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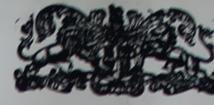
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THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Employment

DURING the month ended 15th June 1923 the supply of labour in the Presidency excluding Bombay City and Island was plentiful. In Bombay, however, 15 out of 50 reporting mills report a shortage of labour. In other Industries in Bombay City, the supply of labour was adequate. The average absenteeism in 50 representative mills in Bombay, for which reports have been received, was 18·38 per cent. as compared with 19·4 per cent. in the previous month and 18·8 per cent. two months ago. Absenteeism was reported to be highest in spinning departments and lowest in weaving departments during the month under review. The average absenteeism in the mills in Bombay City, for which returns have been received, rose from 18·45 per cent. to 23·38 per cent. after the monthly pay-day which was on the 15th instant in most mills. This is a considerable improvement on the figures for the preceding month when absenteeism for the same period rose from 20·5 per cent. to 34·3 per cent.

No report of absenteeism has been received from Ahmedabad owing to the abnormal conditions in this centre as a result of the general strike which continued until the 4th June. It is reported that owing to the delay of the monsoon in Guzerat, labour is returning to the mills in fairly large numbers. In Sholapur all the mills report an adequate supply of labour. The average absenteeism in these mills showed a marked improvement to 16·81 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 22·03 in the previous month. The supply of water in Sholapur is a matter of anxiety, and some mills may even have to close at the end of July, unless the monsoon is plentiful before that date. In Broach the supply of labour was, as in the two previous months, adequate and normal. Absenteeism, however, increased, the figure being 10·31 per

cent. in the present month as compared with 7·43 during the previous month. In Surat the supply of labour was more abundant than in the immediately preceding month. The average absenteeism was 6·70 per cent. as compared with 7·33 per cent., the figure for the previous month.

In the Engineering Industry in Bombay the supply of skilled and unskilled labour was generally adequate. Reports show that at the moment there is plenty of labour of all types available in Bombay. Coolie labour, however, is reported to be very unstable as this type of labour does not remain for any considerable period at the same workshop. The average absenteeism in engineering workshops (based on the returns from three large workshops) showed a further slight decrease from 18·95 per cent. in the last month to 18·16 per cent. in the month under review. On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamation Schemes of the Development Directorate the average absenteeism remained at the level of the previous month, viz., 4·5 per cent. On the construction of *chawls* (tenements) at Naigaum and DeLisle Road, also, absenteeism again remained at the level of the previous month, viz., 3 per cent. The attendance of labour at these places appears to be more regular than the labour employed in mills in Bombay. At Worli, on the construction of *chawls*, absenteeism showed a decrease from 8 per cent. in the last month to 6 per cent. in the present month. This decrease was stated to be due to the work of the building of these *chawls* having been put in full swing by the contractors. The supply of unskilled labour employed by the Bombay Port Trust was equal to the demand. The average absenteeism was 17·54 per cent. compared with 18·9 per cent., the figure for the preceding month. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust, the supply of labour



was adequate. The percentage absenteeism, however, increased from 8 per cent. in the last month to 12 per cent. in the present month. This increase was stated to be due to sickness. In Karachi, the supply of skilled labour employed in the Engineering workshop of the Port Trust was again plentiful while that of unskilled labour continued to be in excess. The average absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers of whom a record is kept remained at the level of the previous month, viz., 7 per cent.

The Cost of Living

In May 1923 the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was approximately 2 points below the level of the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City and Island of Bombay (100 represents the level of July 1914) was 153 for all articles and 148 for food articles only. There is a fall of 6 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 21 per cent. below the high-water mark (October 1920).

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

The Wholesale Index Number

In May 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay, as shown by the index number, remained stationary, a fall in non-food articles being counterbalanced by a rise in food articles as a whole. There was, however, an appreciable fall in food grains—cereals and pulses. The general level is now 75 per cent. above the pre-war level. The movement by groups will be found on page 10 in the article on wholesale prices in May. 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.				
	January 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.	May 1923.
Foods ..	73	67	79	74	76
Non-foods ..	79	75	76	76	75
All articles ..	77	72	77	75	75

Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes decreased from 14 in April to 10 during May. The number of disputes involving stoppage of work as beginning in May was 5. During May 44,734 workpeople were involved as compared with 50,507 in the previous month and 15,205 in May 1922. The aggregate duration of all disputes during May 1923 was about 1,170,000 working days as compared with 1,111,000 in April 1923 and 55,000 in May 1922. The Ahmedabad strike was in progress during the month under review, and this is largely responsible for the large time loss during the month. An article on this strike will be found on page 23 of this issue.

Cotton Mill Production

The main features of the cotton mill production during April were (1) a large decrease, owing to the strike, in yarn and woven goods in Ahmedabad during April 1923 as compared with corresponding months of the two previous years; and (2) a slight decrease in yarn and woven goods in Bombay city and island in April 1923 as compared with the corresponding months of the two previous years.

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun.			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced.		
	April.			April.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	28	27	26	19	16	15
Ahmedabad ..	7	7	1	10	7	4
Other centres ..	4	5	4	2	2	3
Total, Presidency ..	39	39	31	31	25	22

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



	Net rate per lb. in annas.		
	May 1922.	April 1923.	May 1923.
Longcloth ..	26½	21	20½
T. Cloths ..	23	19½	19
Chudders ..	24	19½	19

The piece-goods market at the end of May was dull, the upcountry buyers being unwilling to replenish their stocks. The market for local mill-cloth was also sluggish, as in the previous month.

The Outlook

The official monsoon forecast is far from discouraging. The monsoon in this Presidency was considerably delayed in June. The total rainfall in the Peninsula is likely to be in small excess, and this condition is expected to obtain in Mysore and Malabar. For Northern India and Burma no forecast can be issued. The gross imports of gold into India on private account amounted to no less than 42·9 per cent. of the world's production in 1922 and of silver 40·75 per cent. These large percentages may be even exceeded in the coming year if trade continues in an upward direction. In Great Britain the output both of pig iron and steel, according to the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers, for March continued steadily to increase and this enabled the industry to find employment for more of its workers. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his budget speech mentioned as a sign of improving trade, the fact that, whereas withdrawals from the Post Office Savings Banks exceeded deposits in the first quarter of 1922, deposits exceeded withdrawals by £1,300,000 in the corresponding period of the present year. The political instability, however, in Europe—especially in the Ruhr and in the south-east of the continent—leaves the export trade of Great Britain erratic. The home trade, too, leaves much to be desired. The number of British unemployed during the week ending June 4th was 1,187,000, a decrease of 36,000 as compared with the previous week. In Germany, it is stated the financial experts of the Government are considering a further attempt to support the mark. Germany's trade balance remains unfavourable and the demands for

foreign exchange to pay for the excess of imports show no sign of decreasing. In the circumstances it would appear that such an attempt artificially to arrest the fall of the mark is doomed to failure. In the United States, according to cable information received by the Acting American Trade Commissioner, Calcutta, production continues exceptionally high and wages continue to advance, due to scarcity of labour. Production at the moment is the highest ever known and there is a reassuring attitude of caution which is expected to prevent a recurrence of the 1920 boom.

The Balance of Trade

During May 1923, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to 7·27 lakhs. The corresponding figures for 1922 was an adverse balance of 4·62 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India and Bombay and Karachi are given below :—

India

	in lakhs of rupees					
	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923
Exports (private merchandise) ..	27·80	29·45	31·60	32·63	30·68	30·00
Imports do. ..	19·20	21·38	19·37	18·54	21·10	17·28
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 8·60	+ 8·07	+ 12·23	+ 14·09	+ 9·58	+ 10·72
Balance of transactions in treasure (private) ..	- 3·48	- 6·42	- 10·78	- 7·19	- 7·97	- 4·53
Visible balance of trade including securities ..	+ 5·62	+ 94	- 32	+ 7·06	+ 2·27	+ 7·27

Bombay

	in lakhs of rupees					
	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923
Exports (private merchandise) ..	8·21	11·68	12·29	12·92	12·23	10·69
Imports do. ..	7·28	7·92	6·60	6·91	8·68	7·40
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 93	+ 3·76	+ 5·69	+ 6·01	+ 3·55	+ 3·29
Imports of treasure ..	3·15	5·96	10·39	7·09	7·70	4·20
Exports of treasure ..	5	..	7	23	9	13
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	- 3·10	- 5·96	- 10·32	- 6·86	- 7·61	- 4·07

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

Karachi

	In lakhs of rupees					
	December 1922	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923
Exports (except raw materials)	2.60	3.31	3.65	2.90	2.49	1.47
Imports	2.60	1.70	2.77	1.82	2.07	1.16
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 0.00	+ 1.61	+ 0.88	+ 1.08	+ 0.42	+ 2.31
Imports of treasure	2	8	6	7	6	5
Exports of treasure	"	4	"	"	"	"
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 2	- 4	- 6	- 7	- 6	- 5

(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
July	1 3 5/8	1 4 1/16
August	1 3 21/32	1 4 15/32
September	1 3 1/8	1 4 1/8
October	1 3 17/32	1 4 1/16
November	1 3 5/8	1 4 5/8
December	1 3 13/16	1 4 1/16

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

There was a decrease of 14 crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in May as compared with the preceding month. Karachi and Rangoon clearings were the same, while the clearings in Calcutta decreased by 11 crores. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees

	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	Total January to May 1923
Bombay	62	67	55	182
Karachi	3	3	3	9
Calcutta	75	76	62	213
Rangoon	11	9	9	29
Total (four ports)	151	155	129	435

1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The latest report shows the rupee portion of the reserve in Bombay at 18 crores. In addition there is in Bombay Rs. 14 crores in the form of gold and the percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India is 63 as against 62 in April 1923 and 63 in March 1923.

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

January 1922	Rs. 1,650	September 1922	Rs. 1,591
February	" 1,593	October	" 1,481
March	" 1,624	November	" 1,286
April	" 1,613	December	" 1,221
May	" 1,609	January 1923	" 1,257
June	" 1,659	February	" 1,213
July	" 1,688	March	" 1,178
August	" 1,578	April	" 1,129
		May	" 1,116

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

Birthday Honours

The following birthday honours are of interest:—

Knights-Bachelor

The Honourable Mr. M. H. W. Hayward, Member of the Executive Council of the Government of Bombay, (The Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward is Member in Charge of the Labour Office.)

Mr. G. H. Knibbs, C.M.G., Melbourne, (Sir George Knibbs was until some time ago the distinguished Commonwealth Statistician and is now Director, Bureau of Science and Industry, Melbourne.)

Star of India

G. F. Paddison, I.C.S., Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

His Excellency Sir George Lloyd presided at a meeting on 28th June of the citizens of Bombay, convened by the Sheriff, in connexion with a memorial to the late Sir Narayan Chandavarkar, whose career of eminent usefulness in social and labour matters was referred to in the Labour Gazette for May 1923 (page 6).

THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR MAY 1923

A fall of two points

All articles . . . 53 per cent.

In May 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 two points below the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 155 in April and 153 in May 1923. The general index is 21 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 12 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921 and 7 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922. The cost of living index has fallen to the level of August 1918.

The main features of the month's prices are (1) the fall in food-grains, and (2) the rise in refined sugar. With the exception of jowari which remained stationary, all food-grains declined, the price of gram falling by 14 points, that of wheat by 7 points, turdal by 6 points, bajri by 5 points, and rice by 4 points. There was a rise of 4 points in salt. The average for 'other foods,' i.e., sugar, tea, ghee, salt, milk, etc., increased by 2 points during the month. There was a fall of 12 points in the price of onions, while potatoes remained stationary.

All items: Average percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January	54	82	83	69	73	56
February	54	76	81	62	65	55
March	56	72	77	60	65	54
April	44	67	72	60	62	55
May	47	68	73	67	63	53
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	66	
December	83	74	81	79	61	
Yearly average	54	75	82	72	64	

Food only . . . 48 per cent.

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 April and May 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	April 1923	May 1923	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of index in May 1923 over or below April 1923
Rice	100	132	128	- 4
Wheat	100	133	126	- 7
Jowari	100	110	110	"
Bajri	100	119	114	- 5
Gram	100	157	143	- 14
Turdal	100	123	117	- 6
Sugar (raw)	100	167	167	"
Sugar (refined)	100	273	294	+ 21
Tea	100	124	129	+ 5
Salt	100	195	199	+ 4
Beet	100	169	176	+ 7
Mutton	100	224	231	+ 7
Milk	100	191	191	"
Ghee	100	179	179	"
Potatoes	100	159	159	"
Onions	100	351	339	- 12
Coconut oil	100	113	113	"
All food articles (unweighted average)	100	150	148	- 2

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.	April, 1923.	May, 1923.	July, 1914.	April, 1923.	May, 1923.
Cereals—								
Rice	Maud	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 7.391	Rs. 7.177	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 517.37	Rs. 502.39
Wheat	"	21	5.594	7.458	7.047	117.47	156.62	147.99
Jowari	"	11	4.354	4.781	4.781	47.89	52.59	52.59
Bajri	"	6	4.313	5.120	4.922	25.88	30.72	29.53
Total and Average—Cereals			100	130	126	582.82	757.30	732.90
Pulses—								
Gram	Maud	10	4.302	6.734	6.167	43.02	67.34	61.67
Turdal	"	3	5.844	7.177	6.849	17.53	21.53	20.55
Total and Average—Pulses			100	147	136	60.55	88.87	82.22
Other food articles								
Sugar (raw)	Maud	7	8.557	14.287	14.287	59.90	100.01	100.01
Sugar (refined)	"	2	7.620	20.781	22.600	15.24	41.56	45.20
Tea	"	1	40.000	61.537	68.083	1.00	1.54	1.70
Salt	"	40						
Beef	"	5	2.130	4.146	4.234	10.65	20.73	21.17
Mutton	Seer	28	0.323	0.547	0.568	9.04	15.32	15.90
Milk	"	33	0.417	0.932	0.964	13.76	30.76	31.81
Ghee	Maud	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Potatoes	"	1 1/2	50.792	86.484	86.484	76.19	129.73	129.73
Onions	"	11	4.479	7.141	7.141	49.27	78.55	78.55
Cocoanut Oil	"	3	1.552	5.443	5.255	4.66	16.33	15.77
Total and Average—Other food articles			100	182	184	381.18	694.97	700.28
Total and Average—All food articles			100	150	148	1,024.55	1,541.14	1,515.00
Fuel and lighting—								
Kerosene oil	Case	5	4.375	7.500	7.500	21.88	37.50	37.50
Firewood	Maud	48	0.792	1.281	1.291	38.02	61.49	61.49
Coal	"	1	0.542	0.385	0.367	0.54	0.39	0.37
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting			100	164	164	60.44	99.38	99.36
Clothing—								
Chudders	Lb.	27	0.594	1.250	1.203	16.04	33.75	32.48
Shirtings	"	25	0.641	1.417	1.385	16.03	35.43	34.63
T. Cloth	"	36	0.583	1.266	1.203	20.99	45.58	43.31
Total and Average—Clothing			100	216	208	53.06	114.76	110.42
House rent	Per month	10	11.302	18.700	18.700	113.02	187.00	187.00
Grand Total and General Average			100	155	153	1,251.67	1,942.17	1,911.78

NOTE.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,251.67 crores, the aggregate expenditure in May 1923 at May price levels was Rs. 1,911.78, i.e., an increase of 53 per cent. (Rs. 1,251.67 = 100)

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.	
		April 1923.	May 1923.	April 1923.	May 1923.
Cereals—					
Rice	31.4	132	128	4,144.8	4,019.2
Wheat	9.4	133	126	1,250.2	1,184.4
Jowari	3.8	110	110	418.0	418.0
Bajri	2.1	119	114	249.9	239.4
Total and Average Index No.	46.7	130	126	6,062.9	5,861.0
Pulses—					
Gram	3.1	157	143	486.7	443.3
Turdal	1.3	123	117	159.9	152.1
Total and Average Index No.	4.4	147	135	646.6	595.4
Other food articles—					
Sugar (raw)	4.8	167	167	801.6	801.6
Sugar (refined)	1.2	273	294	327.6	352.8
Tea	0.1	154	170	15.4	17.0
Salt	0.9	195	199	175.5	179.1
Beef	0.7	169	176	118.3	123.2
Mutton	1.1	224	231	246.4	254.1
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	339	140.4	135.6
Cocoanut oil	1.0	113	113	113.0	113.0
Total and Average Index No.	30.6	182	182	5,578.5	5,616.7
Fuel and lighting—					
Kerosene oil	1.8	171	171	307.8	307.8
Firewood	3.0	162	162	486.0	486.0
Coal	0.1	71	68	7.1	6.8
Total and Average Index No.	4.9	163	163	800.9	800.6
Clothing—					
Dhoties	1.3	210	203	273.0	263.9
Shirtings	1.3	221	216	287.3	280.8
T. Cloth	1.7	217	206	368.9	350.2
Total and Average Index No.	4.3	216	208	929.2	894.9
House rent	9.1	165	165	1,501.5	1,501.5
Grand total of weights	100				
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)	....	155	153	15,518.7	15,270.1



WHOLESALE PRICES IN MAY

BOMBAY*

In May 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay, as shown by the index number, remained stationary, a fall in non-food articles being counter balanced by a rise in food articles. There was, however, an appreciable fall in food-grains. 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 May 1923 as compared with		
		the preceding month (April 1923).	the corresponding month of last year (May 1922).	the corresponding month of last year (May 1922).
1. Cereals ..	7	- 3	- 31	
2. Pulses ..	2	- 4	- 45	
3. Sugar ..	3	+ 2	+ 14	
4. Other food ..	3	+ 6	+ 29	
Total food ..	15	+ 1	- 9	
5. Oilseeds ..	4	- 2	- 12	
6. Raw cotton ..	5	....	+ 8	
7. Cotton manufactures ..	6	....	- 13	
8. Other textiles ..	2	....	....
9. Hides and skins ..	3	- 4	+ 16	
10. Metals ..	5	....	+ 1	
11. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	3	+ 1	- 24	
Total non-food ..	28	- 1	- 6	
General average ..	43	....	- 7	

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

The average for food articles rose by more than one per cent. during the month, the index number being 176 in May as against 174 in April. There was a fall of 3 per cent. in cereals, the fall in the price of wheat amounting to no less than 8 per cent. Pulses decreased by 4 per cent., while sugar advanced by 2 per cent. 'Other food' which showed a decline of 9 per cent. during April rose by 6 per cent. in May.

The index number for non-food articles stood at 175 in May as against 176 in April 1923, thus showing a fall of nearly one per cent. With the exception of 'hides and skins' which fell by 4 per cent. and oilseeds which fell by 2 per cent., all the important groups remained stationary during the month. The only rise was in 'other raw and manufactured articles', which amounted to less than one per cent.

The subjoined table compares May 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

Groups.	May 1922.	August 1922.	Nov. 1922.	Feb. 1923.	April 1923.	May 1923.
I. Cereals ..	109	101	83	76	78	75
II. Pulses ..	114	94	79	68	65	62
III. Sugar ..	101	105	98	97	112	114
IV. Other food ..	95	102	112	115	116	122
Total food ..	104	101	95	90	94	95
V. Oilseeds ..	106	98	95	94	99	94
VI. Raw cotton ..	105	109	95	116	113	113
VII. Cotton manufactures ..	103	102	92	93	89	89
VIII. Other textiles ..	100	100	100	100	100	100
IX. Hides and Skins ..	98	98	103	93	118	11
X. Metals ..	100	98	99	104	99	99
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	101	98	99	76	76	76
Total non-food ..	102	100	97	95	96	96
General average—all articles ..	102	101	95	93	95	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
Five-monthly " 1923 ..	174	176	175

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

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	July 1914.	May 1923.			
			Total Numbers.	Average.		
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri).	7	Index Nos.	700	866	124
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal).	2	" "	200	175	88
3	Sugar (Refined and raw).	3	" "	300	744	248
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3	" "	300	852	284
5	Total, all food ..	15	" "	1,500	2,637	176
6	Oil seeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and gingelly)	4	" "	400	522	131
7	Raw cotton ..	3	" "	300	615	205
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.)	6	" "	600	1,299	217
9	Other textiles (Silk) ..	2	" "	200	277	139
10	Hides and skins ..	3	" "	300	483	161
11	Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.)	5	" "	500	925	185
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (Kerosene and coal) ..	3	" "	300	435	145
13	Total, non-food ..	26	" "	2,600	4,556	175
14	General Average ..	41	" "	4,100	7,193	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 April and May 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 April 1923 = 100

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

Bombay prices in May 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay, Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—				
Rice ..	100	94	112	99
Wheat ..	100	74	95	98
Jowari ..	100	77	77	85
Bajri ..	100	80	116	92
Average—Cereals ..	100	81	98	92
Pulses—				
Gram ..	100	66	91	70
Turdal ..	100	83	97	90
Average—Pulses ..	100	75	94	80
Other articles of food—				
Sugar (refined) ..	100	93	102	110
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	89	93	83
Tea ..	100	78	118	94
Salt ..	100	73	79	98
Beef ..	100	99	66	66
Mutton ..	100	65	78	65
Milk ..	100	47	57	76
Ghee ..	100	84	103	79
Potatoes ..	100	63	70	199
Onions ..	100	63	69	127
Cocoanut oil ..	100	98	112	96
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	77	86	99
Average—All food articles ..	100	78	90	87

On page 12 will be found statistics of food prices in April and May 1923 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.



Retail prices of Articles of food in April and May 1923

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.					Karachi.					Ahmedabad.					Sholapur.					Poona.																					
		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 1923.		April 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.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.												
Cereals—																																											
Rice	Maund	7 6 3	6 9 7	8 0 0	7 0 3	8 8 2	7 2 10	6 11 9	8 0 0	7 1 9	8 14 3	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0					
Wheat	..	7 7 4	5 0 0	6 2 6	6 15 9	6 8 6	7 0 9	5 3 11	6 10 8	6 14 1	6 5 5	7 2 10	6 5 5	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0				
Jowari	..	4 12 6	3 10 2	3 15 2	3 7 9	4 3 4	4 12 6	3 11 2	3 10 10	3 10 11	4 1 4	7 2 10	6 5 5	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0			
Bajri	..	5 1 11	4 0 5	5 8 3	4 6 11	5 3 0	4 14 9	3 15 0	5 11 5	4 8 1	5 1 3	7 2 10	6 5 5	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0			
Pulses—																																											
Gram	..	6 11 9	4 3 10	5 2 7	4 5 2	4 13 7	6 2 8	4 1 3	5 9 10	4 5 0	4 5 0	7 2 10	6 5 5	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0			
Turdal	..	7 2 10	6 5 5	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	6 2 8	7 1 1	7 2 10	6 5 5	7 4 4	6 6 7	8 0 0	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0	4 5 0			
Other articles of food—																																											
Sugar (refined)	..	20 12 6	20 2 0	25 9 7	24 9 10	21 12 4	22 6 0	20 14 8	22 13 9	24 9 10	23 3 0	14 4 7	13 1 0	15 9 9	13 5 4	11 6 10	14 4 7	12 10 9	13 5 4	11 13 8	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5		
Jagri (guil)	..	14 4 7	13 1 0	15 9 9	13 5 4	11 6 10	14 4 7	12 10 9	13 5 4	11 13 8	10 8 5	14 4 7	13 1 0	15 9 9	13 5 4	11 6 10	14 4 7	12 10 9	13 5 4	11 13 8	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	10 8 5	
Tea	Lb.	0 12 0	0 12 5	0 15 7	0 12 5	0 12 0	0 13 3	0 10 5	0 15 7	0 12 5	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 12 0		
Salt	Maund	4 2 4	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 15 3	4 4 1	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 2 8	4 3 4	4 2 4	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 15 3	4 4 1	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 2 8	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4	4 3 4			
Beef	Seer	0 8 9	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 9 1	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	0 9 1	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0		
Mutton	..	0 14 11	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 14 11	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 11 0	0 14 11	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 5
Milk	Maund	17 9 4	8 14 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 14 7	17 9 4	8 3 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	14 8 9	17 9 4	8 14 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 14 7	17 9 4	8 3 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	14 8 9	14 8 9	14 8 9	17 9 4	8 14 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 14 7	17 9 4	8 3 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 14 7	17 9 4	8 3 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 14 7	17 9 4	8 3 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	
Ches	..	86 7 9	73 2 5	80 0 0	71 1 9	84 3 4	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	84 3 4	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	84 3 4	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	84 3 4	84 3 4	84 3 4	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	84 3 4	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	84 3 4	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	84 3 4	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	
Potatoes	..	7 2 3	3 10 10	5 2 7	6 10 8	4 0 2	7 2 3	4 7 7	5 0 0	14 3 7	4 10 10	7 2 3	3 10 10	5 2 7	6 10 8	4 0 2	7 2 3	4 7 7	5 0 0	14 3 7	4 10 10	4 10 10	7 2 3	3 10 10	5 2 7	6 10 8	4 0 2	7 2 3	4 7 7	5 0 0	14 3 7	4 10 10	4 10 10	7 2 3	3 10 10	5 2 7	6 10 8	4 0 2	7 2 3	4 7 7	5 0 0		
Onions	..	5 7 1	4 5 8	6 2 6	5 0 0	2 2 9	5 4 1	3 4 9	3 10 2	6 10 8	2 11 10	5 7 1	4 5 8	6 2 6	5 0 0	2 2 9	5 4 1	3 4 9	3 10 2	6 10 8	2 11 10	2 11 10	5 7 1	4 5 8	6 2 6	5 0 0	2 2 9	5 4 1	3 4 9	3 10 2	6 10 8	2 11 10	2 11 10	5 7 1	4 5 8	6 2 6	5 0 0	2 2 9	5 4 1				
Cocconut oil	..	28 9 1	26 2 0	32 0 0	26 10 8	28 1 1	28 9 1	28 1 1	32 0 0	27 5 7	28 1 1	28 9 1	26 2 0	32 0 0	26 10 8	28 1 1	28 9 1	28 1 1	32 0 0	27 5 7	28 1 1	28 1 1	28 9 1	26 2 0	32 0 0	26 10 8	28 1 1	28 9 1	28 1 1	32 0 0	27 5 7	28 1 1	28 9 1	28 1 1	32 0 0	27 5 7	28 1 1	28 9 1	28 1 1	32 0 0			

NOTE.—1 lb. = 39 tolas ; 1 maund = 82½ lbs. ; 1 seer = 2½ lbs. ; 80 tolas = 1 seer ; 40 seers = 1 Indian maund.

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

Articles	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona	Bombay	Karachi	Ahmedabad	Sholapur	Poona
Cereals—										
Rice	132	99	130	133	148	128	101	130	134	154
Wheat	133	119	131	135	121	126	125	142	133	118
Jowari	110	100	104	121	123	110	102	97	128	119
Bajri	119	96	117	126	126	114	94	121	128	124
Average—cereals	124	104	121	129	130	120	106	123	131	129
Pulses—										
Gram	157	111	129	101	100	143	107	140	100	89
Turdal	123	95	118	110	121	117	86	108	106	116
Average—pulses	140	103	124	106	111	130	97	124	103	103
Other articles of food—										
Sugar (refined)	273	277	284	246	233	294	288	254	246	247
Jagri (guil)	167	188	176	172	163	167	182	150	153	150
Tea	154	180	200	120	146	170	150	200	187	224
Salt	195	234	221	223	226	199	234	201	187	141
Beef	169	180	100	240	141	176	180	100	100	145
Mutton	224	167	200	167	190	231	167	200	200	167
Milk	191	200	200	185	139	191	185	200	183	163
Ches	170	171	180	127	163	170	170	200	121	139
Potatoes	159	68	136	167	119	119	83	131	356	137
Onions	351	239	308	200	108	339	181	182	267	100
Cocconut oil	113	106	160	100	100	113	114	160	103	103
Average—other articles of food	197	183	197	177	157	201	176	182	195	161
Average—all food articles (unweighted)	173	155	170	157	145	173	150	161	169	147



THE "PROSPERITY" OF GERMANY

RECENT OFFICIAL STATISTICS

The German Statistical Office has published an interesting collection of statistics which exhibit the after-effects of the War on Germany.* Wages have not kept pace with the rise in prices and this explains the lower level of consumption. For a day's income the middle class official received in 1913 (the pre-war year) and 1922 as follows:—

	1913	Dec. 1922
	Kilos.	Kilos.
Rye bread (in open market)	43.6	6.9
or Potatoes	152.8	156.0
Pork	7.9	1.7
Beef	7.0	3.0
Pig's lard	8.9	.96
Sugar	27.2	10.4
Eg		

middle of 1914 the circulation (which consisted of coin and notes) was in the aggregate nearly 6 milliards of marks. At the end of December 1922 the sum total of paper-money issued alone amounted to over 1,295 milliards of marks. In comparison with this sum, the further amounts that were also in circulation in coin of small denominations and the so-called emergency money were negligible quantities. Gold and silver coins had under Gresham's law disappeared from circulation entirely.

ASIAN PRICE LEVELS

JAVA AND SHANGHAI

The Labour Office has received from the new Labour Office, Batavia, Java, recent information on the movement of prices. The data were prepared in the Statistical Office of the Department of Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce and show that in March 1923 the wholesale index number for Batavia was 74 per cent. above the prewar level. In the period February to March 1923 wholesale prices showed an upward tendency, especially in food-stuffs. The level in Bombay was 77 per cent. above the prewar level. The detailed figures for Batavia are as follows:—

Average 1913 = 100

	Feb. 1923	March 1923
Food-stuffs ..	167	171
Textiles ..	168	168
General average ..	172	174

A return has also been received from the Treasury Department's Bureau of Markets, Shanghai. Wholesale prices seem to be 49 per cent. above the level of 1913. In the table below the wholesale index number in February and March 1923 is set out.

100 = Feb. 1913

	Feb. 1923	March 1923
Cereals ..	151	146
Other food products ..	144	147
Textiles ..	152	148
Metals ..	151	161
Miscellaneous ..	147	148
General average ..	149	150

A statement of retail prices in Batavia, Java, shows that Java rice prices were in March 1923 much lower than in December 1921, but slightly higher than in December 1922. Australian flour prices have fallen very considerably

since December 1920. Bread is, therefore, cheaper, milk, eggs, and butter (Australian) are also cheaper as compared with the level of December 1920.

WAGES IN POONA

A handbook showing the list of trades with minimum, maximum and special rates paid in the Ammunition Factory, Kirkee, and dated 26th April has been received in the Labour Office. The minimum rates vary from 6 annas a day paid to Bundlers to Rs. 3 paid to Engineers. Certain classes of workers are paid monthly and their rates vary from Rs. 10 paid to Sweeper boys to Rs. 75 paid to supervising mechanics. Special rates depend upon the skill of each class of worker and vary from Re. 1-4-0 to men working in the laboratory section to Rs. 5 to Engineers. The minimum is the ordinary or initial rate and the maximum rate is the rate which can be obtained by men of average efficiency after a prescribed period of service, and the special rate is given to men showing special skill and efficiency. The rates are provisional and subject to reconsideration according as the cost of living rises or falls. Increments ordinarily become due as follows:—

- (i) Annual increments of 6 pies up to 8 annas.
- (ii) Biennial increments of 1 anna from 8 as. to 14 as.
- (iii) Biennial increments of 2 as. from 14 as. to Re. 1-8-0.
- (iv) Biennial increments of 4 as. from Re. 1-8-0 to Rs. 5.

Below are given one or two of the most important rates:—

Occupations.	Daily Rates.		
	Minimum.	Maximum.	Special.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Carpenters ..	0 12 0	2 0 0	2 8 0
Fitters ..	1 4 0	2 8 0	3 8 0
Labourers (Men) ..	0 10 0	0 14 0	..
.. (Boys under 15) ..	0 6 0	0 10 0	..
.. (Boys over 15) ..	0 7 0	0 10 0	..
Machinemmen ..	0 10 0	0 14 0	..
Moulders ..	1 0 0	2 8 0	3 0 0
Smiths ..	1 0 0	2 0 0	2 8 0
Tin Mistry ..	1 12 0	2 8 0	..

The rates above are for a working day of 8 hours. The minimum for supervising mechanics is Rs. 75 per mensem, the maximum Rs. 100 per mensem and the special rate Rs. 150 per mensem. Draughtsmen draw a minimum of Rs. 65 per mensem, a maximum of Rs. 100 per mensem and Rs. 150 as a special rate per mensem. Apprentices draw a minimum of Rs. 50 per mensem and a maximum of Rs. 90 per mensem. Watchmen draw a minimum of Rs. 25, a maximum of Rs. 27 and Rs. 30 as a special rate per mensem.

WAGES IN MADRAS

RESULTS OF THE ENQUIRY

The Report on the Wage Census of Madras taken in 1921 by Mr. G. F. Paddison, C.S.I., Commissioner of Labour, has been received in the Labour Office. The statistics are more comprehensive than in the previous censuses. The number of towns, for example, covered by the 1921 census is 82 as compared with 11 at the last census held in 1916. Previous to 1921 towns which were centres of industry only were selected, but in the 1921 census towns which were also centres of trade and seats of administration were included. The classification of labourers in the censuses of 1908, 1911 and 1916 was very simple—unskilled labourers; but in the census of 1921 these were classified as 'ploughmen', 'sowers and transplanters', 'weeders', 'reapers and harvesters', and 'other agricultural labourers' which includes the permanent farm servants known as 'pannaiyals' or 'padaiyals'—a class generally employed in the southern districts of the Presidency. These pannaiyals or padaiyals are engaged by the year and often serve the same employer for a lifetime. The classification has been amplified as suggested by the Government of India in their letter No. 673 dated 12th May 1919. It is doubtful whether so many occupations in agricultural labour should be shown as, a ploughman is also a reaper and harvester at another time of the year. In Bombay since 1901 monthly cash wages have been collected monthly for each taluka. In the Madras census the principle was adopted of selecting in consultation with the Collectors of each district one month in 1921. August was the month most usually selected. September was selected for four

districts, and July, October, and November for one district each. It is doubtful whether such a system is suitable when all classes of agricultural labour have to be taken into account. Monthly figures, if carefully checked and compared one district with another at headquarters, are preferable.

WAGES BY ECONOMIC CIRCLES

There are a few important changes in the 1921 Report as compared with its predecessors that deserve attention. Mr. Paddison has shown the rates for female labour separately. Women are in nearly every case, although not invariably, paid less than men. Economic circles have, as in the Government of India Prices Enquiry Committee's Report, been selected for the first time instead of by districts. In selecting the tracts the principles followed by the Labour Commissioner have been those of the Settlement department, red soil tracts being separated from black, deltas from uplands, and remote areas from more populous centres. Would it not be preferable in future to classify by Economic circles and at the same time to retain the district figures? By a certain amount of skill in drawing up the form this may be feasible. Madras Presidency divides itself conveniently into five Economic circles—Madras (port); Madras—North-East; Madras North or the Ceded Districts; Madras South; and Madras West (Appendix A, p. 197, Prices Enquiry Report, Vol. I). The result will be that the averages for Economic circles or homogeneous areas will readily be available side by side with districts, and it is district figures that are frequently required. Moreover population and similar figures are usually published by districts.

GRAIN RATES

Another very useful and important point is that Mr. Paddison has given side by side with cash daily rates cash grain rates. These grain rates of wages are dying out in some parts of India, e.g., in parts of the Bombay Presidency, and in Madras these are being displaced by cash rates more slowly than in many other parts of India. The Commissioner of Labour suggests that the commutation of grain wages and supplements may be scrutinised by the Collectors concerned before the figures are



sent in future to his office. A similar proposal made by the Board of Revenue in 1916 did not commend itself to the Government. The Government of Madras have decided that wherever the information furnished is defective the Collector may be called upon to supply it. The Government, however, are of opinion that the Collector will not be in a position to exercise a more satisfactory check over these details than the Labour Commissioner. It would be useful had the actual wages paid in grain be given. In this connexion the Reports of Mr. A. Wilson Fox, C.B., on English wages may be mentioned. Mr. Wilson Fox's paper on "Agricultural Wages in England and Wales during the last fifty years" read before the Royal Statistical Society in 1903 is almost the best available.

CONCLUSIONS

No useful comparison of the statistics of the present census can be made with those of the previous census as the district has not been taken as the unit. Moreover the classification of labourers and the selection of villages are not the same in the two censuses. In urban wages the towns have, as already noted, been greatly increased. It is, however, clear that since 1916 wages of artisans—village blacksmiths and carpenters—have risen. In debbar tracts, in the centres of industry, and near full stations wages are highest. One is a little surprised to see the large variations in the figures between municipality and municipality. The wages for a boy (groom) per mensem in Coimbatore are given at Rs. 22-8-0 per mensem, Rs. 8 in Vellore and Rs. 9 in Vizagapatnam. The figure for Coimbatore is very high. Even in Madras the wage is only Rs. 17-8-4. But as everyone knows these statistics sometimes defy the most patient investigator. The daily rates in Madras city are stated to be Rs. 1-3-0 for a carpenter; Rs. 1-2-0 for a blacksmith; and Rs. 1-2-0 for a mason; for ordinary labourers (coolies) Rs. 0-8-6 for men, Rs. 0-4-3 for women and Rs. 0-3-9 for boys—rates which when compared with some other parts do not appear to be high. In Madras, however, the supply of such labourers is not scanty.

HOUSING AND WAGES

It is correct to say that next to food, and more even than clothing, houses are chief among the material needs of man. In Great Britain as in Bombay thousands of men, women and children are compelled to live under housing conditions so inadequate and so congested that the necessities, as well as the comforts, of life are denied them. Even those higher up the social scale suffer, although not to the same degree, from the physical and moral viewpoint. They have to live from the exigencies of their trade or profession in houses of a particular type, and they constantly have no choice, but to live in dwellings, the rent, rates and taxes of which are beyond their means. In Great Britain, the question is complicated, as here, by the question of costs of constructing new houses. The share of labour in the materials, site, and building of a house is about 75 per cent. of the whole cost, which in London is estimated to be from 80 to 85 per cent. above what it was before the war.

The recently published 1921 Census Report for the County of London has a series of arresting tables which provoke comparison with Bombay. There were in the County of London 4,464,523 persons at the last Census of whom 4,243,838 were grouped in 1,120,897 private families giving 3.79 persons per family as compared with 4.15 in 1911. Since the 1911 Census there have been two notable features (1) the percentage of those living in one room has remained constant—six per cent as compared with sixty-six per cent. in the city of Bombay; (2) the percentage of those living in London in tenements of six rooms and over has greatly decreased, while the number living in 3 and 4 roomed tenements has greatly increased. The following figures show this clearly:—

County of London.

Class of tenement.	Percentage of occupants of each class to total occupants.	1911	1921
1 room	6	6	6
2 rooms	15	18	18
3 "	20	24	24
4 "	17	21	21
5 "	11	12	12
6 and over	25	19	19



Thus almost one-fourth of the total population lived in 3 roomed tenements.

COMPARISON WITH BOMBAY

The following table shows at the last Census, i.e., for 1921 the percentage of occupants of each class to total occupants and the average number of persons per room in Bombay and London:—

Class of tenement.	Percentage of occupants of each class to total occupants.		Average number of persons per room.	
	Bombay.	London.	Bombay.	London.
1 room	56	6	4.00	1.78
2 rooms	14	18	2.11	1.56
3 "	8	24	1.60	1.40
4 "	5	21	1.36	1.11
5 "	4	12	1.06	.96
6 and over	5	19	"	"
	100	100	"	"

As one's eyes goes down these columns the large percentage of people living in one roomed tenements in Bombay and the large number of persons per room are very noticeable as are the large percentages in 3 and 4 rooms in London.

LABOUR LEGISLATION IN CANADA, 1922*

LABOUR OFFICES

During the year 1922 a notable piece of legislation passed by the legislature of Alberta was the Bureau of Labour Act. Section 5 of the Act reads as follows:—

- "5. The Commissioner of Labour—
- (a) shall perform or superintend the performance of such work relating to the collection, assortment, systemization and publication of information and statistics respecting labour as may be directed by the minister;
 - (b) shall have the administration of such Acts as may be assigned to the Bureau by Order in Council; and
 - (c) shall discharge such other duties as may be from time to time delegated to him by the minister."

A Bureau of Labour attached to the Public Works Department was established in Manitoba by an Act of 1915. The Act was amended

*Labour Legislation in Canada for the Calendar year 1922 (Published by the Department of Labour).

in 1922 by a provision that the Bureau may be transferred to another Department. In the same Province an Act respecting the welfare of children consolidates the existing laws of the province relating to children and further provides for the establishment of a Department of Public Welfare with a children's branch attached thereto. At the head of the Department is a Director assisted by a medical officer and a board of selection composed of five or seven members. Special provision is made for neglected, dependent, delinquent and defective children, for the children of unmarried parents, and for immigrant children. A Bureau of Child Protection was also established in Saskatchewan.

A MINIMUM WAGE

A Minimum Wage Act was enacted in Alberta during the year. According to Section 2 (c) of the Act "employee" means a female worker employed in any trade or occupation who works for wages, except domestic servants in private houses. The Act provides for a Minimum Wage Board of three members including a representative each of the employers and employees. This Board enquires into the conditions prevailing in any class of employment and the scale of wages payable therefor. The following sections are of interest:—

6. "The Board may at any time direct a conference between representatives of employers and employees in any class of employment, for the purposes of reaching an agreement as to the minimum wage, and any matter referred to in section 10 herein, which ought to be paid in that class of employment.

(2) Every such conference shall consist of an equal number of representatives of employers and employees approved of by the board and of the chairman of the board sitting as chairman of the conference.

(3) Such number shall be fixed by the board.

(4) The chairman shall not vote.

8. The board may at any time by order, whether a conference has been held under the provisions of this Act or not, establish a minimum wage for employees with regard to any trade or occupation, and with regard to any municipality to which this Act applies or any number of such municipalities.

(2) A minimum wage may be established separately for employees classified as handicapped or part-time employees or as apprentices.



10. The Board, with the approval of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, may fix periods of employment and shifts for different classes of employees, and in so doing shall determine the time or times to be allowed for meals.

(2) Whenever any periods of employment or shifts are determined by the board under the provisions of this Act, such determination shall supersede the provisions of the Factories Act, being chapter 20 of the Statutes of Alberta, 1917, with regard to shifts, and of any orders made thereunder.

11. Every employer, who after the publication of any order as hereinbefore provided for, disobeys the same, shall upon summary conviction incur a penalty not exceeding five hundred dollars and not less than twenty-five dollars, and shall also upon conviction be ordered to pay any such employee the difference between the wages actually received by her and the minimum wage established by the board.

(2) In default of his making payment of any penalty or any sum ordered to be paid to an employee, the employer shall be imprisoned for a period not exceeding six months and not less than two months.

12. The Board may at any time authorize any person to enter upon any premises whereon any employee is employed and to question any employee apart from her employer with the object of ascertaining whether any order made under this Act is being carried out.

(2) Any employer preventing or attempting to prevent the carrying out of the provisions of this section shall be liable to the same penalty as if he had disobeyed an order of the board.

13. Every agreement by an employee to work for less than the minimum wage fixed by the board with respect to the trade or occupation in which she is engaged shall have effect as if that minimum wage were stipulated for therein."

WEEKLY REST DAY

Several measures were passed affecting the hours of work, rest days, payment of wages, etc. Thus in Ontario "The One Day's Rest in Seven Act, 1922" enacts as follows:—

2. "Except as hereinafter mentioned, every employer of labour, whether a person, partnership or corporation engaged in carrying on any hotel business, restaurant or cafe, shall allow every person, employed in any such hotel business, restaurant or cafe at least twenty-four consecutive hours of rest in every seven days, and wherever possible, the said twenty-four consecutive hours shall be on a Sunday."

3. "Section 2 shall not apply to:—

(a) Watchmen, janitors, superintendents, or foremen;

(b) Any class of employees in any other capacity in any such hotel business, restaurant or cafe where there are not more than two employees of such class;

(c) Employees who are not employed for more than five hours in any one day; but nothing in this Act shall authorise any work on Sundays now prohibited by law.

4. (1) Every employer who is guilty of a contravention of this Act shall incur a penalty not exceeding \$100."

FAMILY BUDGETS

CRITICISMS ON THE REPORT

It is desirable, in view of the criticisms which have been made on the "Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay" to summarise very briefly the points raised in such critiques. In the first place, it has been pointed out that, as the workers are illiterate and do not keep accounts, it is very difficult to obtain reliable information. It is also pointed out that the families studied cover only a part of the whole field. For ensuring the accuracy of the data, the Labour Office spared no pains to check every fact as explained in paragraph 9 and the preceding paragraphs of the Report. The workers do know how much of each article they consume in local measures and are able to discuss with the trained Investigators who elicit this information in a friendly way. Indian men and women with good education and acquainted with child welfare work in factory areas visited the *chavls* or homes of the workers not once but many times. The budgets collected by each Investigator were carefully checked with one another and with the budgets collected by other Investigators for the same occupation and the same income. It was not possible to cover the whole field and a reference to table XX of the Report will show that the Bombay Enquiry was based on a larger number of budgets than any other enquiry for any single city at one particular period. The method of studying social phenomena by the process of careful sampling is recognised by statisticians as a most useful and accurate method of collecting such data.

It was stated by one critic that if credit purchases enhance prices by 75 to 150 per cent. the cost of living index based on cash purchases alone will not represent the actual state of things. Nowhere in the Report is it stated that



interest ranging from 75 to 150 per cent. is charged on credit purchases. The remarks on page 33 of the Report apply only to money borrowed by the workers.

It has been suggested that the classification of the budgets by caste and district and the insertion of tables showing the value in calories of diets would increase the value of such enquiries. This was purposely postponed in the present Enquiry, because of (1) the short period of time within which it was desirable to publish the Report, (2) the limited staff at the disposal of the Labour Office, and (3) the volume of work involved. In future enquiries it will be possible to give effect to these suggestions as it is proposed to make use of mechanical appliances in the sorting and tabulation of the statistics and this will lighten the task. It will also be possible in future enquiries to study a few families on the intensive system, e.g., by comparing the expenditure month by month over a period of about a year in the case of a few specially selected families which are typical of a large number of other similar families in the field of choice.

A valued correspondent in England writes as follows:—

"Seeing that the essential is a home, and that durable furniture is a necessary part of a home, and also an early step on the road to higher standards, would it not be well to handle the topic more specifically in future reports, if only to refer to 'snakes in Ireland'! In Northern India, he points out, it is not merely the number of brass pots in the family that counts but the weight of the metal. He suggests the feasibility of showing the weight of brass per family as a useful index to material condition. In Northern India people conceal jewellery, but boast of cooking pots, and exaggeration would be a danger. At any rate he suggests some sort of record of visible possessions would be useful as the start of a series, if the facts can be got, in this "day of the chattel". This correspondent (Mr. W. H. Moreland, C.S.I., C.I.E.,) also asks how far is indebtedness rendered inevitable by the system of remuneration. "As I understand" he writes "the new hand comes because he is hard up actually and not merely prospectively. If so, he must borrow to live till pay-day. I have read somewhere that some mill-managers

stick to the old Indian plan of keeping wages in arrears in order to hold the worker". He asks whether the new hand coming with nothing in his pocket, has to borrow 1½ or 2 months' keep to start, and whether this debt gets paid off quickly. In other words he suggests that it would be interesting in future Reports to explain whether or not the system of payment drives new hands into debt.

WORKING CLASS EXPENDITURE

THE CONSUMPTION OF SALT

The consumption of salt according to working class budgets in Bombay is 12 lbs. per head per annum, the average of men, women and children. The detailed figures will be found in paragraph 28 of the Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay. The figure for Bombay jail diets is 11.4 lbs. The average annual consumption per head of a family of four in each income group is as follows according to working class budgets:—

Limits of monthly family income.	Annual consumption of salt per head	
	in lbs.	in grams.
Below Rs. 30	10.5	4762.70
Rs. 30 and below Rs. 40	11.1	5034.85
Rs. 40 and below Rs. 50	11.4	5170.93
Rs. 50 and below Rs. 60	13.2	5987.39
Rs. 60 and below Rs. 70	13.2	5987.39
Rs. 70 and below Rs. 80	13.8	6259.54
Rs. 80 and below Rs. 90	13.8	6259.54
All incomes	12.0	5443.08

These figures are of interest because of the recent statement quoted in the Council of State on the 23rd of March 1923 from *Mulhall's Dictionary of Statistics*. The statement was made that whenever the consumption of salt falls below 20 lbs. per inhabitant it is bad for public health. This statement has been carefully examined and found to be incorrect. The Principal Medical and Health Officer, G. I. P. Railway (Dr. J. Cairns, M.D.) who has given considerable attention to Indian diets has written as follows:—

"Salt is a component part of a large number of ordinary foodstuffs and although it is present in the

natural way in individual articles of food in small quantities, the total amount of salt consumed in an ordinary mixed diet is regarded by eminent medical authorities as being sufficient for the body, so that the addition of salt to the food before and after cooking is not really essential from the physiological point of view. Also physiologists have never been able to determine what proportion of mineral matters such as salt, consumed by us, is actually made use of by the body, for it is impossible to distinguish the mineral substances excreted by the intestines.

It is estimated that among those who eat mixed diets 20 grams of table salt per head per day (16 lbs. per annum) is used. There is no doubt that this itself is much in excess of what is necessary. Moreover, the factor of waste has to be considered, especially in the case of Europeans. It is their habit to season each mouthful of food from a little pile of salt at the side of the plate and as often as not, a good percentage of the salt taken on to the plate remains unused and is wasted. The consumption of 5 grams of salt per head per day (4 lbs. per head per year) has been found to be more than sufficient for robust health on a mixed diet.

Further, the diet of the Indian labouring classes is badly balanced and is very largely derived from grains, etc., and very little of it is obtained from animal sources. Vegetable-foods have much less flavour than animal foods and require more condiments to make them attractive, and so the vegetarian has a craving for salt, curry and other condiments. This militates against his general health and wellbeing. Hence the Indian labourer has little reserve of resistance to diseases and among his class there is a widespread tendency to maladies which present some of the features of scurvy. The only cure is a restraint of the craving for salt and condiments and spices (because an excessive use of these only aggravates the maladies) and the rectification of the diet under better economic conditions as the ill-balanced diet of the labourer is adopted from necessity and not from choice."

CONSUMPTION OF LIQUOR

The results based on 2,473 working class budgets collected by the Labour Office in Bombay City and Island show that the percentage of families spending on liquor is 71.6, the average monthly expenditure for all families being Rs. 1-15-9 and for families spending on this account Rs. 2-12-4. The single men's budgets—603 in number—show that the percentage of single men spending on liquor is 91.1 and the average monthly expenditure for all single men is Rs. 3-1-7 and for single men spending on this account Rs. 3-6-5. The

cost per bottle of 8 drams of country liquor is Rs. 2-8-0. From this an idea may be obtained as to the quantity of liquor consumed by the average workman. These figures are however put forward with the greatest reserve as the worker is both unwilling and unable to give information on this head. It is also probable that the picketing of liquor shops during the period when the budgets were collected has resulted in an under-estimation of the amount spent on drink.

The following figures of *per capita* consumption in drams of country spirit during 1921-1922 in the chief industrial centres of the Presidency are of interest:—Bombay City and Island 30.0, Karachi 11.3, Ahmedabad 11.0 and Sholapur 5.4. The small consumption of alcohol in the Bombay Presidency when compared with other countries is remarkable. The consumption of spirit alone in the United Kingdom in 1909 was 0.87 gallon per head per annum as against 0.33 gallon in the Bombay Presidency, where the liquor consumed is not half so strong as that in the United Kingdom. The *per capita* consumption of proof spirit in the Bombay Presidency in 1920-1921 was only 11/13th of a gallon as against 9.59 gallons in France, 6.53 in Italy and 3.42 in the United Kingdom in 1909. In arriving at the above figures country liquor and toddy are reduced to proof spirit with due regard to their strength. The figures for European countries do not refer to the same year as the Bombay figure but it is unlikely that there has been any very striking change in recent years. As compared with sixty years ago, the *per capita* consumption has decreased by about 50 per cent. in the Presidency. The *per capita* consumption of country liquor was 14 drams in 1867-68 and 7.6 in 1920-1921 according to official figures supplied by the Commissioner of Excise.

Short Time in the Bombay Mills

The question of short-time in the mills in Bombay city and island was discussed by the Bombay Millowners' Association on the 11th. It was decided to postpone the question until next month.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

Disputes in May .. 10

On page 49 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during May 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 May 1923.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in May 1923.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in May 1923.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in May 1923.*
	Started before 1st May.	Started in May.	Total.		
Textile ..	2	1	3	43,853	1,167,591
Engineering ..	..	..	..	....	....
Miscellaneous ..	3	4	7	881	2,179
Total, 1923 May ..	5	5	10	44,734	1,169,770
Total, 1923 April ..	1	13	14	50,507	1,111,103

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

There were 10 industrial disputes in May 1923, 3 of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 45,000, and the working days lost (*i.e.*, the number of workpeople multiplied by the

H 234-6

Workpeople involved .. 44,734

number of working days less workers replaced) 1,169,770 which is a slight increase on the April 1923 statistics.

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 January to May 1923

	January 1923.	February 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.	May 1923.
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	6	22	9	14	10
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	1	2	1	1	5
Fresh disputes begun ..	5	20	8	13	5
Disputes ended ..	4	22	9	9	9
Disputes in progress at end ..	2	..	..	5	1
Number of workpeople involved ..	3,288	11,789	3,167	50,507	44,734
Aggregate duration in working days ..	14,908	68,590	37,298	1,111,103	1,169,770
Demands—					
Pay ..	3	13	3	7	3
Bonus ..	1	2	..	..	2
Personal ..	..	5	4	1	2
Leave and hours ..	..	..	1	..	..
Others ..	2	2	1	6	3
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	1	7	6	1	..
Compromised ..	..	1	1	2	..
In favour of employers ..	3	14	2	6	9

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



III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled			In progress. (Per cent.)
			In favour of employers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employees. (Per cent.)	Compromised. (Per cent.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April 1921 ..	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
May 1921 ..	11	227,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921 ..	10	79,804	70	10	..	20
July 1921 ..	10	12,268	60	10	10	20
August 1921 ..	14	192,001	36	36	7	21
September 1921.	21	256,498	80	10	..	10
October 1921 ..	15	231,896	27	13	27	33
November 1921.	31	62,009	29	42	19	10
December 1921.	9	26,321	78	11	11	..
January 1922 ..	17	33,389	65	18	..	17
February 1922.	12	32,067	67	8	17	8
March 1922 ..	8	300,829	75	..	25	..
April 1922 ..	15	18,352	54	13	20	13
May 1922 ..	15	54,930	80	..	7	13
June 1922 ..	10	4,250	70	20	10	..
July 1922 ..	14	58,809	93	..	..	7
August 1922 ..	13	87,927	62	15	8	15
September 1922.	7	20,709	71	..	..	29
October 1922 ..	24	62,372	29	25	13	33
November 1922.	21	60,287	67	14	10	9
December 1922.	10	22,806	80	..	10	10
January 1923 ..	6	14,908	50	17	..	33
February 1923 ..	22	68,590	64	32	4	..
March 1923 ..	9	37,298	22	67	11	..
April 1923 ..	14	1,111,193	40	7	13	40
May 1923 ..	10	1,169,770	90	..	..	10
Total or (cols. 4 to 7) Average	354	4,430,778	58	15	10	17

A General Review of Disputes

During May 1923 there were 10 industrial disputes in the Bombay Presidency, three of

which were in the cotton mill industry. Three of these were on account of the question of pay and all three disputes were settled in favour of the employers. The number of disputes decreased from 14 in April to 10 during May.

BOMBAY

There were seven disputes in Bombay during the month. The decision of the management of the Simplex Mills, Byculla, to discontinue the night shift with effect from 1st of May caused 700 night shift operatives to go on a strike from 28th April. The strikers maintained that as the discontinuance of the double shift was not at their instance they should get a *pro rata* bonus for the period up to the end of June of this year. The management did not grant this demand and the strikers were paid off and discharged. A reference to this strike was made in the last issue of the *Labour Gazette*. In the Sirdar Carbonic Gas Company, Connaught Road, 115 workers struck work over the question of the payment of the annual bonus. They presented an application for the immediate payment of the yearly bonus or for an announcement of a definite date for payment and struck work pending a reply. The management did not agree to this demand but commenced paying off and discharging some of the strikers. The remaining strikers resumed work unconditionally. About 158 coolies employed by the Western India Turf Club at the Mahaluxmi Race Course struck work for an increase in the rates of wages. No increase was granted but shortly afterwards some of the strikers were discharged and new men were engaged in their places. The rest resumed work unconditionally. There were also two strikes in Bombay on personal grounds. Forty women winders in the Mathuradas Mill demanded the reinstatement of the head-winder and struck work on the refusal of the management to do this. All the strikers were paid off on the following day, new hands being engaged in their places. Similarly, about 108 boiler-makers in Alcock Ashdown and Company struck work on the 11th May as a protest against the dismissal of two workers for bad work. The management remained firm, and the strikers ultimately resumed work unconditionally. There was also a strike of 56



firemen in the Loco-Running Shed of the B. B. and C. I. Railway Company, Bandra, on 23rd May 1923 against the reduction of the number of firemen on shunting engines from 2 to 1. The strikers asked for the restoration of the original number. The authorities did not grant their request and ultimately dismissed a few of the strikers. Others were permitted to resume work unconditionally and the rest were allowed to resign. Another strike was also reported from the B. B. and C. I. Railway Goods Shed, Carnac Bunder, among daily paid coolies. This strike ended by the strikers being replaced by new hands.

AHMEDABAD

During the month under review the large protracted strike in 56 cotton mills in Ahmedabad continued. The progress of this strike is reviewed in detail in the next article. On 4th June a compromise was arrived at between the Millowners' Association and the Labour Union. The terms of the compromise were to the effect that (1) wages should be reduced by 15½ per cent. instead of by 20 per cent.; and (2) the question of the interpretation of the last bonus award should be referred to arbitration. The President of the Millowners' Association has also given an assurance that wages will not be again reduced for at least six months from the date of the compromise. This is the largest strike which the Bombay Presidency has experienced for over two years.

OTHER CENTRES

Mention was made in the May issue of the *Labour Gazette* of the strike which commenced on 30th April in the Sind Flour Mills at Karachi. This strike was still in progress at the beginning of the month under review. The strike affected 100 workers and continued for more than a week in the present month and ended in the strikers being replaced by new men. There was also a small strike in the Sixth Detachment, Survey of India, Mirpurkhas, Sind, where 19 workers struck work asking for the Sind allowance. This was not granted and the strikers were replaced by new men.

THE AHMEDABAD STRIKE

A SETTLEMENT ARRIVED AT

An agreement in the strike in 56 out of a total of 61 cotton mills in Ahmedabad was reached on 4th June. The strike began on 1st April and may thus be said to have lasted 65 days. On 5th instant 3 mills were working and on 6th 16 mills. By the 8th June 50 mills were working with much depleted staffs, but from this date onwards the remaining strikers returned to the mills in large numbers.

The District and Sessions Judge of Ahmedabad has been jointly appointed an umpire by the Labour Union and the Millowners' Association in regard to the question of the interpretation of the last Bonus award. His decision on this question is expected in a few days.

The previous history of this strike was reviewed on page 19 of the April issue and on page 23 of the May issue of the *Labour Gazette*. As may be expected after such a severe setback, it took some time before conditions in Ahmedabad completely returned to normal. Sufficient time had also to be allowed for the return from their villages of those workers who left Ahmedabad on the outbreak of the strike. Reference was made in the May issue of the *Labour Gazette* to the unsuccessful attempt made by Principal A. B. Dhruva to arrive at a settlement in consultation with both parties to the dispute, and to his recommendation addressed to Miss Anusuya Sarabhai that the strikers should be advised to return to work and withdraw all other demands except (1) the interpretation of the bonus award and (2) the settlement of the wage reduction question by arbitration.

The settlement was arrived at after negotiations on the part of Principal Dhruva and Seth Kasturbhai Lalbhai on the one hand and the President of the Millowners' Association on the other. The terms of the agreement were to the effect that (1) a reduction of 2½ annas in the rupee (15½ per cent.) should be made; and (2) the question of the interpretation of the last bonus award should be referred to an umpire. At a meeting of the Millowners' Association held on the same day the following resolution was passed unanimously.



THE RESOLUTION

"In view of the prolonged strike and the consequent suffering and loss to the operatives, the textile industry and the general public, this Association reconsiders its resolution of the 10th March 1923 regarding the reduction of one-fifth of the wages of the operatives and resolves (1) that the operatives of all departments of all the mills should resume work to-morrow the 5th June 1923 and the reduction should be Rs. 0-2-6 in a rupee from their total earnings instead of the reduction (of 20 per cent.) mentioned in the resolution of the 10th March 1923 and (2) that as agreed to by this Association the dispute about the bonus award be referred to an umpire to be selected and approved by this Association and the Labour Union."

At this meeting the President of the Association, Mr. Mangaldas G. Parekh, M.L.C., referred briefly to the negotiations in which he had taken part both before and after the strike had taken place, and also to the fact that this agreement had been arrived at without any reference to an arbitrator. He also stated that he had given the representatives of the Labour Union to understand that there would be no further reduction in wages within the next six months, but after this the Millowners would be free to reconsider this question if necessary. In connexion with the question of the interpretation of the last bonus award the President stated that in view of his disagreement with Principal Dhruva, it would be necessary to appoint a "Sir Punch" (an umpire) in consultation with the Labour Union to consider this question.

THE RESUMPTION OF WORK

On 29th May there were signs of some mills re-opening. Two mills, viz., the Gomtipur Spinning Mills and the Ahmedabad Industrial Mills re-opened on 29th May. At the first mill about 30 operatives resumed work on the reduced wages but at the mid-day recess hour they were persuaded not to return. They, therefore, did not return to the mill. At the second mill about 60 operatives resumed work, and continued working until 3rd June when the mill did not open as insufficient operatives were available. On 30th May the Bharatkhand

Textile Mill commenced work with about 10 operatives and on 31st May 40 more spinners in the same mill resumed work on the reduced wages of 20 per cent. On the following day, however, only 20 operatives went to this mill the remainder being exhorted by the Labour Union to refrain from working as, owing to the intervention of Prof. Dhruva, a settlement was expected in a few days. This mill, however, continued working with a greatly reduced staff. On 5th June the Himabhai Spinning and Weaving Mill also commenced working with a few operatives who agreed to work on the terms arrived at on the previous day. By the 6th June, the 67th day after the strike, 16 mills were reported to be partially working excluding the 5 mills which did not close at all on account of the strike. Large numbers of workers went to the gates of the mills but they did not enter the mills. The Labour Union then issued leaflets and addressed several meetings of the operatives urging them to resume work on the terms arrived at by the Union's spokesmen on the 4th June. By June 7th a total of 47 mills were partially working. The Mahomedan weavers were still holding out, and many other operatives were reluctant to rejoin their mills as they were afraid of the weavers. On 8th June the Mahomedan weavers began to resume work and after this the remaining millhands were returning from their villages.

THE UNION'S VIEW

At a meeting of the strikers held on 6th June Mr. S. G. Banker stated that although the terms of settlement were unsatisfactory the Labour Union was obliged to accept them as the market was in a very depressed state. He requested the strikers to resume work and said that the question of the reduction could be reconsidered when circumstances were more favourable.

THE EFFECT OF THE STRIKE

The strike affected a total of no less than 48,000 operatives in Ahmedabad and the number of working days lost was approximately 2½ millions. In regard to the loss in production and wages as a result of the strike, the following data are of interest:—



Total number of spindles in Ahmedabad	1,086,000
Total number of looms in Ahmedabad	23,000
Average daily number of operatives employed—	
(a) Men	39,300
(b) Women	8,200
(c) Children	7,100
Stoppage of work owing to strike—	
(a) Spindles	967,000
(b) Looms	20,700
(c) Operatives	43,113
Loss of wages to operatives	Rs. 28 lakhs(1)
Loss of production—	
(a) Yarn	lbs. 6,900,000(2)
(b) Woven goods	6,860,000(2)

Disputes in Madras

On 4th April 1923 and 4th May 1923 two disputes, according to the Labour Commissioner, Madras, took place in the Ar. Ar. S. M. Spinning Mill, Madras, on account of a wage reduction among women piece workers. The first strike affected 70 women workers of the reeling department of this mill. The strikers resumed work on 6th April. It was not clear, however, under what conditions they resumed work since the management said that the strikers agreed to accept 5 pies in place of 6 pies per doff, while the strikers held that they resumed work on the reduced rate as the management promised to restore the original rate of 6 pies at a later date.

This difference caused the second strike in this mill when the same number of workers were affected. The management refused to accede to the strikers' demands and work was resumed on 11th May at the reduced rate of 5 pies per doff.

CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION

AMENDMENT OF THE CANADIAN ACT

A Bill to amend the Canadian Industrial Disputes Investigation Act, 1907, was introduced by the Minister of Labour in the Canadian House of Commons on 21st March 1923. The amendments relate to sections 15, 57 and 58 respectively of the 1907 Act with a view "simply to convey more clearly the intent of those sections as they now stand and have been understood for a number of years". The amendment to section 15 will involve a slight change in the form of statutory declaration which is required of Applicants for Boards of Conciliation and Investigation before such Boards are established. The section (section 15) requires in the principal Act that:—

- (1) 1 lakh of rupees = £ 6,666.
(2) These figures are estimates.

"2. The application shall be accompanied by—

- (a) A statement setting forth—
(1) the parties to the dispute;
(2) the nature and cause of the dispute, including any claims or demands made by either party upon the other, to which exception is taken;
(3) an approximate estimate of the number of persons affected or likely to be affected by the dispute;
(4) the efforts made by the parties themselves to adjust the dispute;

and

(b) A statutory declaration setting forth that failing an adjustment of the dispute or a reference thereof by the Minister to a Board, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the declarant a lockout or strike will be declared, and (except where the application is made by an employer in consequence of an intended change in wages or hours proposed by the said employer) that the necessary authority to declare such lockout or strike has been obtained; or where a dispute directly affects employees in more than one province and such employees are members of a trade union having a general committee authorized to carry on negotiations in disputes between employers and employees and so recognized by the employer, a statutory declaration by the chairman or president and by the secretary of such committee setting forth that failing an adjustment of the dispute or a reference thereof by the Minister to a Board, to the best of the knowledge and belief of the declarants a strike will be declared, that the dispute has been the subject of negotiations between the committee and the employer, that all efforts to obtain a satisfactory settlement have failed, and that there is no reasonable hope of securing a settlement by further negotiations."

The present amendment endeavours to deal with cases in which no actual negotiations have occurred because of unwillingness of one of the parties to negotiate, and in order that parties may not be prevented from having a dispute referred to a Board under such circumstances.

Sections 57 and 58 are as follows:—

"57. Employers and employees shall give at least thirty days' notice of an intended change affecting conditions of employment with respect to wages or hours; and in the event of such intended change resulting in a dispute, until the dispute has been finally dealt with by a Board, and a copy of its report has been delivered through the Registrar to both the parties affected, neither of those parties shall alter the conditions of employment with respect to wages or hours, or on account of the dispute do or be concerned



in doing, directly or indirectly, anything in the nature of a lockout or strike, or a suspension or discontinuance of employment or work, but the relationship of employer and employee shall continue uninterrupted by the dispute, or anything arising out of the dispute; but if, in the opinion of the Board, either party uses this or any other provision of this Act for the purpose of unjustly maintaining a given condition of affairs through delay, and the Board so reports to the Minister, such party shall be guilty of an offence, and liable to the same penalties as are imposed for a violation of the next preceding section.

58. Any employer declaring or causing a lockout contrary to the provisions of this Act shall be liable to a fine of not less than one hundred dollars, nor more than one thousand dollars for each day or part of a day that such lockout exists."

The present amending Bill proposes to introduce the following words after the word "dispute" in the fifth line of section 57: "it shall be unlawful for the employer to make effective a proposed change in wages or hours or for the employees to go on strike," and after the word "affected" in the eighth line the following words "the application for the appointment of a Board shall be made by the employers or employees proposing the change in wages or hours."

Section 58 is to be amended in order to bring it into conformity with section 57 in its amended form.

COMPULSORY ARBITRATION IN NORWAY

BILL REJECTED

A reference was made on page 24 of the *Labour Gazette* for April 1923 to the system of compulsory arbitration in Norway, which came into operation on the 31st March 1922 and remained in force up to 1st April 1923. The International Labour Office has in reply to an enquiry on this Act ascertained that this law no longer exists in Norway as the Bill placed by the Government before the "Storting" for the purpose of prolonging the operation of the law for a further period was rejected by that body. The original law came into operation on 9th June 1916. It was voted for the duration of the war but was subsequently re-enacted on several dates, the last being 31st March 1922, when it was prolonged for one year. This was not therefore the first time the law had come into operation.

As stated in the April issue of the *Labour Gazette*, the Act provided that any labour dispute likely, in the opinion of the King, to endanger important public interests might be ordered to be settled by arbitration. An important section was to the effect that pending the issue of the arbitration award, the conditions of work and wages obtaining at the outbreak of the dispute should remain in force, unless the parties agreed to any other arrangement. The Act also provided for an Arbitration Court, the President and two members of which were to be appointed by the King, the other two members being appointed by the National Federation of Trade Unions and the Norwegian Employers' Federation, one by each.

First Labour Census in Japan

On page 31 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1922 a reference was made to the programme of the *Kokuseiin* (Census Bureau) in regard to the collection and publication of labour statistics in Japan. In accordance with the Act of 19th April 1922, the Bureau of Social Affairs intends to take a Census on 10th October 1923 in all factories employing more than 20 persons and mines employing more than 50 persons, affecting in all 1,700,000 workers. The scope of the enquiry will include information concerning the conditions of workers, standard of education, nature of the work, hours of work, family relations, etc. The Bureau of Social Affairs, it is understood, intends to make monthly investigations into the cost of living, both of manual and non-manual workers, and in regard to wages, the mobility of labour, housing and unemployment.

Welfare Work Maternity Benefits

During the quarter ended March 1923, 123 women operatives in the mills controlled by Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd., received Rs. 2,332 or Rs. 6-5-0 per woman per mensem as maternity allowance. In addition, 38 others will receive Rs. 556 in the next quarter. 3 members were paid Rs. 46 out of the sick benefit fund.

The number of female operatives treated by the Lady Doctor during April 1923 was 82 for diseases of the alimentary system, 21 for those of the respiratory system, 38 for malaria, and others 122, a total of 263.



TRADE UNIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Quarter ending June 1923—an increase in membership

The previous review of Trade Unions in the Presidency was published in the March issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The latest information available for the second quarter of the present year is summarised on pages 37-39 of this issue and shows in Table I on pages 37 and 38 that although the number of unions has decreased during the quarter by one, the membership has increased from 48,669 in the last quarter to 51,276 in the quarter under review. The information is collected through the Secretaries of the Unions as well as through district officers in the Presidency including Sind. Table I shows that at the moment there are nominally 8 unions with a membership of 24,807 in Bombay City and Island, 9 unions with a membership of 19,785 in Ahmedabad, and 4 unions with a membership of 6,684 in the rest of the Presidency. This gives a total for the Presidency of 21 unions with 51,276 members, as compared with 22 unions and a membership of 48,669 in the previous quarter. These numbers as in previous reviews include only those unions known to be actually in existence.

THE INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

While the number of unions shows a decrease, as noted above, of one union the membership has increased by 2,607. There was an increase in membership in 4 unions amounting to 2,957. On the other hand there was a decrease of 350 members owing to the exclusion of the Port Trust Railway Staff and Employees' Union. The large increase reported from Sukkur of 2,287 members is noticeable. This is the first occasion on which an increase in membership has been recorded since the quarterly data has been collected by the Labour Office, i.e., from June 1922. The changes in the Unions and membership during the quarter are as follows:—

In Bombay the Port Trust Railway Staff Union which, at the time of the last review, was shown to have 350 members, has been excluded from the tables as this union is reported to be moribund. It therefore does

not justify its inclusion in the list of active Unions. An increase of 507 members is recorded in the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union, and an increase of 150 members in the Clerks' Union in Bombay is also reported. Similarly, the N.-W. Railway Union branch at Sukkur shows an increase of 2,287 members, while the Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union at Sholapur shows an increase of 13 members. The increase in the Sukkur Branch of the N.-W. Railway is the largest increase recorded during any quarter, and has been reported both by the Secretary of the Union and the District Officer. In addition to these changes in membership, certain minor changes in the office-bearers of (1) the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union and (2) the N.-W. Railway Union at Sukkur have taken place. The changes in office-bearers are not, however, of importance.

The following table shows the position in regard to membership of the Unions since June 1922:—

Summary table showing the membership of the Unions

Quarter ended	Membership at end of quarter.	Percentage decrease (-) or increase (+) on previous quarter.
June 1922	52,914	....
September 1922	52,776	- 0.27
December 1922	51,472	- 2.47
March 1923	48,669	- 5.46
June 1923	51,276	+ 5.36

THE BOMBAY UNIONS

The important Bombay Unions may now be said to be the following:—

- (1) The Indian Seamen's Union.
- (2) The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union.
- (3) The B. B. and C. I. Railwaymen's Union.
- (4) The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union.

The Indian Seamen's Union continues to experience difficulty in regard to the collection of subscriptions from members owing to the

considerable unemployment among Indian Seamen who constitute its membership. The Union, however, has reserve funds at its disposal. The work of the employment bureau for its members, which constitutes the most important activity of the union, is of great advantage to Indian Seamen. Without this bureau many seamen would experience considerable difficulty in securing employment in their turn as the union ensures that seamen are allotted to ships strictly in rotation. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union has during the quarter been active, and its numbers and branches have increased. It is also considering amalgamation with the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, which is at present under the Central Labour Board. The object of this amalgamation is to strengthen the Union and to bring all the members of unions connected with the G. I. P. Railway under a common management. The decision in regard to this arrangement is expected to be arrived at during the present month. At present the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union consists of clerical, running and traffic staffs, both Indian and Anglo-Indian, in Bombay and at other important stations on the G. I. P. Railway. The total membership of 4,507 has been included under the unions in Bombay City, but certain members are at stations outside Bombay. These branches are self-supporting, and are managed by local office-bearers who are almost entirely servants of the Company. In two cases, however, paid Secretaries have been appointed to conduct the affairs of the branch. These are (1) the Sholapur and Kalyan Branches which are both managed by one ex-railway servant, and (2) the branch at Jhansi which is similarly in charge of a pensioner from the Company's service. The total membership of the Union is stated to be as follows:—

Station.	No. of members.
Wadi Bunder (Bombay)	44
Kalyan (Bombay)	542
Kalyan	500
Bhusawal	672
Sholapur	594
Korhawal	100
Mumbai	738
Uran	222
Ahmednagar	129
Gene	126
Parsi	250
Jhansi	150
	50
Total	4,507

The union proposes shortly to issue a monthly vernacular paper in Hindi for the benefit of the members of the branches at outstations in addition to the G. I. P. Staff Union monthly which it at present publishes. Another proposal to revise the rates of subscription to the union, from one day's pay per year to an amount varying from 1 anna to Rs. 2-8 per month, according to pay, is under consideration. At the time of the last review this union was chiefly concerned with the question of retrenchment. Now, however, the union is urging the introduction of a time scale for all clerical classes on this Railway.

The B. B. and C. I. Railwaymen's Union which is under the Central Labour Board, may be said to be less active now than it was this time last year. The Central Labour Board appears to experience some difficulty in collecting subscriptions for this and the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Unions, and the activities of both unions seem to be hampered for want of sufficient support. Though the membership of both these unions, shown in table I, appears large, the number of regular dues-paying members in both unions is small, probably not more than 700 members in each union. The remaining unions in Bombay do not at present appear to be well supported and their activities are, to a great extent, limited to the work of organisation and enlisting new members. There are still no unions of cotton mill workers in Bombay.

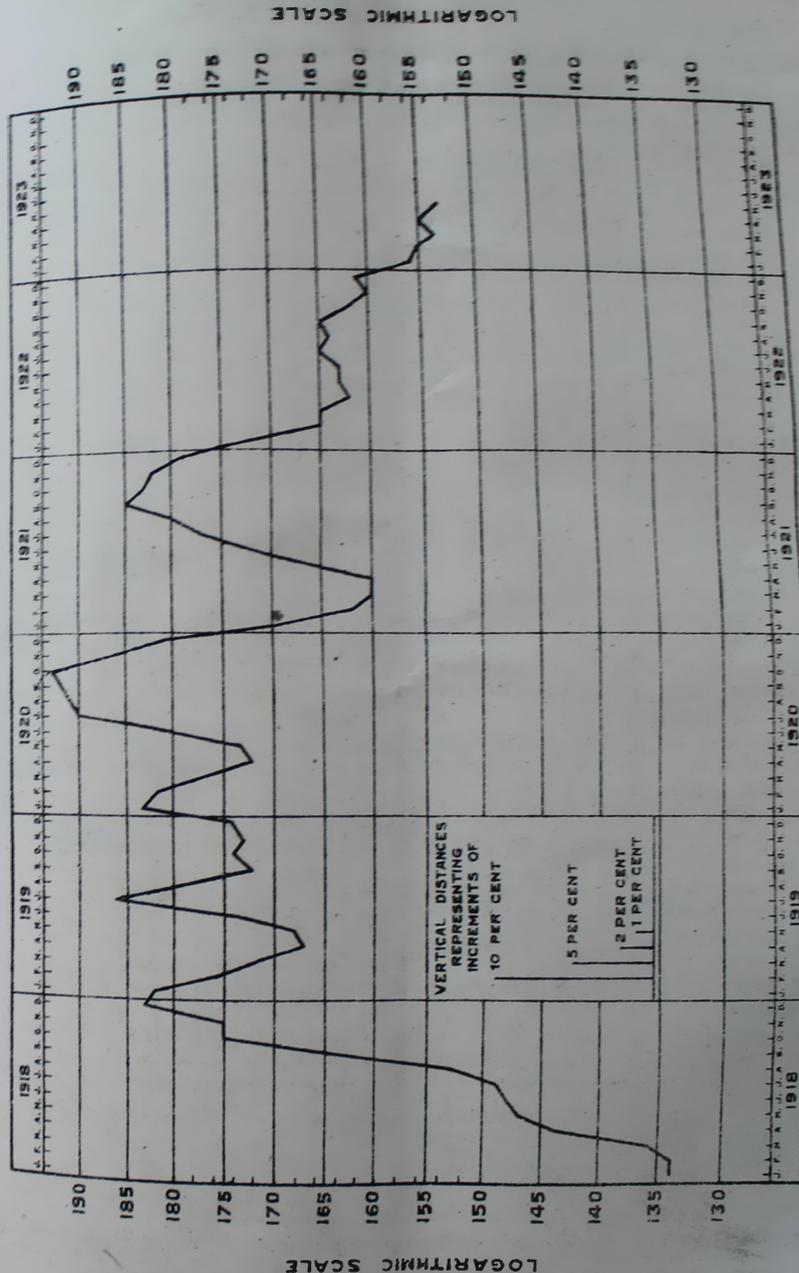
THE AHMEDABAD UNIONS

There have been no changes in the Ahmedabad Trade Unions during the period under review. The unions of cotton mill operatives have received a severe set back as a result of the recent protracted strike in 56 out of a total of 61 mills in this centre. Before the strike took place on 1st April 1923, the total membership of the cotton mill unions represented about one-third of the mill operatives in Ahmedabad, but it is understood that on the outbreak of the strike other non-members sought the assistance of the Labour Union. Throughout the strike of 65 days the unions maintained exemplary discipline. Recent reports from Ahmedabad show no special activities on the part of the other two unions of non-textile workers, namely, the Post and

(Continued on page 29)

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

Chart No. 1



Note:—This chart is intended to show the proportional increase in the cost of living. It will be seen that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus, an increase of 5 points over 200 is half the increase of the same 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal ratios, from any part of the diagram to any other, instead of equal increments, as in a natural scale chart. Note the steadiness of the curve in 1922.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

CHART No. 2.

Abbreviations:- S—Scanty F—Fair. N—Normal. EX—Excess.

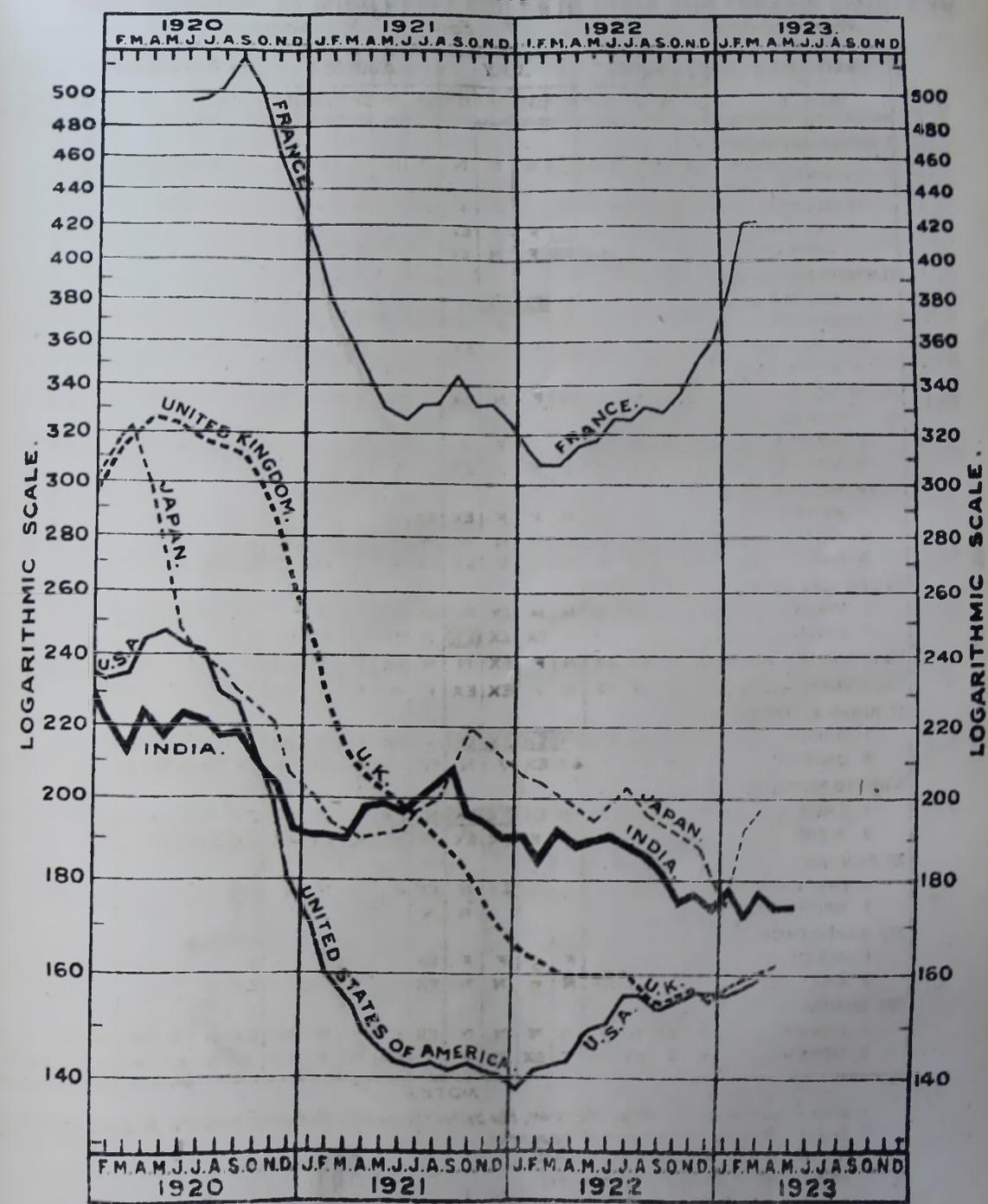
PROVINCE OR STATE.	JUNE					JULY					AUGUST					SEPTEMBER					OCTOBER				
	8 TH	15 TH	22 ND	29 TH	6 TH	13 TH	20 TH	27 TH	3 RD	10 TH	17 TH	24 TH	31 ST	7 TH	14 TH	21 ST	28 TH	5 TH	12 TH	19 TH	26 TH				
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY.	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	N	N	F	F	N	EX	EX	EX								
1. SIND (RIVER RAINFALL)				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

NOTES.

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

INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

CHART No. 3.



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

Chart No. 5
RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY.
 JULY 1914 = 100

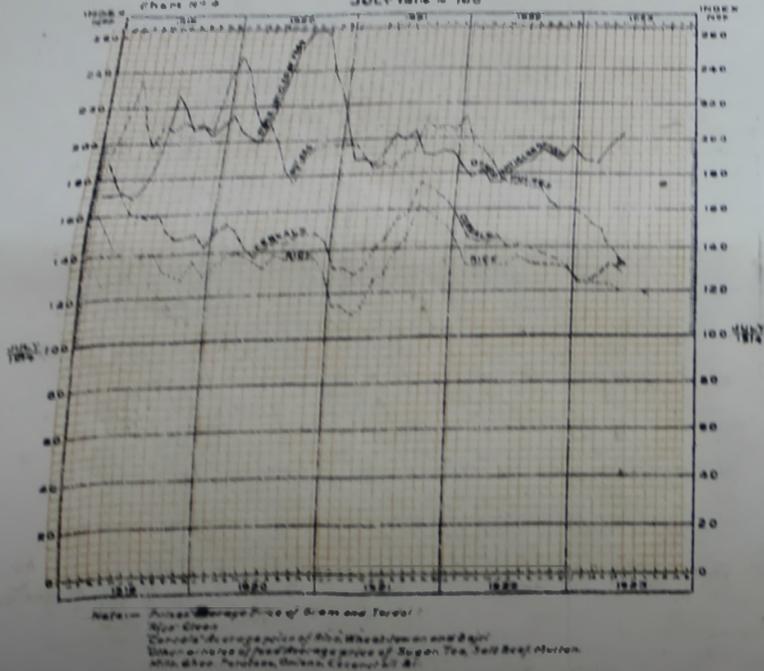


Chart No. 6
COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
 JULY 1914 = 100

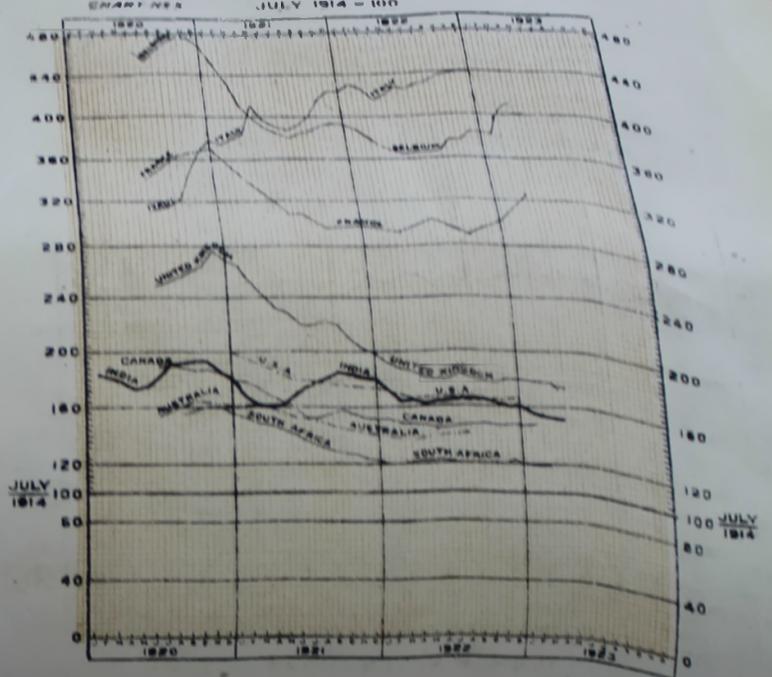
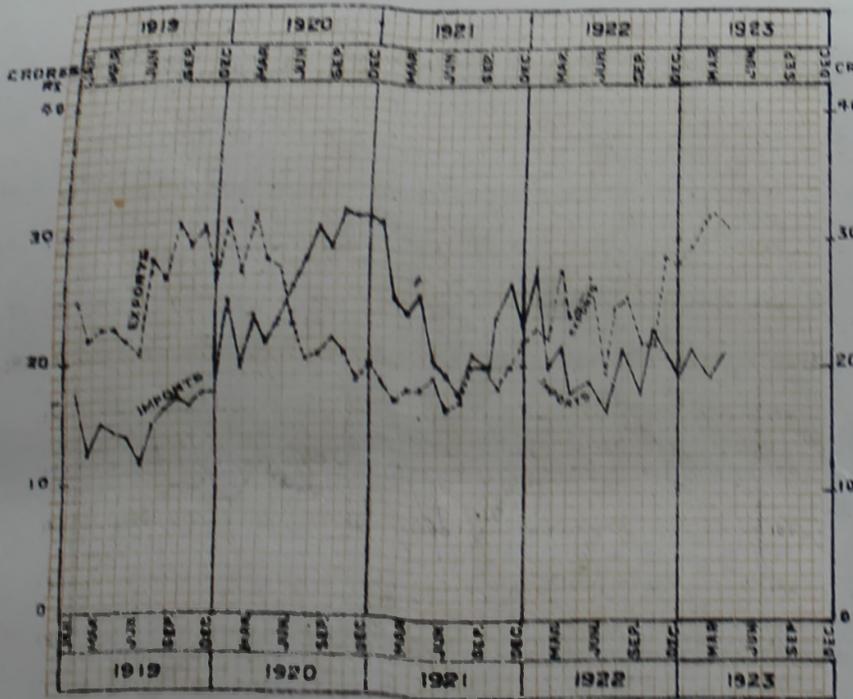


CHART NO. 6.

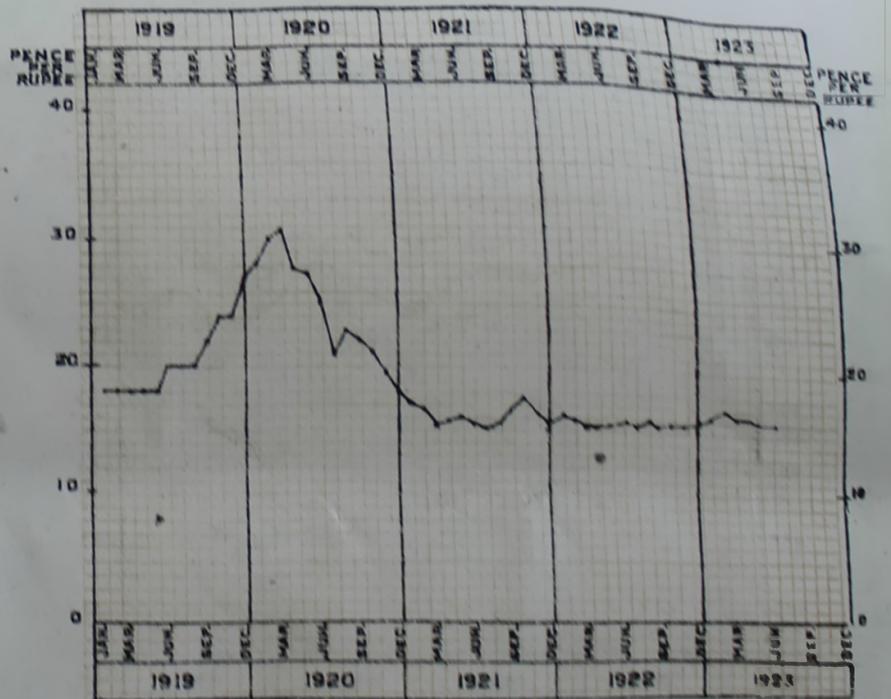
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA.



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

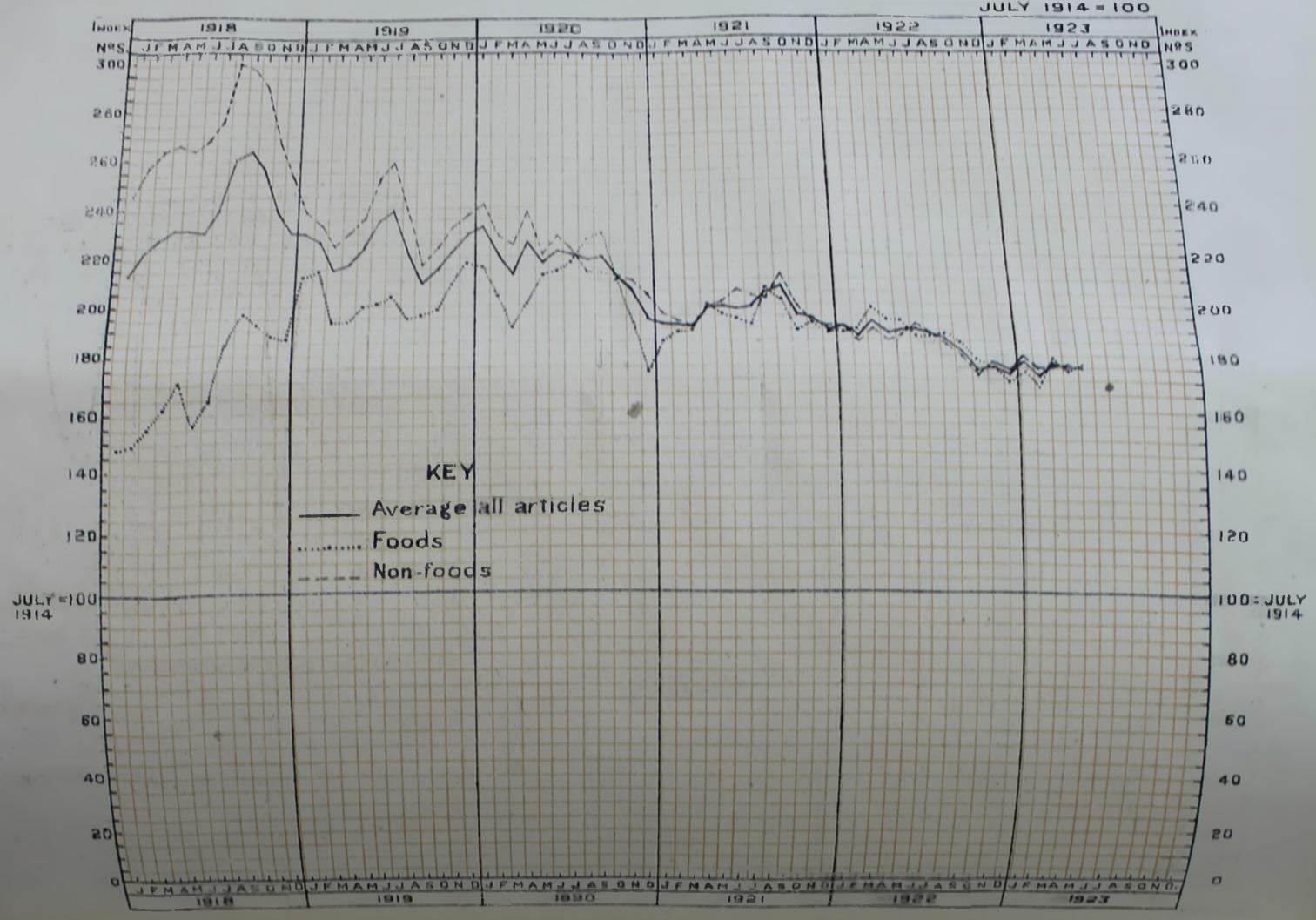
CHART NO. 7.

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.

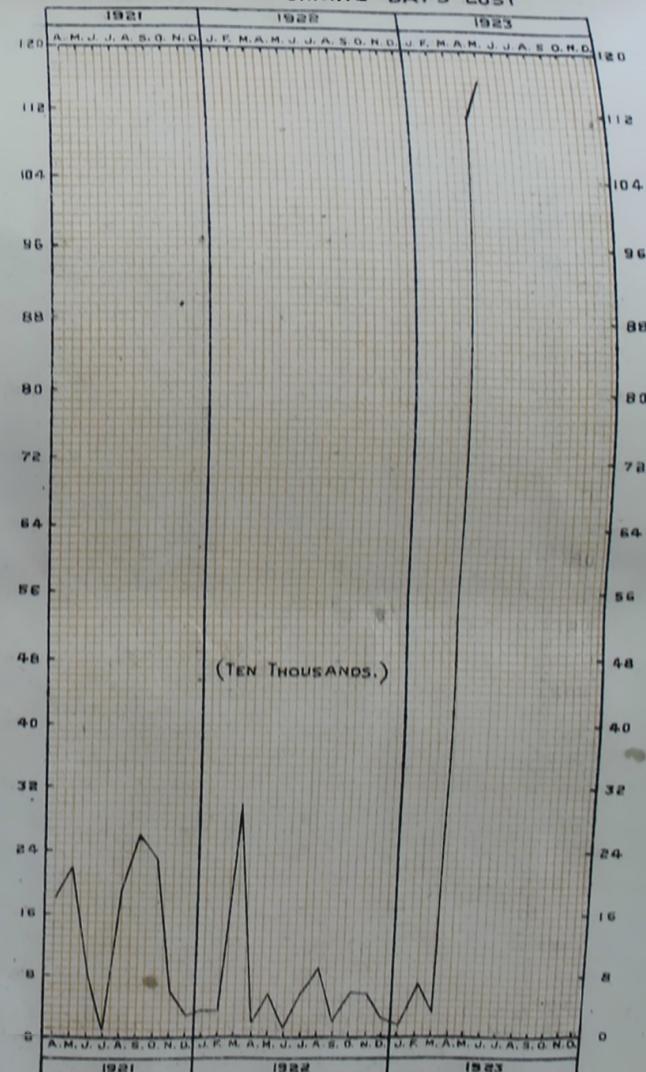
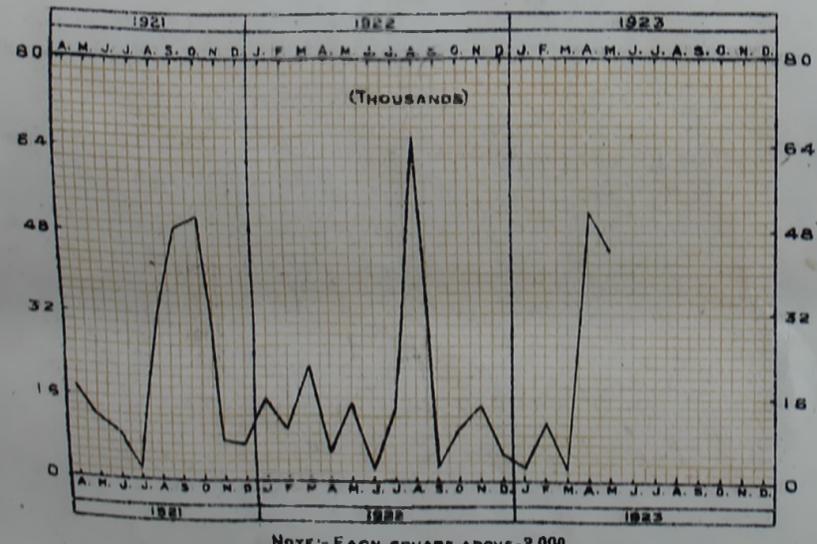


NOTE: (1) The reason for the fall of Exchange will be evident from the preceding chart. When the balance of trade is adverse (imports greater than exports) Exchange also tends to be adverse from India's point of view. This is the Telegraphic Transfer rate on London.
 (2) Each square equals 1 penny.

WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS

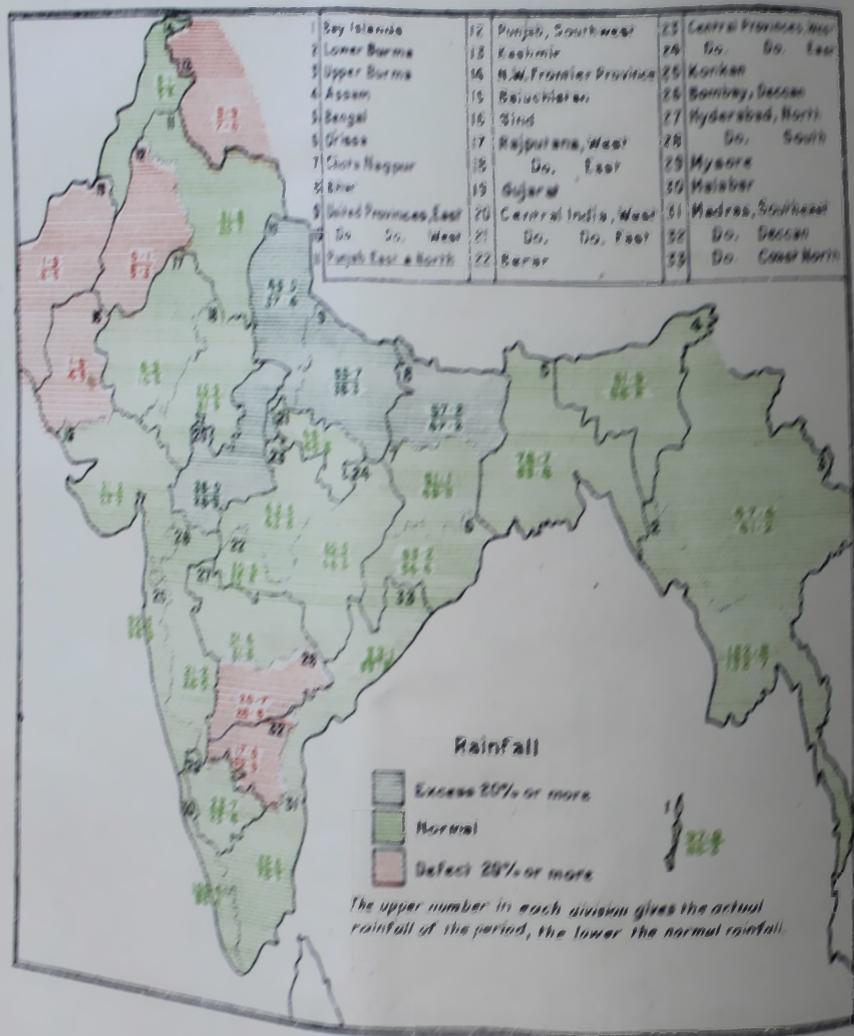


NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED



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.

RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER, 1922.



Railway Mail Service Association and the B. E. & C. I. Railway Employees' Association.

THE REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

The Sukkur Branch of the N. W. R. Union, as previously stated, records an increase in membership of 2,287. A new President and Secretary have recently been appointed. The Secretary of this Union states that owing to the difficulties of collecting subscriptions from members, the funds of the union are decreasing. The union requested the Railway authorities to afford facilities for the collection of subscriptions through the paybills, and this the Company refused. The Karachi Branch of the N. W. R. Union records no changes during the period under review. The Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union is not at the moment in a strong position. The union states that endeavours have recently been made to stimulate interest in the union among the employees of this Railway, and the management have been addressed in connexion with the formal recognition of the union. This has not yet been decided upon. The Press Workers Union at Poona is an unimportant union.

ACCOUNTS OF THE UNIONS

Table II on page 39 shows the approximate monthly income and expenditure of the unions. It will be seen from this table that the Indian Seamen's Union has the largest income and expenditure of the unions in Bombay City and Island. In Ahmedabad, the Weavers' Union and the Throatle Union are the strongest unions, financially in that centre. The funds of the unions at the beginning of the strike amounted to several lakhs of rupees and it is reported that these have not been depleted to any large extent on account of the strike. In the rest of the Presidency, the two branches of the N. W. R. Union only appear to have any financial resources. With the exception of the clerks' union, Bombay, no detailed balance sheets of the Unions have been received during the quarter. In this union, during the last fifteen months, the expenditure exceeded the income by Rs. 446 which had to be met by a loan from one of the reserve funds. This excess of expenditure was stated to be due to the

monthly publication of the Indian Clerk, the official organ of the union.

ORGANISATION OF THE BOMBAY UNIONS

The All-India Trade Union Congress which held its third session at Lahore on March 24th, 1923, under the presidency of Mr. C. R. Das is still inactive in Bombay. Mr. D. Chaman Lal, the Secretary of this organisation, has his office temporarily in Lahore. The Central Labour Board is the only active federation of labour unions in Bombay.

RECOGNITION OF THE UNIONS

Of the Unions detailed in Table I the following unions in Bombay are recognised by the authorities concerned:—

- (1) The Indian Seamen's Union.
- (2) The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers) Union.
- (3) The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.

In Ahmedabad all the unions of cotton mill operatives are recognised by the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association. As far as information is available none of the unions in the rest of the Presidency has been definitely recognised.

QUASI-LABOUR UNIONS

There has been no change in regard to these unions since the last review was published. These unions are not included in the list of Trade Unions as they are more in the nature of associations for the welfare of their members than Trade Unions in a strict sense of the meaning. The important associations in Bombay City and Island are as follows:—

- (1) The Amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma.
- (2) The Bombay Presidency Postal Association.
- (3) The Postal Clerks' Club.
- (4) The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha.
- (5) The Girmi Kamgar Sangh.

The first of these is the largest and most important. Its membership consists almost entirely of Anglo-Indian employees of several of the Railways in India and Burma. The association publishes a weekly paper entitled



the *Railway Times* which acts as a medium between the Association and its members at various stations. The remaining associations are less active.

CONCLUSION

The outstanding features of the Trade Union situation during the quarter ended June 1923 have been (1) an increase of 5.08 per cent. in the membership of the unions; (2) the continued complete absence of Trade Unions among Cotton Mill Workers in Bombay City and Island; and (3) the discipline maintained by the Unions in Ahmedabad during the recent lengthy strike. This won the approbation of employers and the general public not merely in Ahmedabad but elsewhere, a fact that affords an example to unions elsewhere in India.

EMIGRATION AND IMMIGRATION

PASSENGER TRAFFIC, 1922

Enquiries are frequently received in the Labour Office as to the Passenger traffic between the United Kingdom and India and vice versa. The following data, compiled by the British Board of Trade, show particulars of the number of passengers, including emigrants and immigrants, who travelled between the United Kingdom on the one hand and India and Ceylon on the other in 1921 and 1922. Unfortunately the Board of Trade groups Ceylon with India but the great majority of the figures refers to India.

Movement of passengers during 12 months ended December 1921 and 1922

(NOTE.—Passengers travelling indirectly via Continental Ports are excluded.)

	1921	1922
Passengers to India	.. 16,928	12,311
Passengers from India	.. 13,631	13,975

+3,297 —1,664

Balance in favour (+) of India, against India (—).
These figures are of interest because they show the import into and export from India of passengers between India and the United Kingdom. Those passengers who travelled indirectly, *via*, for example, France or Italy are excluded. The British Board of Trade shows the traffic to and from the Continent only in regard to the ports of arrival or departure in England. The total number of

passengers of all nationalities who left the United Kingdom for the Continent and the number who arrived in the United Kingdom from the Continent were as follows:—

	1921	1922
Departures	.. 830,558	898,182
Arrivals	.. 855,343	916,398

A portion of these, of course, belonged to India's share, but how much is impossible to say from the published official statistics as the particulars furnished to the Board of Trade do not include information as to nationality. Nearly 43 per cent. of the departures and 47 per cent. of the arrivals in the above table embarked or disembarked at the port of Dover alone. In addition to the number of passengers travelling between the United Kingdom and the Continent by sea the Air Ministry reports that 5,747 departed from, and 6,616 arrived in, the United Kingdom during the year 1922 by air.

The following table gives the passengers to the Dominions, India, the United States, etc.—

Passengers from the United Kingdom to the Dominions, India, the United States, etc.

	1921	1922
Passengers to—		
Canada	.. 100,428	86,326
Australia	.. 35,209	44,625
New Zealand	.. 11,367	12,764
South Africa	.. 32,739	23,948
India (including Ceylon)	.. 16,928	12,311
United States	.. 149,943	132,236

Total, all countries	.. 377,507	343,624
Total for 1913 (pre-war year)	.. 701,691	

Passengers to the United Kingdom from the Dominions, India, the United States, etc.

	1921	1922
Passengers from—		
Canada	.. 61,974	48,571
Australia	.. 13,197	14,112
New Zealand	.. 1,819	2,832
South Africa	.. 21,156	21,658
India (including Ceylon)	.. 13,631	13,975
United States	.. 88,276	93,172

Total, all countries	.. 227,583	224,462
Total for 1913 (pre-war year)	.. 372,618	

The smallness of the figures of the Indian Traffic as compared with Canada, Australia, and the United States is somewhat remarkable.



FACTORY LEGISLATION IN JAPAN

The New Act

At the first International Labour Conference held in Washington in 1919, the application of the Hours of Work convention to special countries as provided in article 405 of the Treaty of Peace, was discussed. India and Japan were included in these special countries. Legislation regarding India has already been effected and the Act (No. XII of 1911 as amended up to 1st July 1922) was published in full in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for July 1922. The amended Act (No. IX of 1923) was also published in the issue for February 1923. A bill embodying many of the changes which were then proposed in regard to Japan has passed both Houses of the Diet. The following is the Japanese Factory Act of 1911 and below each article will be found, in brackets, the proposed amendment.

Article 1

The present Law shall apply to factories to which either of the following items is applicable:—

1. Factories in which at least fifteen operatives are regularly employed;

2. Factories in which the business is of a dangerous character, or is considered injurious to health.

Factories to which the application of the present Law is not deemed necessary may be exempted therefrom by Imperial Ordinance.

[The word "fifteen" shall be changed to "ten".]

Article 2

The occupier of a factory must not employ therein persons under twelve years of age; this rule does not, however, hold in cases where persons of at least ten years of age at the time the present Law comes into force continue to be employed.

The Administrative Authorities may, by prescribing the conditions for employment, permit persons of at least ten years of age to be employed in light and easy work.

[To be deleted.]

Article 3

The occupier of a factory must not employ persons under fifteen years of age and women for more than twelve hours a day.

The competent Minister of State may, according to the nature of the work and for a term not exceeding fifteen years from the date at which the present Law comes into force, extend by not more than two hours the period of employment prescribed in the preceding clause.

The period of employment shall even in cases where portions thereof are passed in different factories, be reckoned as a single period in regard to the application of the provisions of the preceding two clauses.

["Fifteen years" shall be amended to "sixteen years", and "twelve hours" to "eleven hours".]

Article 4

The occupier of a factory must not employ persons under fifteen years of age and women, between 10 o'clock in the evening and 4 o'clock in the morning.

["Fifteen years" shall be amended to "sixteen years" and "4 a.m." to "5 a.m." and the following proviso shall be added:—

When, however, the sanction of the Government authorities has been obtained, operatives may be employed to 11 p.m.]

Article 5

In the cases to which any one of the following items is applicable the provision of the preceding article shall not apply; however, upon the expiration of 15 years from the date at which the present Law comes into force, persons under 14 years of age and women under 20 years of age must not be employed between ten o'clock in the evening and 4 o'clock in the morning:—

1. Employment in work for which there are special reasons for requiring the operations to be made at one spell;

2. Employment in work for which there are special reasons for requiring night operations;

3. Employment in alternation of two or more sets of operatives in work for which there are special reasons for requiring continuous operations day and night.

The nature of the work mentioned in the preceding clause shall be specified by the competent Minister of State.

[To be deleted.]

Article 6

In case operatives are divided into two or more sets and employed alternately, the provision of Article 4 shall not apply for the term of 15 years from the date at which the present Law comes into force.

[To be deleted.]

Article 7

The occupier of a factory shall allow at least two holidays every month to persons under fifteen years of age and women, at least four holidays in case operatives are divided into two sets and employed alternately between 10 o'clock in the evening and 4



o'clock in the morning and in cases to which item 2 of the first clause of Article 5 is applicable, and a rest-time of at least thirty minutes during the period of employment when such period of employment for the day exceeds six hours, and of at least one hour when it exceeds ten hours.

When operatives are divided into two or more sets and employed alternately between 10 o'clock in the evening and 4 o'clock in the morning, their hours of employment shall be interchanged at the end of each term which shall not exceed ten days.

[Factory owners shall grant at least two holidays each month to youths under 16 and females, and shall grant during working hours a recess of at least 30 minutes when the hours of work exceed six and of at least one hour when the hours of work exceed 10.

The recess specified above shall be granted in general except, however, in cases where official sanction has been obtained.

When owners grant a recess exceeding one hour in the summer they may, after obtaining official sanction extend the working hours by not more than the excess of the recess. Such extension, however, shall not exceed one hour.]

Article 8

In case of necessity on account of natural calamities or disasters or fear of disasters the competent Minister of State may suspend, with respect to the kinds of business and within the districts which he shall specify, the application of the provisions of articles 3-5 and the preceding article.

In case of extraordinary necessity through unavoidable causes the occupier of a factory, with the permission of the Administrative Authorities, may, for a specified term, extend the period of employment irrespectively of the provision of Article 3, employ operatives irrespectively of the provisions of Articles 4 and 5, or withhold the holidays prescribed in the preceding article.

In case of extraordinary necessity the occupier of a factory may, after making previous report thereof on each occasion to the Administrative Authorities, extend the period of employment by not more than two hours for a term not exceeding seven days in one month.

With respect to business which is brisk at certain seasons the occupier of a factory may, after previously obtaining the approval of the Administrative Authorities in regard to a fixed term extend the period of employment by not more than one hour during such term at a rate not exceeding one hundred and twenty days a year; in such case the provision of the preceding clause shall not apply during the term in respect of which the said approval was obtained.

[“Articles 3-5” shall be amended to “Article 3 and Article 5” and the words “the operatives irrespec-

tively of the provisions of Articles 4 and 5” shall be amended to “females over sixteen regardless of the provisions of Article 4” and the following proviso shall be added:—

However, in cases where it is necessary to prevent the loss of raw-materials or substance which might perish or deteriorate quickly, official sanction shall not be necessary within the limits of four consecutive days and seven days in all in one month.]

Article 9

The occupier of a factory must not allow persons under fifteen years of age and women to clean, lubricate, examine, or repair, dangerous parts of any machinery or mill gearing in motion or put on or take off the belts or ropes of any machinery or mill gearing in motion or to engage in other dangerous work.

[“Fifteen years” shall be amended to “sixteen years”.]

Article 10

The occupier of a factory must not allow persons under fifteen years of age to engage in work in which poisonous or powerful medicines, or other injurious substances, or explosive, inflammable or ignitable substances are handled, or in work in places where a considerable quantity of dust or powder is raised, or noxious gases are generated, or in places which are otherwise dangerous or injurious to health.

[“Fifteen years” shall be amended to “sixteen years”.]

Article 11

The nature of the work mentioned in the preceding two articles shall be determined by the competent Minister of State.

The provision of the preceding article may, under such conditions as may be determined by the competent Minister of State, be applied with respect to women of not less than fifteen years of age.

[“Fifteen years” shall be amended to “sixteen years”.]

Article 12

The competent Minister of State may make restrictive or prohibitory provisions with respect to the employment of sick persons or women after accouchement.

[The words “women after accouchement” shall be changed to “women before and after child-birth or women who are nursing their children”.]

Article 13

In case the Administrative Authorities deem that a factory and its accessory buildings and equipment are likely to prove dangerous or be injurious to health, public morals, or other public interests, they may, in such manner as may be determined by ordinance, order the occupier of the factory to take measures necessary for the prevention or removal of such evils or may if



deem it necessary suspend the use of the whole or a part of the said factory, accessory buildings and equipment.

[The following paragraph shall be added:—

In connection with the orders issued to the factory owners in accordance with the above paragraph the officials may issue the necessary orders to the operatives and apprentices.]

Article 14

A competent official may inspect a factory or the accessory buildings thereof; in such case he shall carry the identification card therefor.

[The competent officials may pay visits of inspection to the factory or accessory buildings, or may examine workmen or apprentices suspected of suffering from diseases necessitating suspension from labour or apprehended of being contagious. In such cases they shall carry a certificate attesting their official qualification for such duty.]

Article 15

In case an operative is, without any serious fault on his part, injured, taken ill, or killed in the course of his work, the occupier of the factory shall, in such manner as may be determined by Imperial Ordinance, give relief to such operative or his surviving family.

[When an operative shall have been injured in the performance of his duty, falls ill or dies, the owner shall in accordance with provisions determined by Imperial Ordinance afford assistance to the operative himself or his bereaved family or persons who were maintained out of his income at the time of his death.]

Article 16

A person who is serving or proposes to serve as an operative or an apprentice, or the occupier of the factory or his legal representative or factory-manager may obtain gratuitously from the census-registry official a certification respecting the census register of the person who is serving or proposes to serve as an operative or an apprentice.

[“Census-registry official” shall be amended to “the person having charge of registration duties or his representative”.]

Article 17

Matters relating to the engagement and discharge of operatives, to the control of employment agencies, and to apprentices, shall be determined by Imperial Ordinance.

Article 18

The occupier of a factory may appoint a factory-manager possessing absolute authority in respect of the factory.

In case the occupier of a factory does not reside within the district where the present Law is in force, he must appoint a factory manager.

For the appointment of a factory manager the approval of the administrative authorities must be obtained.

This rule, however, does not hold in case of appointment to such post of a director of the juridical person concerned, the partner who conducts the business of the company, the partner representing the company, a director, the managing partner, any other person representing the juridical person concerned according to the provisions of laws and ordinances or the manager.

Article 19

The factory-manager mentioned in the preceding article shall take the place of the occupier with respect to the application of the present Law and ordinances that may be issued in accordance therewith; this rule, however, does not hold in respect of article 15.

If there is no factory manager, in case the occupier of the factory is a minor who does not possess the same capacity as an adult in regard to his business, or is an incompetent person, or a juridical person, the provision of the preceding clause shall also apply with respect to the legal representative or director of such occupier, the partner who conducts the business of the company, the partner representing the company, a director, the managing partner, or any other person who represents the juridical person concerned according to the provisions of laws and ordinances.

Article 20

Any person who contravenes the provisions of Articles 2-5, Article 7, Article 9, or Article 10 and fails to submit to dispositions made according to the provision of Article 13 shall be liable to a fine of not more than five hundred yen.

[If the owner, or the person representing him in accordance with the preceding article, infringes this law, or orders based upon this law, or dispositions made in accordance therewith, he shall be punished by a fine not exceeding 1,000 yen.]

Article 21

Any person who without reasonable cause refuses or obstructs the inspection of a competent official or fails to answer his questions shall be liable to a fine of not more than three hundred yen.

[Any person who without just cause refuses to allow, obstructs or evades the competent officials' inspection or who does not answer their questions or gives false answers or who obstructs the examination of the workmen or apprentices shall be fined not less than 500 yen.]

Article 22

The occupier of a factory or the person who takes the place of the occupier according to Article 19 shall not in the event of the commission of an act in contravention of the present Law or ordinances that may be issued in accordance therewith, by his representative, the head or a member of his family, a person living in his house, his employee, or any other person engaged in his business, be exempted from the penalty therefor



on the ground that such act was not committed by his direction; this rule, however, does not hold if he has taken proper care with regard to the management of his factory.

The occupier of a factory or the person who takes the place of the occupier according to Article 19 shall not be exempted from the penalties prescribed in the present Law on the ground that he was ignorant of the age of the operative, concerned; this rule, however, does not hold in case there was no fault on the part of the occupier, the person who takes his place according to article 19, or the person in charge of the said operative.

[The words "in the event of the commission of an act in contravention of the present law or ordinances that may be issued in accordance therewith" shall be amended to "for any breach of this law or orders issued on the basis of this law, or any disposition made in accordance therewith."]

Article 23

Any person who is dissatisfied with any decision of the Administrative Authorities under the present Law may lay a complaint; and any person who deems that his rights have been illegally injured may have recourse to administrative litigation.

Article 24

The competent Minister of State may, with respect to factories not coming within the purview of Article 1, which use motive power, apply the provisions of Article 9, Article 11, Article 13, Article 14, Article 16, and Articles 18-23.

Article 25

The present Law and ordinances that may be issued in accordance therewith, shall, with the exception of the provisions relating to factory-managers and the penalties, apply to Government or public factories.

With regard to Government factories, the competent Authorities shall, under the present Law and ordinances that may be issued in accordance therewith, perform the duties which pertain to the Administrative Authorities.

Supplementary Provision

The date at which the present Law will come into force shall be determined by Imperial Ordinances.

The date of the enforcement of this law shall be determined by Imperial Ordinances. For three years after the enforcement of this law, the words "seven years" in the law shall be read as "three years".

In cases where workmen are employed in two or more shifts the provisions of Article 4 shall not apply for the three years following the enforcement of the law.

In cases where parties of less than fifteen and females are employed in accordance with the preceding paragraph at least 4 holidays a month shall be granted

and the working hours shall be changed after every period of not more than 10 days.]

It will be noticed that the principal changes are:—

1. The law is made applicable to factories employing not less than 10 operatives whereas under the existing law the minimum has been 15.

2. Article 11 which provided that children under 12 could not be employed has been deleted and in its place a new law has been passed prohibiting the employment in specified industries, which cover practically every industry except agriculture, of children under 14.

3. The age limit for juveniles has been altered from 15 years to 16 years and the number of hours during which they and females are allowed to work has been reduced from 12 to 11.

4. Under the existing law night work was prohibited between the hours of 10 p.m. and 4 a.m. for females and youths under 15. Various exceptions were provided for under Articles V and VI, the latter article specifying that where operatives were employed in two or more shifts the prohibition was not to be effective for a period of 15 years from the enforcement of the law. This clause was most important as regards the textile industries, especially cotton spinning, as it meant that the cotton mills were given 15 years' grace.

Under the new law the age limit has been changed to 16, the hours have been changed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m., to from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m. and Articles V and VI which provided the exceptions have been deleted. But there is a supplementary clause which says that "in cases where workmen are employed in two or more shifts the provisions of Article IV shall not apply for three years following the enforcement of the revised law". This means then that in practice the cotton mills and other industries concerned will have three years' grace.

5. Under Article XV of the existing law factory owners were compelled to afford assistance to operatives or their families in case of injury, sickness or death brought on while the operatives were in the performance of their duty, provided there was not gross negligence on their part. In the revised article this stipulation about gross negligence has been deleted.



6. The maximum penalty for a breach of the law has been increased from ₹500 to ₹1,000.

The date when the revised law will come into effect has not yet been announced. It is difficult to tell what the effect of the changes will be until the Detailed Regulations for enforcing the law are published and these will probably not be ready for at least two or three months. The most important results however will be that the law will apply to a considerably larger number of factories.

THE INDIAN FACTORIES ACT

The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have addressed Local Governments requesting views on a proposed further amendment of the Indian Factories Act. Act 11 of 1922 came into operation on the 1st of July 1922. Already a certain amount of experience has been gained in the working of this revised Act. It will be remembered that this year Act No. IX of 1923 amended the 1922 Act in regard to one or two points. This was referred to on page 34 of the *Lahore Gazette* for February 1923. Attention has been drawn to the question of rest intervals in section 21 of the Act. It appears that a system would not legally be permissible by which the employees work for periods of three hours, four hours and three hours, separated by two half-hour intervals. Moreover the question of rest periods in factories and places where an 8½ hours' day is worked is, in the opinion of Government, worthy of consideration. Government are anxious to encourage those employers who are considering a reduction in the hours of work, and it is possible that if a concession in the matter of the interval of rest would lead to a further reduction of hours of work, such a concession might be in the interests of all concerned.

The question of fines recovered by courts referred to in section 43A of the Factories Act has also been raised. The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, now makes special provision for compensation to factory workers employed in factories which come under the definition in Section 3 (a) of the Factories Act. The Government of India, therefore, request the views of Local Governments as to

whether the section should be amended and retained for the benefit of workers employed in factories notified under section 3 (b) of the Act, or whether in view of the provisions of section 545 of the Criminal Procedure Code it should be repealed. Any amendment of substance will also be considered and the Government of India have requested, before the 1st October, the views of Local Governments on all these points. Should the administrative difficulties brought to light by numerous and important, a Conference of Factory Inspectors may possibly be held towards the end of the year.

ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

STATISTICS FOR MAY 1923

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency published on pages 50 and 51 of this issue contain details of (1) the accidents reported during the month of May in Bombay City and Island and (2) the accidents reported during the same period in Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres.

During May in Bombay City and Island there were in all 162 factory accidents of which 10 were serious and 152 were not serious. None of these accidents were fatal. Of the total number of accidents 62 or 38.2 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 100 or 61.8 per cent. were due to other causes. As in previous months, by far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the percentages classified according to class of factory being 62.2 per cent. in workshops, 33.3 per cent. in textile mills and 2.5 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad there were three accidents, all in cotton mills. One of these was due to machinery in motion and the other two to other causes. Of these three accidents, one was fatal, one serious and one minor.

In Karachi there were 8 accidents, 7 of which occurred in workshops and miscellaneous concerns. Two of these were due to machinery in motion and six to other causes, and all were minor in nature.

In other centres the total number of accidents was 25, of which 8 were in textile mills and 17 in workshops. Ten of these were due to



machinery in motion and 15 to other causes. There were one fatal, three serious, and 21 minor accidents.

PROSECUTIONS

One cotton mill in Bombay was prosecuted in May 1923 for working the Reeling Department on Sunday without giving the operatives the requisite holiday under Section 41 (a) of the Factory Act. The Manager was convicted and fined for this and several other breaches of the Factory Act which had been recorded against him.

QUESTION IN THE LEGISLATURE

FACTORY INSPECTION

At the last session of the Bombay Legislative Council the following question was put:—

Mr. A. N. Surve (Bombay City, North): Will Government be pleased to state the number of children declared unfit for employment by the Factory Inspectors under Section 8-A of the Indian Factories Act (amended) since 1st July 1922?

The Honourable Mr. H. S. Lawrence replied that there had been no such cases.

CENSUS OF CEYLON

REPORT FOR 1921

The Report published by the Superintendent of Census and Director of Statistics, Ceylon, Mr. L. J. B. Turner, M.A., of the Ceylon Civil Service shows that at the last census held on 18th March 1921 the population amounted to 4,504,549 persons. The average rate of increase during the decade 1911-21 was 9.6 per cent.

per annum as against 14.9, during the previous decennium 1901-1911. The intercensal rate of 9.6 per cent. in 1911-21 was, with the exception of the decade 1881-1891, the lowest recorded since the first regular census was taken in 1871. The density of population in 1921 was 178 persons per square mile as against 162 in 1911. One of the most interesting results brought out in the Report is the close agreement between the variations of the populations of Ceylon since 1871 and the graduation curve which increases in geometrical progression at a constant rate of 1.25 per cent. per annum or 13.4 per cent. in every 10 years.

This makes interpolation between any two censuses not a very difficult matter. The balancing equation which the Superintendent of Census and Director of Statistics uses is based on the statistics of births, deaths, emigration and immigration. This is a useful check provided the factors are accurate. In India for example it is a well known fact births are not all reported and therefore that this would not be a useful check when applied to Indian conditions.*

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.

*NOTE—Report on the "Census of Ceylon, 1921," Vol. I, Part I, by L. J. B. Turner.



Table I—Principal Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Date of formation.	Number of members.	Name and address of	
				President or Chairman.	Secretary.
1. Bombay City	1. The Indian Seamen's Union.	April 1921	10,000	Joseph Baptista, Matharpacady, Mazagaon Bombay.	J. E. Fernandez, No. 7, Love Lane, Mazagaon, Bombay.
	2. The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union.	July 1920	2,600	Rai Saheb Chandrika Prasad of Ajmer. <i>Vice-President</i> —F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	3. The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union (Carriage and Wagon Departments).	May 1919	2,500	Rai Saheb Chandrika Prasad of Ajmer. <i>Vice-President</i> —F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union.	March 1920	3,500	F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	5. The Clerks' Union	April 1918	950	B. M. Anandrao, B.A., Malabar Lumbering Company, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay. <i>Vice-President</i> —S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.	1. Anant Padmanabh, Patel and Mukerjee, 53, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay. 2. S. Bhawani Rao, Chelabhai Building, Chaupati, Bombay.
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers') Union.	April 1918	1,000	F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	7. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union.	May 1921	4,507	Motilal J. Mehta, Audit Office, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.	1. Swami Adwaitanand, G. I. P. Railway Staff Union Office, Dadar, Bombay. 2. Narayan G. Kale, Operative Branch, C. T. S.'s Office, Bombay.
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union	July 1922	350	Not elected	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
			Total Members, Bombay City	24,807	
Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union.	February 1920	4,000	Anusuya Sarabhai, Ashraun, Ahmedabad.	Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad. <i>Assistant Secretary</i> —Khandubhai Kasanbhai Desai, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	2. The Sizing Union	Do.	400	Do.	Do.
	3. The Folders' Union	Do.	400	Do.	Do.
	4. The Winders' Union.	June 1920	1,050	Do.	Do.

Table I—Principal Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency—*continued.*

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Date of formation.	Number of members.	Name and address of	
				President or Chairman.	Secretary.
2. Ahmedabad— <i>contd.</i>	5. The Throstle Union.	February 1920 ..	5,500	Anusuya Sarabhai, Sewa Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	6. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	August 1920 ..	4,000	Do.	Assistant Secretary—Khandubhai Kasanbhai Desai, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	7. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	September 1920 ..	750	Do.	Do.
	8. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.	February 1919 ..	200	V. J. Patel, Khamasa, Ahmedabad.	M. V. Kothari, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
	9. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees Association.	February 1920 ..	3,485	Do.	M. V. Kothari, Raipur, Ahmedabad. Assistant Secretary—B. N. Sandil, Panchkuwa Gate, Ahmedabad.
	Total Members, Ahmedabad ..		19,785		
3. Sukkur	N. W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	September 1920 ..	3,574	Shahzada Misri, Carriage and Wagon Shop, Sukkur.	Tirlokinath Kaul, Station Road (Gharibabad), Sukkur.
4. Karachi	N. W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	1920 ..	2,500	Thawar Dass, Head Claims Clerk, Tholeproduce Yard, Karachi.	Kanti Parkash, Bunder Road, Vishandass Nihal Chand Building, Karachi.
5. Sholapur	The Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union.	March 1921 ..	500	G. G. Bhadbhade, Kurduwadi.	G. T. Malgi, Kurduwadi.
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union	February 1921 ..	110	John Mathews, Foreman, Scottish Mission Press, Poona Cantonment.	1. G. T. Sakpal, 879, Shukrawar Peth, Poona City. 2. N. B. Purohit, Gourishankar Press, Poona City.
		Total, rest of Presidency ..	6,684		
	Total Members, Presidency ..		51,276		



Table II—Income and Expenditure of Principal Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency.

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Income per month.	Sum paid per member per month.	Expenditure per month.
		Rs.		Rs.
1. Bombay City	1. The Indian Seamen's Union ..	1,422	Rs. 6 (per year) ..	1,327
	2. The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union.	350	From 1 to 8 annas according to pay ..	75
	3. The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union ..	350	From 1 to 8 annas according to pay ..	75
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union ..	250	As. 4 for those earning Rs. 50 and under per month; As. 8 for those earning above Rs. 50.	60
	5. The Clerks' Union ..	200	As. 4 ..	75
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers') Union.	200	As. 8 ..	80
	7. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union ..	500	One day's pay per year ..	400
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.	157	As. 8 ..	15
2. Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union ..	2,000	As. 8 ..	175
	2. The Sizing Union ..	300	Re. 1 per front sizer; As. 8 per back sizer.	14
	3. The Folders' Union ..	262 8 0	Re. 1 per mukadam; As. 8 per folder ..	Not reported.
	4. The Winders' Union ..	131 4 0	As. 2 ..	12
	5. The Throstle Union ..	2,100	As. 4 per labourer; As. 2 per doffer; Anna 1 per half day worker (doffer).	500
	6. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	1,000	As. 4 ..	226
	7. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	450	As. 12 per oilman; Re. 1 per driver or fireman.	14
	8. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.	Not reported.	Re. 1 per year for workers earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 2 per year for those earning above Rs. 50.	Not reported.
	9. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employee's Association.	682	Rs. 2 per year for workers earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 3 for those earning Rs. 50 to 100; Rs. 4 for those earning Rs. 100 and upwards.	300
3. Sukkur	The N. W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	389	Subscription at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of monthly pay from all members.	180
4. Karachi	The N. W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	500	Do. ..	200
5. Sholapur	The Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union.	About 40 ..	An amount equal to one day's pay as drawn by a member on the 1st of January of each year.	From Rs. 30 to Rs. 40.
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union ..	4	As. 2 to As. 3 ..	About 2.



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1922.	April 1923.	May 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	6 10 8	5 13 4	5 11 5
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	9 12 0	7 6 6	6 13 0
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	110 0 0	72 8 0	61 8 0
Do.	Jubbulpore	"	40 0 0	77 8 0	47 8 0	47 8 0
Jowari	Rangoon	Md.	3 2 6	4 10 6	4 2 0	4 0 4
Barley	"	"	3 4 6	5 4 8	3 2 10	3 9 7
Bajri	Ghati	"	3 4 6	6 5 7	4 3 9	4 3 9
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	"	4 3 9	6 2 2	3 14 8	3 9 7
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	5 10 5	9 13 8	5 1 3	5 1 3
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	22 2 0	29 0 0	29 8 0
Do.	Java white	"	10 3 0	22 12 0	28 12 0	29 0 0
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	14 15 5	10 3 3	10 14 2
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri	"	5 9 3	16 3 1	22 7 2	25 2 9
Ghee	Deshi	"	45 11 5	91 6 10	85 11 5	84 4 7
Salt	Bombay (black)	"	1 7 6	2 8 0	3 3 0	3 3 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—			100	142	124	121
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	"	100	174	132	122
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	"	100	244	161	137
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	"	100	194	119	119
Do.	Jubbulpore	"	100	148	131	128
Jowari	Rangoon	"	100	161	97	110
Barley	"	"	100	194	129	129
Bajri	Ghati	"	100	194	129	129
Average—Cereals			100	180	128	124
Pulses—						
Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	"	100	145	93	85
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	100	174	90	90
Average—Pulses			100	160	92	88
Sugar—						
Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	"	100	241	316	321
Do.	Java white	"	100	223	282	285
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	"	100	190	129	138
Average—Sugar			100	218	242	248
Other food—						
Turmeric	Rajapuri	"	100	290	402	451
Ghee	Deshi	"	100	200	188	184
Salt	Bombay (black)	"	100	170	217	217
Average—Other food			100	220	269	284
Average—All food			100	193	174	176



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1922.	April 1923.	May 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	15 2 0	13 9 0	13 1 0
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	11 8 0	9 10 0	9 7 0
Poppyseed	Do.	"	10 14 0	15 0 0	13 0 0	13 2 0
Gingelly	White	"	11 4 0	16 4 0	16 0 0	15 4 0
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	Good	Candy	251 0 0	500 0 0	515 0 0	515 0 0
Oomra	Fully good	"	222 0 0	417 0 0	440 0 0	440 0 0
Dharwar	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	....	....	....
Khandesh	Machine ginned	"	205 0 0	....	....	....
Bengal	Do.	"	198 0 0	362 0 0	415 0 0	420 0 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 9 0	1 10 0	1 11 0
Grey shirtings	Fari, 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	14 12 0	13 0 0	13 0 0
White mulls	6,600	"	4 3 0	11 4 0	8 12 0	8 12 0
Shirtings	Liepman's 1,500	"	10 6 0	26 8 0	25 8 0	25 8 0
Long cloth	Local made 36" x 37½ yds...	Lb.	0 9 6	1 10 3	1 5 0	1 4 3
Chudders	54" x 6 yds.	"	0 9 6	1 8 0	1 3 6	1 3 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—			100	170	152	147
Linseed	Bold	"	100	144	120	118
Rapeseed	Cawnpore (brown)	"	100	138	120	121
Poppyseed	Do.	"	100	144	142	136
Gingelly	White	"	100	144	142	136
Average—Oilseeds			100	149	134	131
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton—raw—						
Broach	Good	"	100	200	205	205
Oomra	Fully good	"	100	188	198	198
Dharwar	Saw-ginned	"	100	183	210	212
Khandesh	Machine ginned	"	100	183	210	212
Bengal	Do.	"	100	190	204	205
Average—Cotton—raw			100	196	204	212
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Twist	40S	"	100	248	219	219
Grey shirtings	Fari, 2,000	"	100	269	209	209
White mulls	6,600	"	100	255	246	246
Shirtings	Liepman's 1,500	"	100	276	221	213
Long cloth	Local made 36" x 37½ yds...	"	100	253	205	200
Chudders	54" x 6 yds.	"	100	250	217	217
Average—Cotton manufactures			100	230	213	213
Average—Textiles—Cotton			100	230	213	213

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1922.	April 1923.	May 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk	Canton No. 5	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 13 11	1 12 9	2 0 9
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 15 8	0 13 6	0 13 1
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 0 10	3 5 10	2 14 1
Metals— Copper braziers	—	Cwt.	60 8 0	81 0 0	80 0 0	77 0 0
Iron bars	—	"	4 0 0	11 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
Steel hoops	—	"	7 12 0	15 8 0	14 0 0	14 0 0
Galvanized sheets	—	"	9 0 0	15 8 0	17 8 0	18 0 0
Tin plates	—	Box	8 12 0	13 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	30 0 0	9 8 0	10 0 0
Kerosene	Elephant brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 10 0	7 8 0	7 8 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

Other textiles— Silk	Canton No. 5	100	105	105	105
Do.	Nankin	100	172	172	172
Average—Other textiles	—	100	139	139	139
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow	Tanned	100	162	155	177
Do. Buffalo	Do.	100	91	78	76
Skins, Goat	Do.	100	164	269	230
Average—Hides and Skins	—	100	139	167	161
Metals— Copper braziers	—	100	134	132	127
Iron bars	—	100	275	200	200
Steel hoops	—	100	200	181	181
Galvanized sheets	—	100	172	194	200
Tin plates	—	100	149	217	217
Average—Metals	—	100	186	185	185
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal	Bengal	100	203	64	68
Kerosene	Elephant brand	100	174	171	171
Do.	Chester brand	100	199	196	196
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	—	100	192	144	145
Total—Food	—	100	192	144	145
Total—Non-food	—	100	193	174	176
General Average	—	100	187	176	175
	—	100	189	175	175

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1922.	April 1923.	May 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals— Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	61 0 0	45 0 0	47 0 0
Wheat, white	5% barley	"	31 8 0	50 0 0	40 8 0	38 12 0
	3% dirt.	"				
	30% red.	"				
" red	5% barley	"	31 4 0	49 8 0	40 0 0	38 0 0
	3% dirt.	"				
" white	92% red.	"	32 8 0	51 8 0	41 12 0	39 14 0
	2% barley, 1½% dirt.	"				
" red	1½% dirt.	"	32 4 0	51 0 0	41 4 0	39 2 0
Jowari	2% barley	"	25 8 0	35 0 0	22 0 0	26 0 0
Barley	Export Quality	"	26 8 0	37 0 0	27 8 0	25 12 0
	3% dirt	"				
Pulses— Gram	1% dirt	"	29 8 0	45 8 0	28 8 0	27 8 0
Sugar— Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	21 12 0	27 0 0	27 0 0
Do.	" brown	"	8 1 6	19 8 0	....	....
Other food— Salt	Bengal Maund.	"	2 2 0	1 10 6	2 14 0	2 15 0

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

Cereals— Rice	Larkana No. 3	100	156	115	121
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt	100	159	129	123
	30% red.				
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt	100	158	128	122
	92% red.				
" white	2% barley, 1½% dirt	100	158	128	123
" red	2% barley, 1½% dirt	100	158	128	121
Jowari	Export Quality	100	137	86	102
Barley	3% dirt	100	140	104	97
Averages—Cereals	—	100	152	117	116
Pulses— Gram	1% dirt	100	154	97	93
Sugar— Sugar	Java white	100	238	296	296
"	" brown	100	241	....	....
Average—Sugar	—	100	240	296	296
Other food—Salt	—	100	78	135	138



Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1922.	April 1923.	May 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3 % admixture ..	Maud ..	2 11 3	4 6 0	4 3 0	4 3 0
Rapeseed	Black, 9 % admixture ..	Candy ..	51 0 0	67 8 0	57 8 0	55 8 0
Gingelly .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	62 0 0	86 0 0	88 0 0	84 0 0
Textiles—						
Jute bags—	B. Twills	100 bags ..	38 4 0	52 0 0	53 8 0	53 4 0
Textile—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maud ..	20 4 0	43 0 0	45 2 0	45 4 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Piece ..	10 3 6	22 0 0	24 4 0	24 4 0
Shirting	Liepmann's .. ..	.. ..	10 2 0	26 0 0	24 8 0	25 0 0
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough) ..	Lb. ..	0 12 2	.....	.....	.....
Other Textiles—						
Wool	Kandahar	Maud ..	28 0 0	24 8 0	38 0 0	37 0 0

Expressed as percentage of July 1914

Price in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3 % admixture	100	162	155	155	
Rapeseed	Black, 9 % admixture	100	132	113	109	
Gingelly .. ..	.. ..	100	139	142	136
Average—Oilseeds						
		100	144	137	133	
Textiles—						
Jute bags	Twills	100	136	140	139	
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	100	212	223	224	
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	100	215	237	237	
Shirtings	Liepmann's	100	257	242	247	
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)	100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Cotton manufactures						
		100	236	240	242	
Average—Textiles—Cotton						
		100	223	234	236	
Other Textiles—Wool						
		100	88	136	132	



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1922.	April 1923.	May 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides—						
Hides dry	Sind	Maud ..	21 4 0	12 0 0	14 8 0	11 0 0
.. ..	Punjab .. ..	.. ..	21 4 0	12 0 0	14 8 0	11 0 0
Metals—						
Copper Braziers .. ..	.. ..	Cwt. ..	60 8 0	81 0 0	79 0 0	78 0 0
Steel Bars .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	3 14 0	8 10 0	7 12 0	7 0 0
.. Plates .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	4 6 0	10 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 0 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	56	68	52	
.. ..	Punjab	100	56	68	52	
Average—Hides						
		100	56	68	52	
Metals—						
Copper Braziers .. ..	.. ..	100	134	131	129
Steel Bars .. ..	.. ..	100	223	200	181
.. Plates .. ..	.. ..	100	229	177	177
Average—Metals						
		100	195	169	162	
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal ..	100	219	219	219	
Kerosene	Chester Brand	100	195	193	193	
.. ..	Elephant	100	170	166	166	
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles						
		100	195	193	193	
Total—Food						
		100	162	135	134	
Total—Non-food						
		100	164	163	159	
General Average						
		100	163	153	149	



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														
May	166	171	397	173	211	179	168	305	175	113	284	204	220	217
1921														
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	192
April	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	254	139	137	187	190	185	188
May	180	160	218	220	193	149	190	250	139	139	186	192	187	189
June	169	129	220	231	187	152	202	256	139	136	191	192	191	190
July	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	139	142	177	188	188	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	134	204	217	139	167	185	144	176	175
May	124	88	248	284	176	131	205	217	139	161	185	145	175	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, April and May 1923

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Articles.	Grade.	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas.	July 1914.	April 1923.	May 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in May 1923 over or below	
							July 1914.	April 1923.
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	216	5 10	8 0	7 9	+ 1 11	- 0 3
Wheat	Punjab Pissi	"	212	5 10	7 11	7 6	+ 1 8	- 0 5
Jowari	Madras	"	208	4 3	5 0	5 0	+ 0 9	..
Bajri	Ghati	"	200	4 7	5 1	4 11	+ 0 4	- 0 2
Gram	Punjab red	"	208	4 4	7 0	6 5	+ 2 1	- 0 7
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	7 4	7 0	+ 1 1	- 0 4
Sugar (raw)	Sangli, middle quality	Seer by weight	28	1 2	2 11	3 2	+ 2 0	+ 0 3
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	"	28	1 1	2 0	2 0	+ 0 11	..
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	12 0	13 3	+ 5 5	+ 1 3
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	188	1 9	3 11	4 0	+ 2 3	+ 0 1
Beef	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	4 3	4 5	+ 1 11	+ 0 2
Mutton	Average for sheep and goat	"	39	3 0	7 3	7 6	+ 4 6	+ 0 3
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+ 2 2	..
Ghee	Belgaum, Deshi	" by weight	28	7 1	12 1	12 1	+ 5 0	..
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	"	28	0 8	1 0	1 0	+ 0 4	..
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	0 9	0 9	+ 0 6	..
Cocconut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+ 0 5	..



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	100	100	100	100	
1915	..	97	147	123	102	107	127	123	..	..	102	95
1916	..	117	138	134	124	123	160	160	..	..	140	133
1917	..	148	153	151	169	141	206	204	..	..	188	201
1918	..	237	196	178	175	207	226	225	..	..	262	299
1919	..	222	239	189	178	226	242	235	..	..	339	409
1920	..	215	260	228	212	299	295	283	307	..	510	624	
1921	..	190	210	155	189	170	157	162	168	162	326	595	
1922	..	186	204	154	181	169	156	158	162	156	307	563	
1923	..	192	201	153	180	153	157	160	160	156	307	533	
January	..	188	198	155	180	148	159	159	160	158	314	527	
February	..	189	195	162	177	141	159	162	160	158	317	524	
March	..	190	198	163	175	139	160	163	160	159	326	537	
April	..	188	202	164	177	138	158	163	160	159	325	558	
May	..	186	196	163	177	139	153	158	156	156	331	571	
June	..	181	193	165	175	138	151	156	154	156	329	582	
July	..	174	190	167	174	140	153	158	155	159	337	601	
August	..	176	188	170	175	144	154	159	157	161	353	596	
September	..	173	183	168	172	147	152	158	155	159	362	580	
October	..	177	185	171	171	141	153	161	157	160	387	575	
November	..	172	193	169	173	137	155	163	158	162	422	582	
December	..	177	197	..	..	..	156	163	160	164	424	587
January	..	175	..	..	..	..	..	165	161	165	426	..
February	..	175	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	163	..	..

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	100	..	..	98
1915	142	145	(f) 159	145	138	109	..	..	101
1916	153	222	(f) 233	185	164	134	..	..	127
1917	179	286	341	244	228	175	..	..	177
1918	217	392	345	339	293	205	..	..	194
1919	415	297	322	330	294	216	..	..	206
1920	1,486	281	377	347	..	246	216	226	239
1921	3,487	165	269	172	188	170	123	140	142
1922	4,103	162	253	166	177	169	124	141	146
1923	5,433	161	240	164	182	166	126	142	147
January	6,355	162	236	165	178	166	125	143	149
February	6,458	165	231	164	177	167	127	148	158
March	7,030	167	230	164	179	165	129	150	162
April	10,059	162	232	165	180	166	131	155	165
May	17,985	155	227	163	180	164	131	155	165
June	27,419	153	225	158	178	163	131	153	164
July	56,600	156	221	155	176	162	136	154	165
August	115,100	158	221	154	180	164	14		



Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India (Bombay).	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Italy (Rome) (c).	Belgium.	Norway.	Switzerland.	South Africa.	France (Paris).	Germany.	U. S. of America.
Items included in the index.	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, light, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous.	Food, clothing, light, fuel, and household utensils.	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent, tax, etc.	Food, heating and lighting.	Food, fuel, light, and rent.	(g)	Food, heating and lighting, clothing and rent.	Food, clothing heating and lighting, 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	125	107	119	107	99	117	117	119	103	..	..	105
1916	148	148	102	115	113	116	..	146	140	106	..	..	118
1917	180	180	130	116	119	146	..	190	180	114	..	..	142
1918	203	203	146	118	128	197	..	253	229	118	..	..	174
1919	208	208	155	132	133	205	..	275	261	126	238	..	177
1920	189	252	190	..	149	313	453	..	253	155	..	842	217
1921	177	219	152	..	157	387	379	..	209	133	..	11,124	..
1922 February	165	188	149	..	150	426	380	..	177	120	..	2,410	..
March	165	186	148	137	148	415	371	257	167	120	291	2,879	167
April	162	182	146	..	146	420	367	..	167	122	..	3,436	..
May	163	181	145	..	146	427	365	..	157	122	..	3,803	..
June	163	180	145	140	145	425	366	249	158	121	302	4,147	167
July	165	184	146	..	144	429	366	..	158	120	..	5,392	..
August	164	181	147	..	144	431	366	..	156	120	..	7,705	..
September	165	179	148	143	144	437	376	249	157	120	289	13,319	166
October	162	178	147	..	143	444	376	..	160	121	..	22,066	..
November	160	180	147	..	143	439	384	..	160	122	..	44,610	..
December	161	180	148	..	143	438	384	238	161	121	300	68,506	170
1923 January	156	178	150	..	142	412	383	..	160	120	..	112,027	..
February	155	177	150	..	..	413	397	..	158	120	..	264,300	..
March	154	176	152	..	..	..	408	240	161	119	324	285,400	169
April	155	174	..	..	..	..	409	..	..	..	..	295,400	..
May	153	170	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
June	151	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(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 (d)	Denmark.	Switzerland.
No. of articles.	17	20	29	18	46	59	43	13	9	22	37	..	27	..	51	..	..
No. of stations.	Bombay.	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris.	Rome.	1,028 budgets.	20	47	Amsterdam.	30	44	100	23
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100	(d) 100	(e) 100	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100
1915	132	105	107	131	112	98	120	95	..	..	..	..	114	..	124	128	119
1916	161	114	116	130	119	109	129	111	..	..	..	..	117	160	142	146	141
1917	204	157	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	..	..	146	214	181	166	179
1918	210	175	134	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	..	176	279	268	187	222
1919	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	..	..	204	289	310	212	250
1920	258	227	197	194	167	215	373	318	459	982	1,156	210	319	297	253	239	239
1921	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	410	1,278	1,491	180	295	232	236	207
1922 February	160	179	143	119	140	145	139	307	463	399	1,115	3,020	150	245	189	..	173
March	161	177	142	119	141	141	136	304	446	382	1,093	3,602	143	238	185	..	162
April	157	173	138	121	143	144	136	304	455	378	1,124	4,356	137	234	182	..	153
May	158	172	138	120	147	145	136	317	455	379	1,092	4,680	136	230	178	..	152
June	158	170	137	118	146	143	137	307	454	384	..	5,119	137	227	179	..	153
July	160	180	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	381	1,105	6,836	144	233	179	184	153
August	159	175	141	116	149	141	137	289	463	377	1,127	9,746	144	232	181	..	152
September	161	172	139	117	149	139	137	291	472	386	1,129	15,417	145	228	180	..	151
October	158	172	138	119	146	139	140	290	482	406	1,121	26,623	148	220	178	..	153
November	155	176	139	120	143	139	142	297	477	432	1,108	54,982	141	216	170	..	155
December	157	178	140	118	146	138	144	305	476	429	1,092	80,700	142	215	168	180	155
1923 January	151	175	142	117	145	139	141	309	..	426	1,080	136,600	145	214	166	..	155
February	150	173	142	117	144	139	139	316	..	439	..	318,300	..	214	166	..	154
March	149	171	145	117	145	141	139	321	..	439	..	331,500	..	214	166	..	156
April	150	168	..	..	152	..	..	..	..	417	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
May	148	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) Unofficial. (d) January to June 1914. (e) 15th April 1914. (g) Figures from 1914 to 1916 are annual averages.

NOTE.—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in May 1923

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trade.</i>						
General Strike in Cotton Mills in Ahmedabad.	43,113	....	1923. 1 April	1923.	1. Against a 20 per cent. wage cut, decided upon by the Millowners' Association, with effect from 1st April 1923.	
Simplex Mill, Clerk Road, Byculla, Bombay.	700 (Spinners and carders).	....	28 April	5 May	1. Against the discontinuance of the night shift from 1st May 1923.	Strikers paid off and discharged.
Matharadas Mill, Delisle Road, Bombay.	40 (Female Winders).	....	30 May	30 May	Against the dismissal of one of the Head female winders for unsatisfactory work.	Strikers paid off and discharged.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
Office of No. 6 detachment, Survey of India, Mirourkias, Sind.	19	....	22 April	2 May	Demand for Sind allowance, alleged to have been promised by the Head Office at Calcutta.	Some strikers resumed work, the others being replaced.
The Sind Flour Mills, Ltd., Karachi.	100	....	30 April	7 May	Demand for overtime wages for work done during two hours allowed for rest and for reinstatement of seven dismissed ring leaders.	Strikers paid off.
B. B. & C. I., Railway Goods Shed, Carnac Bunder, Bombay.	325 Coolies (daily paid).	....	30 April	9 May	Demand for an increase in daily wages from Rs. 1-8-0 to Rs. 1-12-0.	Some workpeople replaced, others resuming work on the old terms.
The Mahalaxmi Race Course, Bombay.	158 Coolies.	....	2 May	3 May	Demand for an increase in their daily wages.	Some strikers were discharged, and the others resumed work unconditionally.
Sirdar Carbonic Gas Co., Connaught Road, Bombay.	115	....	10 May	16 May	Against the delay in payment of the yearly bonus.	61 strikers were paid off and replaced, the others resumed work unconditionally.
Alcock Ashdown & Co., Mazgaon, Bombay.	108 (Boiler makers)	....	11 May	21 May	Against the discharge of two old servants of the Company.	Strikers resumed work unconditionally.
Loco. Running Shed, B. B. & C. I. Railway, Bandra near Bombay.	56	....	23 May	26 May	Against the reduction in the strength of firemen on every Shunting Engine from 2 to 1.	Some resumed work and the others resigned.



Accidents in Factories during May 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 May 1923.	May 1923.		
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
I. Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills ..	173	42	59	11	2	..	20	6	210	47	232	53		
Woolen Mills ..	4	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	1	5	1		
Others ..	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	..		
Total ..	181	43	61	11	2	..	20	6	220	48	242	54		
II. Workshops—														
Engineering ..	11	4	55	12	1	..	3	..	62	16	66	16		
Railway ..	50	9	296	70	2	..	10	2	334	77	346	79		
Mint ..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..		
Others ..	12	6	5	3	..	..	5	2	12	7	17	9		
Total ..	73	19	360	85	3	..	18	4	412	100	433	104		
III. Miscellaneous—														
Chemical Works ..	..	..	6	2	..	..	1	..	5	2	6	2		
Flour Mills ..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..		
Printing Presses ..	2	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	3	..		
Others ..	5	..	9	2	..	..	4	..	10	2	14	2		
Total ..	9	..	17	4	..	..	6	..	20	4	26	4		
Total, All Factories ..	263	62	438	100	5	..	44	10	652	152	701	162		

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 May 1923.	May 1923.		
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
Textile Mills—														
Cotton ..	11	1	5	2	2	1	10	1	4	1	16	3		
Total ..	11	1	5	2	2	1	10	1	4	1	16	3		

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



Accidents in Factories during May 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 May 1923.	May 1923.		
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
Workshop—														
Railway and Port Trust ..	4	2	15	6	..	..	4	..	15	8	19	8		
Total ..	4	2	15	6	..	..	4	..	15	8	19	8		

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 May 1923.	May 1923.		
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.	January to May 1923.	May 1923.				
I. Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills ..	15	5	9	3	..	..	8	1	16	7	24	8		
Cotton Press ..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..		
Others ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	16	5	10	3	1	..	8	1	17	7	26	8		
II. Workshops—														
Railway ..	13	5	69	11	..	..	2	2	80	14	82	16		
Ammunition Works ..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	3	..		
Others ..	1	..	5	1	1	1	1	..	4	..	6	1		
Total ..	14	5	77	12	2	1	3	2	86	14	91	17		
III. Miscellaneous—														
Gin Factory ..	3	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	2	..	4	..		
Paint Works ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	2	..		
Others ..	1	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	7	..		
Total ..	5	..	2	..	2	..	2	..	3	..	7	..		
Total, All Factories ..	35	10	89	15	5	1	13	3	106	21	124	25		

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

Count or Number.	Month of April.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,526	6,104	5,724
Nos. 11 to 20 "	19,528	18,429	16,622
Nos. 21 to 30 "	12,315	15,748	8,545
Nos. 31 to 40 "	1,238	1,294	621
Nos. 41 to 45 "	126	158	112
Above 45 "	10	10	14
Waste, etc.			
Total	38,783	39,143	31,636

Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of April.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,153	5,396	5,489
Nos. 11 to 20 "	14,396	12,964	13,544
Nos. 21 to 30 "	7,938	7,005	6,858
Nos. 31 to 40 "	521	530	432
Above 40 "	52	85	64
Waste, etc.	4	1	4
Total	26,074	26,784	26,291

Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of April.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	141	83	4
Nos. 11 to 20 "	2,456	2,589	437
Nos. 21 to 30 "	5,415	4,112	425
Nos. 31 to 40 "	595	640	80
Above 40 "	20	54	18
Waste, etc.	1		
Total	6,628	7,478	964

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

Description.	Month of April.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—			
Pounds			
Chaddies	1,243	867	702
Dhosis	8,036	7,165	4,065
Drills and jeans	860	724	743
Cambries and lawns	78	120	33
Printers	568	474	316
Shirtings and long cloth	11,232	8,014	6,633
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,512	1,004	1,046
Tant cloth	75	96	62
Other sorts	960	1,377	1,544
Total	24,382	19,841	15,144
Coloured piece-goods	6,829	5,361	6,238
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	166	124	119
Hosiery	13	14	15
Miscellaneous	61	68	54
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	3	9	13
Grand Total	31,454	25,417	21,383

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of April.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—			
Pounds			
Chaddies	615	499	475
Dhosis	2,193	2,020	1,360
Drills and jeans	731	650	696
Cambries and lawns	66	67	37
Printers	3	29	28
Shirtings and long cloth	7,878	6,119	4,205
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,124	868	664
Tant cloth	40	90	54
Other sorts	529	1,013	1,133
Total	13,183	11,380	9,543

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

Description.	Month of April.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	5,451	4,325	5,073
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	159	122	114
Hosiery ..	7	11	7
Miscellaneous ..	61	68	52
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	3	9	13
Grand Total ..	18,844	15,913	14,802

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of April.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—			
Chudlers Pounds ..	559	317	246
Dhotis ..	4,797	4,107	1,684
Drills and jeans ..	104	55	15
Cambrics and lawns ..	6	42	6
Printers ..	303	317	145
Shirtings and long cloth ..	2,587	1,391	1,209
T. cloth, domestic, and sheetings ..	377	97	140
Tent cloth ..			4
Other sorts ..	252	185	222
Total ..	8,965	6,511	3,671
Coloured piece-goods ..	646	430	551
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods ..	2		7
Hosiery ..	5	3	
Miscellaneous ..		1	3
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..			
Grand Total ..	9,618	6,945	4,232

CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

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

United Kingdom.—It has been decided to appoint a Committee to enquire into the present standard of remuneration and other conditions of employment of the various classes of State servants employed in the Civil Service and in the three fighting services and to make recommendations thereon. The Committee consists of a chairman and two business experts. They are asked to include in their report a classified statement of increase in the numbers and cost of personnel in the services consequent on duties imposed on them since July 1914 and the expansion of duties then existing.

In the House of Commons Mr. G. B. Hurst (Manchester, Unionist) asked permission to introduce a Bill to repeal section 4 (3a) of the Trade Union Act, 1871. Section 4 reads:—

4. "Nothing in this Act shall enable any court to entertain any legal proceeding instituted with the object of directly enforcing or recovering damages for the breach of any of the following agreements, namely,

1. Any agreement between members of a trade union as such, concerning the conditions on which any members for the time being of such trade union shall or shall not sell their goods, transact business, employ, or be employed;

2. Any agreement for the payment by any person of any subscription or penalty to a trade union;

3. Any agreement for the application of the funds of a trade union,—

(a) To provide benefits to members; or

(b) To furnish contributions to any employer or workman not a member of such trade union, in consideration of such employer or workman acting in conformity with the rules or resolutions of such trade union; or

(c) To discharge any fine imposed upon any person by sentence of a court of justice; or

4. Any agreement made between one trade union and another; or

5. Any bond to secure the performance of any of the above-mentioned agreements.

But nothing in this section shall be deemed to constitute any of the above-mentioned agreements unlawful.

Mr. Hurst said that the object of his Bill was to emancipate trade unionists from the

legal disability they now laboured of having no right of enforcing their claim to benefit against trade unions. This clause could, in unscrupulous hands, be a weapon of tyranny against the trade union rank and file. Continuing, Mr. Hurst said that it was a common practice for executives who were displeased with the political action of the members of a trade union to filch from them the benefits to which they were entitled by reason of many years' contributions. He pointed out how members of trade unions in Staffordshire were required to pledge themselves that they would not buy a non-labour daily unless they bought the *Daily Herald*. The members had either to obey or undergo what a judge had described as 'industrial death'. Labour Members dissented from Mr. Hurst's view and one of them opposed the motion.

Leave was given to bring in the Bill by 209 votes to 168.

In reply to a question in the House of Commons, on the 6th March, the President of the Board of Trade stated that the number of Lascars employed on British ships at the time of the Census taken on 19th June 1921 was as follows:—

Deck Department—Patty officers ..	2,911
Others ..	10,992
Engine Room Department—Patty officers ..	2,515
Others ..	16,546
Stewards' Department ..	11,317
Total ..	44,541

In regard to their wages, the Minister said that the rates of pay vary according to the port at which the men are engaged. The following are the rates for crews engaged at Calcutta:—

Rating.	Ruppes per month.
Deck Department.	
Deck seaman ..	60
1st tinsal ..	47
2nd tinsal ..	38
Winchman ..	25
Lascars ..	12
Lascar boys ..	25
Bhandary ..	60
Engine Room Department.	
Fireman seaman ..	45
1st tinsal ..	30
2nd tinsal ..	28
Donkeyman ..	27
Oilman ..	18
Fireman ..	23
Coal trimmer ..	10
Bhandary ..	
Bhandary's mate ..	

Steward's Department.	70
Butler	50
2nd class butler	70
Baker	70
Chief Cook	40
2nd cook	25
3rd cook	30
Saloon boys, officers' boys and mess room boys	24
Scullion	25
Blindery	25

Early in May a conference of employers in the cotton trade and of leaders of the operatives' trade unions considered the wages question. The question at issue was whether present wages shall be stabilised for a year, for 18 months, or for two years. Wages are now 90 per cent. above the scale in force when the war broke out. But it must be remembered that at that time the operatives worked 55½ hours per week whereas they are fortunate now if they get 24 hours' employment each week. Further, the great bulk of them are on piece work and even with the 90 per cent. increase over pre-war rates their earnings are so small that they include nothing for the extra cost of living. This fact is receiving the attention of the employers. But other circumstances which will ensure a satisfactory settlement are a large and comparatively cheap cotton crop, the speedy re-establishment of peaceful relations in Europe and a fall in the cost of necessities to something like the pre-war level.

Japan.—The results of a special investigation into the hours of work in various industries in Japan undertaken by the *Kyocho Kai* (Association for Harmonious Co-operation) have been published. In the textile industry the operations of the cotton spinning factories have in recent years been restricted in order to decrease output. Many factories are now operating 22 hours per day on the two-shift system. In the silk and wool spinning factories, however, the two shifts are of 12 hours each. The jute spinning factories owing to bad trade, while abolishing night work, have adopted a system of 12 hours work during the day time. The working day in the engineering industry is generally short. Shipbuilding undertakings, with the exception of naval arsenals and the Mitsubishi dockyards, have adopted the 8-hour day as the basis for calculating wages. Factories with an 8-hour day usually work overtime, the working hours in general amounting to 9 or a little over.

Hours of work in the coal mining industry vary considerably and are not uniform even in the same mine. Where the one-shift system was in force this was sometimes of 10 hours and sometimes of 12 hours. Where a two-shift system was in force the shifts were either of 10 or 12 hours. The three-shift system of 8 hours each was also in force in some mines.

The majority of factories in the chemical industry operate continuously and the system of two 12 hour shifts is generally adopted. The number of factories working an 8-hour day is increasing.

China.—According to the *Pekin Daily News* the Cabinet passed a resolution early in December 1922 authorising the establishment of a Department of Labour. The functions of the new department that are drawn up by the Ministry controlling the Department are awaiting the sanction of the Cabinet.

Geneva.—The Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its eighteenth session held on 10th April 1923, approved a proposal to convene a meeting of representatives of official labour statistics departments to consider the question of the standardisation of labour statistics with a view to facilitating international comparison of statistics and the scientific study of labour problems.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Official Publications

INDIA

Bengal Legislative Council Proceedings—Vol. XI, Nos. 1—3.

India's Parliament at Delhi—A Resume of Work accomplished in the Delhi Session, 1923. Prepared by the Director, Central Bureau of Information, Government of India.

Bombay Legislative Council Debates—Vol. VIII, Part IV.

Central Provinces Legislative Council Proceedings—Vol. II, Nos. 6—13.

Bihar and Orissa Legislative Council Proceedings—Vol. VII, Nos. 15—25.

Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the Government of Madras—Vol. XIV, Nos. 1—6.

Report on the Working of the Department of Industries of the Central Provinces for the year ending 31st December 1922.

UNITED KINGDOM

(His Majesty's Stationery Office, London.)

The Ministry of Labour Gazette—Vol. XXXI, Nos. 4 and 5, for April and May 1923.

The Board of Trade Journal—Vol. CIX, Nos. 1378—1381.

Poor Laws, Ireland—Three Reports by George Nicholls.

Second Report of the Commissioners for inquiring into the Condition of the Poorer Classes, Ireland—1836, with Appendices A, B, D, E and F.

Third Annual Report of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board to 31st December 1922.

Supplement to the Seventy-fifth Annual Report of the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages in England and Wales—Part I—Life Tables, Cd. 7512: 1914; Part III—Registration Summary Tables (1901—1919), Cd. 8002; 1919.

Ninth Report on the work of the National Insurance Audit Department.

Third Interim Report of the Inter-departmental Committee on Health and Unemployment Insurance—Cnd. 1821: 1923.

Increase of Rent, etc. (Restrictions) Act—Memorandum by the Ministry of Health.

Tabular Analysis of Draft Conventions and Recommendations adopted by the Conference under Article 405 of the Treaty of Versailles at its Third and Fourth Sessions, 1921 and 1922—Cnd. 1866: 1923.

Monthly Bulletin of Information—Vol. III, No. 5.

CANADA

The Labour Gazette—Vol. XXIII, No. 4, for April 1923.

AUSTRALIA

The New South Wales Industrial Gazette—Vol. XXIII, No. 4, 30th April 1923.

The Western Australian Industrial Gazette—Vol. III, No. 1, for quarter ending 31st March 1923.

The Queensland Industrial Gazette—Vol. VIII, Nos. 3 and 4, for March and April 1923.

NEW ZEALAND

Monthly Abstract of Statistics—Vol. X, No. 4, for April 1923.

BELGIUM

Revue du Travail—No. 4, for April 1923.

HOLLAND

Maandschrift—No. 4, for April 1923.

GERMANY

Reichs-Arbeitsblatt—Nos. 9 and 10, May 1923.

Wirtschaft und Statistik—Nos. 8 and 9.

SWITZERLAND

Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt—for May 1923.

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AUSTRIA

Statistische Nachrichten

This new journal takes the place of *Mitteilungen des Bundesamtes für Statistik* published by the Federal Statistical Office of Vienna in order to supply statistics relating to wages and the cost of living more regularly and to satisfy the growing demand for exact statistical data regarding Austria. Various Austrian employers' and workers' organisations have combined to enable the statistical office to produce a regular monthly journal which will be published on the 25th of each month. The "Statistische Nachrichten" is published by the Carl Ueberreuterschen Buchdruckerei und Schriftgießerei M. Salzer, Vienna, IX.

EGYPT

Monthly Agricultural Statistics for February and March 1923.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Federal Reserve Bulletin for February and March 1923.

Monthly Labor Review—Vol. XVI, No. 1, for January 1923.

Bulletins of the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics:—
No. 309—*Decisions of Courts and Opinions affecting Labour.*

No. 313—*Consumer's Co-operative Societies in the United States in 1920.*

No. 314—*Co-operative Societies (Credit Unions) in America and Foreign Countries.*

No. 317—*Wages and Hours of Labour in Lumber manufacturing, 1921.*

No. 320—*Wholesale Prices, 1890 to 1921.*

Commerce Reports—Nos. 8-9 for February 1923.
Survey of Current Business—No. 20.

GENEVA (INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE)

International Labour Review—Vol. VII, No. 4, for April 1923.

Official Bulletin—Vol. VII, Nos. 15—17.

Industrial and Labour Information—Vol. VI, Nos. 4—7.

Provisional Economic and Financial Committee—
Reports presented by the Committee in September 1921 together with the Proceedings of the Assembly and the Council upon such reports. (League of Nations.)

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics—Vol. IV, No. 4, for April 1923.

Unofficial Publications

INDIA

The Ninth Annual Report (for the year 1922) of the Social Service League.