing Presses	2		1	1					2	1	3	1		
Others	5	3	7	5			4	4	8	4	12	8		
Total	9	4	13	6			6	4	16	6	22	10		
Total, All Factories	201	52	338	101	5		35	9	499	144	539	153		

2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.*		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to April 1923.	April 1923.		
	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.				
Textile Mills—														
Cotton	10		3	2	1		9	1	3	1	13	2		
Total	10		3	2	1		9	1	3	1	13	2		

* Machine beams, scabbles, falls, cones, slabs, flying pieces of metal, falling of boxes & weights etc.

May, 1923

Accidents in Factories during April 1923—contd.

3. Karachi

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to April 1923.	April 1923.		
	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.				
Workshop—														
Railway and Port Trust	2		9	3			4	1	7	2	11	3		
Total	2		9	3			4	1	7	2	11	3		

4. Other Centres

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to April 1923.	April 1923.		
	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.	January to April 1923.	April 1923.				
I. Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills	9	2	6	1			7	3	8		15	3		
Cotton Press	1		1		1				1		2			
Others														
Total	10	2	7	1	1		7	3	9		17	3		
I. Workshops—														
Railway	8		56	19			2	1	62	18	64	19		
Ammunition Works			3		1				2		3			
Others	1	1	4	4			1	1	4	4	5	5		
Total	9	1	63	23	1		3	2	68	22	72	24		
III. Miscellaneous—														
Gun Factory	3		1				2		2		4			
Paint Works	1				1						1			
Others	1		1		1				1		2			
Total	5		2		2		2		3		7			
Total, All Factories	24	3	72	24	4		12	5	80	22	86	27		



MAY, 1923

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 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	6 1 2	
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	9 12 0	7 8 9	5 13 4
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	107 8 0	70 0 0	7 6 6
Do.	Jubbulpore	"	40 0 0	77 8 0	47 8 0	72 8 0
Jowari	Rangoon	Md.	3 2 6	4 13 11	4 0 4	47 8 0
Barley	—	"	3 4 6	5 4 8	3 2 10	4 2 0
Bajri	Ghati	"	3 4 6	6 5 7	4 3 9	3 2 10
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort) ..	"	4 3 9	6 5 7	4 0 4	4 3 9
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	9 9 10	5 1 3	3 14 8
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	23 10 0	28 4 0	5 1 3
Do.	Java white	"	10 3 0	24 0 0	27 12 0	29 0 0
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	14 15 5	11 9 0	28 12 0
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri	"	5 9 3	16 0 10	25 13 7	10 3 3
Ghee	Deshi	"	45 11 5	91 6 10	85 11 5	22 7 2
Salt	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	2 3 0	3 8 0	85 11 5

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—						
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill ..		100	139	129	124
Wheat	Delhi No. 1		100	174	135	132
Do.	Khandwa Seoni		100	239	156	161
Do.	Jubbulpore		100	194	119	119
Jowari	Rangoon		100	154	127	131
Barley	—		100	161	97	97
Bajri	Ghati		100	194	129	129
Average—Cereals			100	179	127	128
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort) ..		100	150	95	93
Turdal	Cawnpore		100	170	90	90
Average—Pulses			100	160	93	92
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1		100	257	307	316
Do.	Java white		100	236	272	282
Raw (Gul)	Sangli		100	190	147	129
Average—Sugar			100	228	242	242
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri		100	288	463	402
Ghee	Deshi		100	200	188	188
Salt	Bombay (black)		100	149	238	217
Average—Other food			100	212	296	269
Average—All food			100	193	179	174



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	14 8 0	13 6 0	13 9 0
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	11 4 0	10 9 0	9 10 0
Poppyseed	Do.	"	10 14 0	14 4 0	14 2 0	13 0 0
Gingelly	White	"	11 4 0	15 12 0	16 0 0	16 0 0
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	Good	Candy	251 0 0	468 0 0	....	515 0 0
Omra	Fully good	"	222 0 0	377 0 0	473 0 0	440 0 0
Dharwar	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	....	....	....
Khandesh	Machine ginned	"	205 0 0	....	....	....
Bengal	Do.	"	198 0 0	360 0 0	419 0 0	415 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 10 0	1 10 0	1 10 0
Grey shirtings	Fari, 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	15 0 0	12 12 0	13 0 0
White mulls	6,600	"	4 3 0	11 4 0	10 0 0	8 12 0
Shirtings	Liepman's 1,500	"	10 6 0	27 0 0	25 8 0	25 8 0
Long cloth	Local made 36"×37½ yds... ..	Lb.	0 9 6	1 10 0	1 6 6	1 5 0
Chudders	54"×6 yds.	"	0 9 6	1 7 6	1 4 9	1 3 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Linseed	Bold		100	163	150	152
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)		100	141	132	120
Poppyseed	Do.		100	131	130	120
Gingelly	White		100	140	142	142
Average—Oilseeds			100	144	139	134
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	Good		100	186	....	205
Omra	Fully good		100	170	....	198
Dharwar	Saw-ginned		100	....	....	....
Khandesh	Machine ginned		100	182	....	210
Bengal	Do.		100	....	....	....
Average—Cotton—raw			100	179	213	204
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	40S		100	204	204	204
Grey shirtings	Fari, 2,000		100	253	215	219
White mulls	6,600		100	269	239	209
Shirtings	Liepman's 1,500		100	260	246	246
Long cloth	Local made 36"×37½ yds... ..		100	274	237	221
Chudders	54"×6 yds.		100	247	218	205
Average—Cotton manufactures			100	251	227	217
Average—Textiles—Cotton			100	227	223	213

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles—						
Silk	Canton No. 3	Pucca seer	5 4 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 8 0
Do.	Nankin	"	17 12 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0
Hides and Skins—						
Hides, Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 10 8	1 11 5	1 12 9
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 14 0	0 13 6	0 13 6
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 5 1	2 3 1	3 5 10
Metal—						
Copper braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	86 0 0	82 0 0	80 0 0
Iron bars		"	4 0 0	11 0 0	8 4 0	8 0 0 0
Steel hoops		"	7 12 0	15 8 0	14 0 0	14 0 0 0
Galvanized sheets		"	9 0 0	15 0 0	14 0 0	17 8 0 0
Tin plates		Box	8 12 0	13 0 0	17 12 0	19 0 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	29 0 0	10 0 0	9 8 0 0
Kerosene	Elephant brand	2 Tuns	4 6 0	7 10 0	7 8 0	7 8 0 0
Do.	Chester brand	Case	5 2 0	10 3 0	10 0 6	10 0 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 1923.
Other textiles—					
Silk	Canton No. 3	100	105	105	105
Do.	Nankin	100	172	172	172
Average—Other textiles		100	139	139	139
Hides and Skins—					
Hides, Cow	Tanned	100	144	148	155
Do. Buffalo	Do.	100	81	78	78
Skins, Goat	Do.	100	185	175	209
Average—Hides and Skins		100	137	134	167
Metal—					
Copper braziers		100	142	136	132
Iron bars		100	275	206	200
Steel hoops		100	200	181	131
Galvanized sheets		100	167	157	194
Tin plates		100	149	217	217
Average—Metals		100	187	187	185
Other raw and manufactured articles—					
Coal	Bengal	100	187	187	185
Kerosene	Elephant brand	100	197	68	64
Do.	Chester brand	100	174	171	171
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles		100	199	196	196
Total—Food		100	190	145	144
Total—Non-food		100	195	179	174
General Average		100	185	176	176
		100	188	177	175

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	65 0 0	50 0 0	45 0 0
Wheat, white	5% barley	"	31 8 0	55 0 0	40 0 0	40 8 0
	3% dirt.	"				
	30% red.	"				
	5% barley	"	31 4 0	54 8 0	39 4 0	40 0 0
	3% dirt.	"				
	92% red.	"				
	2% barley	"	32 8 0	53 6 0	41 4 0	41 12 0
	1% dirt.	"				
	2% barley	"	32 4 0	52 14 0	40 8 0	41 4 0
	1% dirt.	"				
	2% barley	"	25 8 0	41 0 0	23 0 0	22 0 0
	1% dirt.	"				
	Export Quality	"	26 8 0	36 0 0	24 8 0	27 8 0
	3% dirt	"				
Jowari						
Barley						
	1% dirt	"	29 8 0	44 0 0	29 0 0	28 8 0
Pulses—						
Gram						
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	22 3 0	26 4 0	27 0 0
Do.	" brown	"	8 1 6	19 14 0	.....	.....
Other food—						
Salt	Bengal	Mauud.	2 2 0	1 10 3	2 14 0	2 14 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 1923.
Cereals—					
Rice	Larkana No. 3	100	167	128	115
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt	100	175	127	129
	30% red.				
	5% barley, 3% dirt.	100	174	126	128
	3% dirt.				
	92% red.				
	2% barley, 1% dirt.	100	164	127	128
	2% barley, 1% dirt.	100	164	126	128
Jowari		100	161	90	86
Barley		100	136	92	104
Export Quality		100	136	92	104
3% dirt.		100	136	92	104
Average—Cereals		100	163	117	117
Pulses—					
Gram					
	1% dirt	100	149	98	97
Sugar—					
Sugar	Java white	100	245	286	296
	" brown	100	246	.....	.....
Average—Sugar		100	245	286	296
Other food—Salt		100	77	135	135

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3% admixture ..	Maund ..	2 11 3	4 4 0	4 2 0	4 3 0
Rapeseed	Black, 9% admixture ..	Candy ..	51 0 0	70 8 0	61 8 0	57 8 0
Gingely			62 0 0	82 0 0	92 0 0	88 0 0
Textiles—						
Jute bags—	B. Twills	100 bags ..	38 4 0	45 4 0	52 0 0	53 8 0
Textile—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund ..	20 4 0	38 8 0	43 0 0	45 2 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Piece ..	10 3 6	22 4 0	23 14 0	24 4 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	3% admixture		100	157	153	155
Rapeseed	Black, 9% admixture		100	138	121	113
Gingely			100	132	148	142
Average—Oilseeds			100	142	141	137
Textiles—						
Jute bags	Twills		100	118	136	140
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind		100	190	212	223
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill		100	218	234	237
Shirtings	Liepmann's		100	252	242	242
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)		100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Cotton manufactures			100	235	238	240
Average—Textiles—Cotton			100	220	229	234
Other Textiles—Wool			100	86	136	136

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	April 1922.	March 1923.	April 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides—						
Hides dry	Sind	Maund ..	21 4 0	13 8 0	14 8 0	14 8 0
"	Punjab	" ..	21 4 0	13 8 0	14 8 0	14 8 0
Metals—						
Copper Braziers .. ..	.....	Cwt. ..	60 8 0	84 0 0	81 0 0	79 0 0
Steel Bars .. ..	.....	" ..	3 14 0	8 8 0	8 0 0	7 12 0
" Plates .. ..	.....	" ..	4 6 0	11 0 0	7 12 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	64	68	68
"	Punjab		100	64	68	68
Average—Hides			100	64	68	68
Metals—						
Copper Braziers .. ..	.....		100	139	134	131
Steel Bars .. ..	.....		100	219	207	200
" Plates .. ..	.....		100	251	177	177
Average—Metals			100	203	173	169
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 manufactured articles			100	195	193	193
Total—Food			100	169	134	135
Total—Non-food			100	163	163	163
General Average			100	166	152	153



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

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Total non-food.	General average.
1920														
April ..	162	178	329	178	201	173	149	314	270	214	279	191	238	224
1921														
April ..	173	149	329	164	199	146	112	267	163	169	247	216	198	196
May ..	173	151	314	162	196	150	115	272	142	166	248	232	200	199
June ..	184	158	267	169	194	161	126	270	109	141	239	222	205	197
July ..	186	151	234	185	191	171	137	269	138	156	244	206	203	199
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	207
October ..	192	164	207	180	189	130	169	273	138	182	209	202	199	195
November ..	196	175	203	190	193	129	170	263	138	163	204	198	192	193
December ..	188	180	200	185	189	136	198	259	138	136	200	198	191	190
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	188
April ..	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	254	139	137	187	190	185	192
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	188
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
April ..	128	92	242	269	174	138	204	217	139	167	185	144	176	175

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

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

Articles.	Grade.	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas.	July 1914.	March 1923.	April 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in April 1923	
							July 1914.	March 1923.
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice ..	Rangoon Small-mill ..	Paylee ..	216	5 10	7 8	8 0	+2 2	+0 4
Wheat ..	Punjab Pissi ..	" ..	212	5 10	8 0	7 11	+2 1	-0 1
Jowari ..	Madraai ..	" ..	208	4 3	4 11	5 0	+0 9	+0 1
Bajri ..	Ghati ..	" ..	200	4 7	5 4	5 1	+0 6	-0 3
Gram ..	Punjab red ..	" ..	208	4 4	7 0	7 0	+2 8	..
Turdal ..	Cawnpore ..	" ..	204	5 11	8 0	7 4	+1 5	-0 8
Sugar (raw) ..	Sangli, middle quality ..	Seer by weight ..	28	1 2	2 5	2 11	+1 9	+0 6
Sugar (refined) ..	Java, white ..	" ..	28	1 1	2 1	2 0	+0 11	-0 1
Tea ..	Ceylon, middle quality ..	Lb. ..	39	7 10	10 11	12 0	+4 2	+1 1
Salt ..	Bombay, black ..	Paylee ..	188	1 9	3 1	3 11	+2 2	+0 10
Beef ..	Crawford Market ..	Lb. ..	39	2 6	5 0	4 3	+1 9	-0 9
Mutton ..	" Average for sheep and goat ..	" ..	39	3 0	8 1	7 3	+4 3	-0 10
Milk ..	Medium ..	Seer by measure ..	36	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 0	1 0	+0 4	..
Onions ..	Naik ..	" ..	28	0 3	0 9	0 9	+0 6	..
Coconut oil ..	Middle quality ..	" ..	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+0 5	..



Retail prices of Articles of food in March and April 1923

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
		March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.	April 1923.	April 1923.	April 1923.	April 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 ..	7 1 3	6 6 5	8 0 0	7 0 3	8 6 0	7 6 3	6 9 7	8 0 0	7 0 3	8 8 2
Wheat ..	" ..	7 8 9	5 0 0	5 11 5	6 15 9	6 8 6	7 7 4	5 0 0	6 2 6	6 15 9	6 8 6
Jowari ..	" ..	4 11 9	3 7 8	4 0 0	3 7 2	4 3 11	4 12 6	3 10 2	3 15 2	3 7 9	4 3 4
Bajri ..	" ..	5 5 4	4 0 0	5 5 4	4 11 4	5 3 0	5 1 11	4 0 5	5 8 3	4 6 11	5 3 0
Pulses—											
Gram ..	" ..	6 12 0	4 8 7	6 0 7	4 14 6	5 0 4	6 11 9	4 3 10	5 2 7	4 5 2	4 13 7
Turdal ..	" ..	7 13 6	6 11 9	8 0 0	6 11 9	8 0 0	7 2 10	6 5 5	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0
Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined) ..	" ..	17 4 9	17 10 10	20 10 4	19 6 4	19 14 0	20 12 6	20 2 0	25 9 7	24 9 10	21 12 4
Jagri (gul) ..	" ..	15 0 5	12 4 11	14 8 9	13 5 4	12 0 6	14 4 7	13 1 0	15 9 9	13 5 4	11 6 10
Tea ..	Lb. ..	0 10 11	0 12 5	0 15 7	0 11 4	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 5	0 15 7	0 12 5	0 12 0
Salt ..	Maund ..	3 3 10	2 8 0	2 15 5	4 13 5	3 14 3	4 2 4	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 15 3	4 4 1
Beef ..	Seer ..	0 10 3	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 8 9	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton ..	" ..	1 0 7	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5	0 14 11	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5
Milk ..	Maund ..	17 9 4	7 9 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4	8 14 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 14 7
Ghee ..	" ..	86 7 9	75 4 11	80 0 0	71 1 9	74 6 8	86 7 9	73 2 5	80 0 0	71 1 9	84 3 4
Potatoes ..	" ..	7 2 3	4 3 4	4 11 4	5 0 0	4 7 11	7 2 3	3 10 10	5 2 7	6 10 8	4 0 2
Onions ..	" ..	5 7 1	4 10 2	6 10 8	4 0 0	3 1 0	5 7 1	4 5 8	6 2 6	5 0 0	2 2 9
Coconut oil ..	" ..	28 9 1	25 9 7	32 0 0	26 10 8	28 1 1	28 9 1	26 2 0	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).

Articles.	July 1914.	March 1923.	April 1923.	July 1914.	March 1923.	April 1923.
Cereals—						
Rice ..	127	96	130	133	145	132
Wheat ..	135	119	121	135	121	133
Jowari ..	109	96	105	120	124	110
Bajri ..	124	95	113	134	126	119
Average—cereals ..	124	102	117	131	129	124
Pulses—						
Gram ..	157	119	151	114	103	157
Turdal ..	134	101	130	115	121	123
Average—pulses ..	146	110	141	115	112	140
Other articles of food—						
Sugar (refined) ..	227	243	229	194	212	273
Jagri (gul) ..	176	177	164	172	171	167
Tea ..	140	180	200	109	146	154
Salt ..	152	190	196	218	207	195
Beef ..	199	180	100	240	141	169
Mutton ..	249	167	200	167	190	224
Milk ..	191	172	200	183	133	191
Ghee ..	170	177	180	127	144	170
Potatoes ..	159	78	124	125	133	159
Onions ..	351	255	333	160	153	351
Coconut oil ..	113	104	160	100	100	113
Average—other articles of food ..	193	175	190	163	157	197
Average—all food articles (unweighted) ..	171	150	167	150	145	173



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.			France	Italy (a)	
No. of articles.	43	56	92	140	24	188	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	45	..
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	95	106	104	100	97	100	99	..	..	102	95
1915	..	97	147	123	102	107	127	123	..	..	140	133
1916	..	117	138	134	124	123	160	160	..	..	188	201
1917	..	148	153	151	169	141	206	204	..	..	262	299
1918	..	237	196	178	175	207	226	225	..	..	339	409
1919	..	222	239	189	178	226	242	235	..	..	356	366
1920	..	215	260	228	212	299	295	283	307	..	510	624
1921 December	190	210	155	189	170	..	157	162	168	162	326	395
1922 January	190	206	154	186	169	131	156	159	164	159	314	377
February	186	204	154	181	169	..	156	158	162	156	307	363
March	192	201	153	180	153	..	157	160	160	156	307	333
April	188	198	155	180	148	128	159	159	160	158	314	327
May	189	195	162	177	141	..	159	162	160	158	317	324
June	190	198	163	175	139	..	160	163	160	159	326	337
July	188	202	164	177	138	127	158	163	160	159	325	358
August	186	196	163	177	139	..	153	158	156	156	331	371
September	181	193	165	175	138	..	151	156	154	156	329	382
October	174	190	167	174	140	129	153	158	155	159	337	391
November	176	188	170	175	144	..	154	159	157	161	353	396
December	173	183	168	172	147	..	152	158	155	159	362	380
1923 January	177	185	171	171	141	130	153	161	157	..	387	375
February	172	193	..	173	137	..	155	163	158	..	422	382
March	177	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	160	..	424	..
April	175	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

EUROPE—continued.

NORTH AMERICA.

Country.	EUROPE—continued.							NORTH AMERICA.			
	Switzer-land.	Belgium.	Germany (d)	Nether-lands (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Canada.	United States of America.		
No. of articles.	71	209	77	..	93	47	33	272	(5)	(6)	(7)
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	(e)	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	100	105	105	100	116	..	100	..	98	..
1915	..	..	142	145	(f) 159	145	138	109	..	101	..
1916	..	..	153	153	(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	228	239
1921 December	176	369	3,487	165	269	172	188	170	123	140	142
1922 January	171	366	3,665	162	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	56,650	156	221	155	176	162	136	154	165
November	170	408	115,100	158	221	154	180	164	145	156	164
December	175	407	147,460	158	220	155	182	165	150	156	164
1923 January	178	434	275,500	159	220	156	181	165	149	156	166
February	181	474	558,470	158	224	158	192	166	149	157	166
March	..	..	482,300	..	229	162	199	..	151	..	..

* 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, rent, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, rent, light, household utensils, miscellaneous.	Food, clothing, light, household utensils.	Food, clothing, rent, tax, etc.	Food, housing and lighting.	Food, fuel, light, and rent.	(g)	Food, housing and lighting, clothing and rent.	Food, clothing, housing, rent and miscellaneous items.
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	(b) 100	(d) 100	(e) 100	(f) 100	100	100	100	(h) 100
1915	..	125	97	119	107	99	100	117	119	103	..	..	105
1916	..	148	102	115	113	116	..	146	160	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	..	252	190	139	149	313	453	253	253	155	..	842	217
1921 July	177	219	152	..	157	387	379	..	209	133	..	11,124	..
1922 January	173	192	152	..	151	430	387	..	179	122	..	1,991	..
February	165	188	149	..	150	426	380	..	177	120	..	2,410	..
March	165	186	148	137	148	415	371	257	167	120	291	2,879	167
April	162	182	146	..	146	420	367	..	157	122	..	3,436	..
May	163	181	145	..	146	425	365	..	157	122	..	3,803	..
June	163	180	145	140	145	425	366	249	158	121	302	4,147	167
July	165	184	146	..	144	429	366	..	158	120	..	5,392	..
August	164	181	147	..	144	431	366	..	156	120	..	7,705	..
September	165	179	148	143	144	437	376	249	157	120	289	13,319	166
October	162	178	147	..	143	444	376	..	160	121	..	22,066	..
November	160	180	147	..	143	439	384	..	160	122	..	44,610	..
December	161	180	148	..	143	439	384	238	161	121	300	68,506	170
1923 January	156	178	150	..	..	..	383	..	160	120	..	112,027	..
February	155	177	150	..	..	..	397	..	158	120	..	264,300	..
March	154	176	152	..	..	..	408	240	..	..	..	285,400	..
April	155	174	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
May	..	170	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(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.

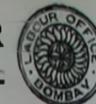
Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India	United Kingdom.	Canada.	South Africa.	Australia.	New Zealand.	United States of America.	France (b)	Italy (c)	Belgium.	Finland.	Germany	Holland (g)	Norway.	Sweden (h)	Denmark.	Switzerland.
	No. of articles.	17	20	29	18	46	59	43	13	9	22	37	..	27	..	51	..
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(d) 100	(e) 100	100	100	100	(f) 100	100	100	100
1915	..	132	105	107	131	112	98	120	95	..	..	..	114	..	114	124	119
1916	..	161	114	116	130	119	109	129	111	..	..	..	117	..	117	142	146
1917	..	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	..	146	..	146	181	166
1918	..	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	176	..	229	268	179
1919	..	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	..	204	..	289	310	212
1920	..	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	459	982	1,156	210	319	297	253	239
1921 July	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	410	1,278						



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in April 1923

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trade.</i>			1923.	1923.		
General strike in Cotton Mills in Ahmedabad.	43,113	....	1 April ..	....	Against a 20 per cent. wage cut decided upon by the Millowner's Association with effect from 1st April 1923.	
					2. The alleged non-payment by many mills of the bonus on the precise terms agreed on by the arbitrators.	
2. The Dinshaw Petit Mill, Parel Road, Bombay.	100 (weavers)	....	2 April ..	5 April ..	Against notice of dismissal to two head jobbers on account of unsatisfactory work.	Work resumed unconditionally.
3. The Textile Mill, Parbhadevi, Bombay.	2,400	600	2 April ..	11 April ..	Against discontinuance of the night shift from 1st April 1923 and the selection of the men required for the day shift from men of both the shifts.	Strikers paid off and new hands engaged.
4. The Presidency Mill, Fergusson Road, Bombay.	400 (weavers)	....	3 April ..	9 April ..	Against the management's stopping certain looms for want of sufficient yarn and warning the weavers that they would not be paid for the idle looms.	Strikers paid off and new hands engaged.
5. The Bradbury Mills, Ripon Road, Bombay.	300 (weavers)	....	5 April ..	9 April ..	Demand for an increased rate of 24 pies per pound instead of 16 pies for a new kind of <i>sari</i> which was being turned out.	Work resumed unconditionally.
6. The Textile Mill, Parbhadevi, Bombay.	180 (Spinners)	....	18 April ..	19 April ..	1. Protest against being given less material of late to work with resulting in the men receiving less wages. 2. Demand for as much work as was formerly given or in the alternative 50 per cent. increase in the rates of wages for work done.	Work resumed unconditionally.
7. The Simplex Mill, Clerk Road, Byculla, Bombay.	700 (Spinners and carders)	....	28 April ..	....	1. Against the discontinuance of the night shift from 1st May 1923. 2. Demand for payment of bonus for the first six months of 1923.	



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in April 1923—contd.

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Engineering.</i>			1923.	1923.		
1. The G. I. P. Railway Workshop, Matunga, Bombay.	60 (Workmen of the Wheel Department).	....	21 April ..	27 April ..	1. For being asked to repair or turn out 6 instead of 5 wheels per day which they formerly used to do. 2. Demand that the old rate of output should continue and that they should not be asked to work on a night shift.	Work resumed unconditionally.
2. The Bombay Port Trust Docks, Hamnalage Department, Bombay.	2,200	....	26 April ..	28 April ..	1. Against reduction in the daily rate of wages by 2 annas from 23rd April 1923. 2. Demand for refund of the wages cut, and for the continuance of the existing rate.	Work resumed on promise of payment of old rate of wages from the date of stoppage of work.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
1. Cartment of Gadag, Dharwar District, Bombay Presidency.	160	....	28 March ..	29 March ..	Against enhancement of wheel-tax from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 10 by the Municipality.	Compromised—work resumed on the Municipality promising to recommend a reduction in the wheel-tax.
2. Daily wage labourers employed by Messrs. Ralli Brothers, Louis Dreyfus, Sanday Patrick, Clement Robson, E. D. Sassoon and Strauss and Co., Karachi.	650	....	16 April ..	26 April ..	Demand for enhanced wages and removal of grievances such as extortion practised by tindals.	Work resumed on strikers being given hope of an increase in wages.
3. Office of No. 6 detachment, Survey of India, Mirpurkhas, Sind, Bombay Presidency.	19	....	22 April ..	....	Demand for Sind allowance alleged to have been promised by the Head Office at Calcutta.	
4. The Sind Flour Mills, Ltd., Karachi.	100	....	30 April ..	....	Demand for overtime wages for work done during two hours allowed for rest and for reinstatement of seven dismissed ringleaders.	
5. The B. B. and C. I. Railway Goods Shed, Carnac Bunder, Bombay.	325 Coolies (daily wages).	....	30 April ..	....	Demand for an increase in daily wages from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1-12-0.	

MAY, 1923

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

Count or Number.	Month of March.			Twelve months ended March.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,528	6,361	15,466	63,437	78,760	81,045
Nos. 11 to 20	20,146	18,091	19,026	238,636	241,417	242,562
Nos. 21 to 30	12,592	12,175	12,141	153,723	157,202	159,518
Nos. 31 to 40	926	1,301	908	12,678	12,857	12,226
Above 40	96	148	162	2,017	382	1,891
Waste, etc.	7	6	1	199		110
Total	39,295	38,082	37,714	469,945	492,635	497,352

Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of March.			Twelve months ended March.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	4,999	5,969	4,987	58,242	71,274	74,226
Nos. 11 to 20	14,899	13,347	13,431	183,839	175,505	171,829
Nos. 21 to 30	7,729	7,386	6,864	94,134	94,753	95,405
Nos. 31 to 40	427	519	396	5,178	6,000	5,587
Above 40	67	71	73	921	989	1,028
Waste, etc.	2	2	2	143	174	24
Total	28,123	27,294	25,753	342,457	348,695	348,099

Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of March.			Twelve months ended March.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	150	96	128	1,807	2,431	1,983
Nos. 11 to 20	2,439	2,826	2,612	23,616	31,696	33,783
Nos. 21 to 30	3,595	3,732	4,148	44,617	45,093	48,250
Nos. 31 to 40	408	667	420	6,068	5,542	5,472
Above 40	3	62	68	194	726	595
Waste, etc.				3	110	
Total	6,595	7,383	7,376	76,305	85,598	90,083

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

Description.	Month of March.			Twelve months ended March.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders	1,304	923	956	15,833	15,654	15,993
Dhotis	8,040	7,930	6,854	59,299	79,566	74,356
Drills and jeans	876	595	846	12,268	8,880	7,919
Cambrics and lawns	79	141	46	639	950	655
Printers	376	618	668	3,225	4,912	5,714
Shirtings and long cloth	8,572	8,534	7,589	90,163	99,223	93,912
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,281	1,032	992	16,534	14,210	12,095
Tent cloth	95	62	58	1,745	1,328	965
Other sorts	713	1,512	1,615	7,317	14,567	22,071
Total	21,336	21,347	19,624	207,023	239,290	233,680
Coloured piece-goods	5,496	6,075	6,581	81,665	83,985	81,207
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	127	139	144	2,319	2,000	2,268
Hosiery	17	20	15	277	205	189
Miscellaneous	64	78	113	963	1,062	1,324
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	4	7	15	123	73	113
Grand Total	27,044	27,666	26,492	292,370	326,615	318,781

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of March.			Twelve months ended March.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders	526	459	424	8,769	9,713	8,315
Dhotis	1,906	2,069	1,849	15,073	23,916	20,434
Drills and jeans	757	566	741	11,435	8,383	7,362
Cambrics and lawns	58	85	21	404	687	332
Printers	16	6		70	302	306
Shirtings and long cloth	5,308	6,308	4,859	58,113	69,216	63,537
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,005	820	776	13,924	11,397	9,743
Tent cloth	80	48	41	1,479	1,099	804
Other sorts	335	1,059	1,045	3,447	8,659	14,860
Total	9,991	11,420	9,756	112,714	133,372	125,693

May, 1923

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

Description.	Month of March.			Twelve months of March.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods	4,274	5,084	4,979	69,395	70,893	69,000
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	122	134	132	2,290	1,908	46,971
Woollen	10	14	8	127	1,908	46,971
Miscellaneous	54	76	110	962	127	2,372
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	3	7	12	113	64	1,299
Grand Total	14,865	16,237	14,989	185,600	207,380	196,140

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of March.			Twelve months ended March.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Shades	695	424	408	6,940	4,586	6,067
Diaper	5,074	4,750	3,914	34,592	45,815	42,146
Drills and jeans	76	28	67	363	310	327
Jeans and knits	11	39	12	107	149	224
Prints	362	458	500	2,082	3,320	3,756
Shirtings and long cloths	2,517	1,754	2,049	23,114	22,006	23,812
T-cloth, domestic, and shirtings	260	179	206	2,356	2,506	2,385
Tartan	236	261	389	2,167	24	30
Other sorts	236	261	389	2,167	3,067	4,545
Total	9,271	7,885	7,673	79,272	79,283	82,999
Coloured piece-goods	544	479	914	5,154	4,795	6,496
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods	1	4	1	4	21	10
Woollen	7	4	7	149	78	79
Miscellaneous	1	1	2	1	1	23
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	1	1	1	9	8	11
Grand Total	9,822	8,367	8,597	76,986	84,686	89,618

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.)

Japan.—Since the end of 1921 many of the cotton spinning factories continued to restrict their output with the result that the situation in the cotton industry improved considerably, and the price of cotton yarn even rose. Factories now found themselves able to extend their operations and the number of operatives increased. At the end of 1922 the number of workers employed in cotton spinning factories affiliated to the Japan Cotton Spinners' Association was 42,106 male and 139,230 female, an increase of 4,521 male and 21,174 female workers as compared with the end of 1921, and 878 male and 4,963 female workers as compared with the beginning of July 1922, which was the most prosperous period during the year.

The following table shows the average daily wages in January 1923 of the employees of ten of the largest cotton spinning companies as compared with wages in June 1922.

Company.	Daily wages in January 1923.		Comparison with June 1922.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Dainihon	2 9 7	1 15 3	+0 2 4	+0 2 7
Toyo	2 12 9	2 0 0	+0 0 1	+0 1 7
Godo	2 10 3	1 14 3	+0 0 3	+0 1 0
Fukushima	2 12 4	1 14 1	+0 0 5	+0 0 8
Kishimizu	2 7 3	2 4 7	+0 0 11	+0 1 4
Wakayama	2 11 7	1 13 3	+0 0 11	+0 2 3
Kuwakiki	2 11 11	1 15 7	+0 0 0	+0 0 6
Kanagasaki	2 14 2	2 7 10	+0 1 4	+0 3 0
Fuji	2 5 2	1 9 10	+0 0 1	+0 1 3
Nishin	2 13 10	1 15 10	+0 0 3	+0 0 4

Note.—100 Yen=Rs. 159-12-0.

Mr. Saziji Muto, President of the Kanagasaki Spinning Company, in an article to the Osaka

Asahi says that the population of Japan increases annually by 600,000 and in order to provide for the surplus population the development of industries is necessary. He shows in the following table the rise in prices and in wages. While wages have advanced rapidly Mr. Muto is of opinion that the efficiency of workers has been falling in inverse proportion, while the consumption of commodities, especially articles of luxury, has been increasing at a remarkable rate.

Year	Prices	Wages
1900	100	100
1905	128	150
1910	192	165
1915	197	187
1918	255	206
1919	312	249
1920	282	422
1921	304	415
1922	301	—

China.—Considerable attention has been diverted in recent years to the unique and rapid growth in cotton spinning in the country inasmuch as it far exceeds the development of the industry in Japan. The following table, according to the International Cotton Bulletin for March 1923, gives comparative figures showing the increase in the number of spindles in China, Japan and the World:—

Year.	China Spindles.	Japan Spindles.	The World Spindles.
1913	1,900,000	2,414,000	143,730,000
1918	1,480,000	3,222,000	149,400,000
1922	2,344,000	4,627,000	154,600,000

It will be seen that there has been an increase of 134 per cent. in the number of spindles in China over the figure of the pre-war year. China also has under contemplation at present the installation of 1,000,000 more spindles, which it is anticipated will be put up in the course of the next few years. This rapid development in the industry is attributed to the increasing production of raw cotton in the country, to the fact that wages are generally lower in China than in other countries, and to the fact that China is consuming more cotton goods every year.

According to the International Cotton Bulletin for March 1923, wages in the textile industry in China are 60 per cent. higher than



what they were before the war. There appears to be no probability of an immediate reduction at present owing to the continued maintenance of the high level in the cost of living.

The Bill for the protection of workers, which was referred to on page 56 of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1923, is now before the Chinese Parliament. It makes provision for the regulation of hours of work, protection against accidents, old age and invalidity pensions and for guaranteeing the right of association. The workers' associations, who drafted the Bill, urge that the provisions of the Bill should be inserted in the constitution of the Republic.

Roumania.—The Roumanian Minister of Health, Labour and Social Welfare has submitted to the Committee on Labour Legislation attached to the Ministry a draft labour code. This Code includes the following important principles:—

Guarantee of equal protection for the various factors in production:

Respect for liberty of work and determination of general labour conditions by means of collective agreements:

Labour conditions established by collective agreements to conform to the provisions of the Labour Code:

Equality of rights and obligations of employers and workers without distinction of sex, nationality or religion:

Equality of rights and obligations of men and women workers in industry and commerce, subject to special protective regulations for women workers:

Workers from 18 years of age and upwards to be considered as adults:

Wages to be not lower than the rates fixed by the competent authorities instituted by the Labour Code:

Compulsory jurisdiction of conciliation tribunals in case of labour disputes in private undertakings:

Prohibition of strikes in public undertakings and compulsory arbitration in case of dispute:

Hours of work not to exceed eight per day:

Weekly rest to be compulsory for all wage-earners:

Guarantee of right of association and recognition of trade associations in conformity with the provisions of the Labour Code:

Representation of employers and workers on Chambers of Labour, the National Labour Council, the Superior Council on Social Insurance, and on all Committees attached to these bodies:

Representation of the Chambers of Labour in Parliament:

Compulsory health and accident insurance for all workers in industry and commerce:

Extension of the Social Insurance Act to include measures for the prevention of unemployment and the protection of the unemployed.

Mexico.—The Government is intending to introduce legislation for the amelioration of the lot of the workers. Article 123 of the Constitution provides that employers shall share profits with workers according to the percentage fixed by the State Conciliation Board, composed of an equal number of representatives of workers and of employers. The chairman of the Board is appointed by the State Government and has a casting vote. The same Article provides for the payment by employers of compensation to sick and injured workers and a lump sum to the next-of-kin in case of death. The new legislation substitutes for these obligations a tax on employers of 10 per cent. of the amount of their payments to workers of all kinds including domestic servants. To the fund so created will be added the contributions from the Federal and State Governments and municipalities. This fund will provide compensation for sickness, unemployment or injury, medical attention and lump sums in cases of death. It is considered probable that legislation will be introduced together with a general scheme for the federalisation of the labour laws, and a Bill for the establishment of a Ministry of Labour.

Chile.—The Draft of the Code of Labour and Social Welfare recently introduced into the Chilean Congress provides for a 14-year age limit for child labor, and a 16-year limit for those who have not completed the required primary education. A six-hour working day is the maximum for persons under 16 years of age. Persons under 18 may not be employed at night or in underground work, or in work which necessitates the use of a motor.

Women of any age may not be employed at night. Expectant mothers are entitled to six weeks' vacation before and after confinement. All factories employing over 20 women must have nurseries and mothers must be allowed one hour a day for the nursing of their children.



Java.—On page 49 of the *Labour Gazette* for April 1922, a reference was made to the establishment of a Labour Office in the Dutch East Indies. During the early part of 1922, the Office took the initiative in establishing municipal employment exchanges in Batavia and Bandoeng, and arrangements are being made for opening exchanges in other towns. It is intended during the present year to bring the labour inspection system under the control of the Labour Office. Further, it is the duty of the Office to give attention to all matters concerning the health, safety and welfare of the workers and to the consideration of means for diminishing disputes between employers and workers. The report on industrial disputes issued by the Government of the Dutch East Indies was referred to on page 30 of the *Labour Gazette* for July 1922.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Official Publications

INDIA

Statement showing the Progress of the Co-operative Movement in India during the year 1921-22—(Commercial Intelligence Department).

Administration Report of the City of Bombay Improvement Trust for the year ending 31st March 1922.

Administration Report of the Bombay Municipality for the year 1921-22, Vol. II.

Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, Bombay Presidency, for the year 1921-22.

UNITED KINGDOM

(His Majesty's Stationery Office, London)

The Board of Trade Journal, Vol. CIX, Nos. 1373—1377.

Report on the Administration of section 18 of the Unemployment Insurance Act, 1920—Cmd. 1613; 1923.

Variations in Efficiency in Cotton weaving, by S. Wyatt, M.Sc. (Textile Series No. 7, Report No. 23 of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board.)

CANADA

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UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA

Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics, Nos. 14 and 15 for February and March 1923 (Census and Statistics Office, Pretoria).

NEW ZEALAND

Monthly Abstract of Statistics, Vol. X, Nos. 2 and 3 for February and March 1923 (Census and Statistics Office, Wellington).

GERMANY

Deutschlands Wirtschaftslage unter den Nachwirkungen des Weltkrieges, Berlin, Statistischen Reichsamts, March 1923.

This is an interesting official account of the state of Germany amidst the after-effects of the world war. Like similar publications of the German Statistical Office it is profusely illustrated by diagrams and charts.

Reichsarbeitsblatt, Nos. 7 and 8.

Wirtschaft und Statistik, No. 7.

BELGIUM

Revue Du Travail, No. 3 for March 1923.

SWITZERLAND

Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt for April 1923.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Monthly Labor Review, Vol. XV, No. 6 for December 1922.

Bulletins of United States Bureau of Labor Statistics:—No. 302—*Union Scale of Wages and Hours of Labor*, May 15th, 1921.

No. 308—*Labor Legislation of 1921*.

No. 319—*The Bureau of Labor Statistics*.

No. 321—*Labor Laws that have been declared unconstitutional*.

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Commerce Reports.—from 30th October 1922 to 22nd January 1923 with supplements (Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce).

GENEVA (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE)

Official Bulletin, Vol. VII, Nos. 12—14.

Industrial and Labour Information, Vol. VI, Nos. 1—3.

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, Vol. IV, No. 3, for March 1923 (League of Nations).

UNITED KINGDOM

The Economist—Vol. XCV, Nos. 4144—4156.

Economica—No. 7 for January 1923.

The Statist—Vol. C, Nos. 2344—2356

The Labour Magazine—Vol. I, Nos. 11 and 12 for March and April 1923.

The Labour Woman—Vol. XI, Nos. 3 and 4 for March and April 1923.

Monthly Review of the London Joint City and Midland Bank for January and February 1923.

Statistical Bulletin of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers for December 1922 and January 1923.