



*The Social Service Quarterly*—Vol. VIII, No. 4.  
*The Wealth of India*—Vol. XI, No. 4, December 1922.

*Proceedings of the Madras Chamber of Commerce*—January–December 1922.

## UNITED KINGDOM

*The Economist*—Vol. XCV, Nos. 4157–4160.

*The Statist*—Vol. C, Nos. 2357–2360.

*Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*—Vol. LXXXVI, Part II, for March 1923.

*The Labour Magazine*—Vol. II, No. 1, for May 1923.

*The Labour Woman*—Vol. XI, No. 5, for May 1923.

*Statistical Bulletin of the National Federation of Iron and Steel Manufacturers*—Vol. IV, No. 3, for March 1923.

*Monthly Review of Barclay's Bank*—for May 1923.

*Monthly Review of the London Joint City and Midland Bank, Ltd.*, 30th April 1923.

*Industrial Welfare*—for May 1923.

Report of the Committee for year ended 31st December 1922 of the Oldham Master Cotton Spinners' Association, Ltd.

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

*The Journal of Industrial Hygiene*—Vol. IV, No. 12, for April 1923 and Vol. V, No. 1, for May 1923.

The May number contains the two following interesting articles—

Accidents from the point of view of the Workmen's Compensation Act, England, by D. A. Coles, M.D.

The Causation of Industrial Accidents, by H. M. Vernon, M.D.

*The Nation's Health*—Vol. V, No. 4, for April 1923.

*Commerce Monthly*—Vol. V, No. 1, for May 1923.

*The American Federationist*—Vol. XXX, No. 4, for April 1923.

*Changes in the Cost of Living*—July 1914 to November 1922.—Research Report No. 57 of the National Industrial Conference Board.

*Industrial News Survey*—Vol. VII, Nos. 7–10.

## Books

*Prohibition in America and its relation to the problem of public control of Personal Conduct* by Arthur Newholme (P. S. King and Son, Ltd.).

*After Two Years*—A study of American Prohibition by Philip Whitwell Wilson.

*Indian Shipping Series*—

Pamphlet No. 1, *State Aid to National Shipping*—by S. N. Hajji.

" No. 3, *The Deferred Rebate System*.

" No. 4, *Indian Mercantile Marine*—An address by S. N. Hajji.

*The Law Relating to Friendly Societies* by Frank Baden Fuller (William Clowes and Sons, Ltd., London).

*The Control of Industry*—by D. H. Robertson, M.A., Cambridge Economic Handbooks (Nisbet and Co., Ltd., London).

*Industrial Negotiations and Agreements* published by the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party.

*The Miners' Unions of Northumberland and Durham* by E. Welbourn (Cambridge University Press).

*Women in the Factory*—An Administrative Adventure, 1893–1921, by Adelaide Mary Anderson.

*The Law of Factories and Workshops* as codified and amended by the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, by A. H. Rugg, K.C., and Leonard Mossop (Stevens and Sons, Ltd., London).

## Acts

The Indian Factories Act, 1911 (XII of 1911). As amended by the Indian Factories Amendment Act, 1922 (II of 1922).

The Indian Factories (Amendment) Act, No. IX of 1923.

The Indian Mines Act, No. IV of 1923.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, No. VIII of 1923.

The Workman's Breach of Contract Act, No. XIII of 1859.

The Indian Census Act, No. IV of 1920.

The Indian Emigration Act, No. VII of 1922.

The Bombay Primary Education Act, No. IV of 1923.

The Bombay Salt (Amendment) Act, No. X of 1922.

The Bombay Local Boards Act, No. VI of 1923.

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The Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (II of 1899).

Act No. XIII of 1919—An Act further to amend the Sea Customs Act, 1878.

Act No. XIX of 1919—An Act further to amend the Indian Tariff Act, 1894.

Act No. XXIV of 1919—An Act to remove the restrictions imposed on the withdrawal of capital from the money market by Companies.

Act No. XXV of 1919—An Act further to amend the Indian Merchant Shipping Acts, 1859 and 1883.

Act No. I of 1920—An Act further to amend the Indian Steamships Act, 1884.

Act No. XV of 1922—An Act to regulate the employment of child labour in ports in British India.

# Labour Gazette

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THE MONTH IN BRIEF

Employment

THE month of June is usually a month of good attendance and satisfactory production in cotton mills owing to the return of workers from their villages and the setting in of the monsoon. In these respects the month of June 1923 was no exception. The supply of labour in the Presidency during the month was generally plentiful in all industries.

In Bombay City and island only 11 mills, out of a total of 49 reporting mills, reported a slight deficiency in the supply of labour. The average absenteeism in 49 representative mills in Bombay showed an appreciable improvement over the attendance of the previous month. The average absenteeism was 13.99 per cent. during the month ended 15th of June as compared with 18.30 per cent. in the previous month and 19.4 per cent. two months ago. Out of the total reporting mills only 1 mill reported a perceptible increase in absenteeism. The decrease in absenteeism was in all cases reported to be due to the return of workers from their villages. Absenteeism was reported to be highest in spinning departments and lowest in weaving and reeling departments during the month under review. After the monthly pay day, which was on the 15th instant in most mills, absenteeism rose from 12.34 per cent. to 17.18 per cent. on the 16th instant. This records a further slight improvement as compared with the figures for the preceding month when absenteeism rose from 18.45 per cent. to 19.30 per cent. for the same period.

In Ahmedabad, the supply of labour, owing to the late arrival of the monsoon in Guzerat, was plentiful in the month under review. Most of the mills are reported to be again working at full pressure after the big strike in this centre which ended on the 6th of June. No detailed reports, however, in regard to the rate of employment in Ahmedabad have been

received, and detailed statistics in regard to absenteeism are therefore not available. Arrangements are being made with the Ahmedabad Millowners' Association to publish monthly in this article detailed figures of absenteeism in a large number of representative mills in this centre from the August issue of the Labour Gazette.

In Dholapur, the supply of labour was plentiful and absenteeism was reported to be decreasing, in the mills for which returns are received, in the month under review. The average absenteeism showed a further marked improvement to 12.46 per cent. in the present month as compared with 16.61 per cent. in the previous month and 22.16 per cent. two months ago. The supply of water in Dholapur to which reference has been made in the last two issues of the Labour Gazette, is still causing anxiety in this centre. It is reported that the available water supply for the requirements of the town is considerably reduced and this will affect the working of the mills, if adequate rain is not received before the end of the present month.

In Beroch the supply of labour continued to be adequate and normal and absenteeism decreased during the month. The average absenteeism was 8.69 per cent. as compared with 10.31 per cent. in the previous month and 7.43 per cent. two months ago. In Pune the supply of labour continued to be adequate and absenteeism decreased as compared with the previous month.

The engineering industry in Bombay experiences no difficulty in obtaining all types of labour. The average absenteeism in engineering workshops (based on the returns from three large workshops) showed a further decrease, the figure being 14.52 per cent. in the present month as compared with 16.16 per cent. last month and 18.95 per cent. two months ago. On the Marine Lines and Colonial



reclamations of the Development Directorate the average absenteeism remained unchanged, viz., 4.5 per cent. Similarly, on the construction of *chawls* (tenements) at Naigaum and DeLisle Road, absenteeism remained at 3 per cent., the level of the previous month. At Worli, on the construction of *chawls* in connexion with the large scheme of the Development Directorate, absenteeism again showed a slight decrease to 5 per cent. as compared with 6 per cent. last month and 8 per cent. two months ago. The supply of unskilled labour employed for loading and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was equal to the demand. The Port Trust has recently introduced a system of payment by piece work for loading and unloading vessels and storing cargo in the Bombay docks. This has greatly decreased the employment of surplus labour in the docks. The average absenteeism was 20.2 per cent in the month under review as compared with 17.54 per cent. last month and 18.9 per cent. two months ago. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust, the supply of labour was adequate and a decrease in absenteeism was recorded. The average absenteeism was 9.50 per cent. as compared with 12 per cent. last month and 8 per cent. two months ago. This decrease was stated to be due to a decrease in sickness among the employees.

In Karachi the supply of all types of labour was plentiful. The average absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering workshop of the Karachi Port Trust remained at the level of the previous month, viz., 7 per cent.

#### The Cost of Living

In June 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 151 for all articles and 146 for food articles only. There is a fall of 7 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 22 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 June 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay as shown by the index number continued to be stationary. This level has been maintained constant for the last three months. There was a further fall in non-food articles while food articles continued to rise. The general level is now 75 per cent. above the pre-war level. The movement by groups will be found on page 11 in the article on wholesale prices in June. 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.				
	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923
Foods ..	67	79	74	76	79
Non-foods ..	75	76	76	75	73
All articles ..	72	77	75	75	75

#### Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes decreased from 11 in May to 7 during June. The number of disputes involving stoppage of work as beginning in June was 6. During June 49,111 workpeople were involved as compared with 44,734 in the previous month and 2,000 in June 1922. The aggregate duration of all disputes during June 1923 was about 160,000 working days, as compared with 1,170,000 in May 1923, and 4,250 in June 1922. The Ahmedabad strike came to an end on 4th June, and this accounts for the great decrease in time loss in June 1923, as compared with May 1923.



#### Labour Legislation

On page 21 of this issue is published a circular letter recently issued by the Government of India to local Governments and Administrations in regard to the appointment of Commissioners under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923. This Act was published on page 31 of the *Labour Gazette* for April 1923 and comes into force with effect from 1st July 1924.

Another circular in regard to (1) the employment of women in mines and (2) the introduction of a system of shifts in mines, has been addressed to local Governments and Administrations by the Government of India. This is also published in this issue on page 30.

#### Cotton Mill Production

The main features of the cotton mill production during May were (1) a large decrease owing to the strike, in yarn and woven goods in Ahmedabad during May 1923 as compared with the corresponding months of the two previous years; and (2) a slight decrease in woven goods in Bombay city and island in May 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.		
	May			May					
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923			
Bombay Island ..	28	30	28	18	17	16			
Ahmedabad ..	7	8	1	6	8	2			
Other centres ..	5	5	5	3	3	3			
Total, Presidency ..	40	43	34	27	28	21			

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

	Net rate per lb. in annas.		
	June 1922	May 1923	June 1923
Longcloth ..	27½	20½	20
T. Cloths ..	24	19	19
Chudders ..	25	19	19

#### The Outlook

During the week ended July 18th, the monsoon was active, and widespread rain fell over the whole country, excluding parts of Sind. At the close of the week the monsoon was very active in Northern India but weak in the Peninsula. On the whole, the rainfall of the week was satisfactory. The rainfall in the last two weeks of July means everything to the crops. The progress of this year's monsoon is compared week by week with last year's monsoon in Charts 2 and 3 in this issue.

While progress in India at the moment is centred in the monsoon, progress abroad is dependant, almost entirely, on Germany and Reparations. The continent of Europe cannot purchase from India and we in India require these markets as does also Great Britain. In Great Britain the number unemployed on the 11th of June showed an increase of 9,953 as compared with the previous week. There was an increase of 12,000 unemployed in Lancashire and Cheshire alone. According to the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* the decline in unemployment which had been in steady progress since November 1922 received a check in May 1923. On the 26th of May the total number of workers registered as unemployed in Great Britain and Northern Ireland was 1,261,000, the same figure as recorded at the end of April. The cost of living on 1st June, according to the Ministry of Labour Index figure, was 69 per cent. above the level of July 1914 as compared with 70 per cent. above that level on 1st of May 1923. In the United States, according to cable information received by the Acting American Trade Commissioner, the usual seasonal slacking in production and sales is apparent in the building, automotive and lumbering industries. Money is tighter and rates of interest are higher. The prices of wheat, cotton and steel are decreasing while those of corn are increasing.

#### The Balance of Trade

During June 1923, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to 7.04 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1922 was an adverse balance of 1.11 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India and Bombay and Karachi are given on the next page.



India

	In lakhs of rupees					
	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	29,45	31,66	32,63	30,98	30,00	29,89
Imports do.	21,38	19,37	18,54	21,10	19,28	17,98
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+8,07	+12,23	+14,09	+9,58	+10,72	+11,91
Balance of transactions in treasure (private)	-6,42	-10,78	-7,19	-7,97	-4,53	-3,82
Visible balance of trade including securities	+14	-22	+7,06	+2,37	+7,27	+7,94

Bombay

	In lakhs of rupees					
	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	11,68	12,29	12,92	12,23	10,69	8,79
Imports do.	7,92	6,60	6,91	8,98	7,40	7,05
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+3,76	+5,69	+6,01	+3,55	+3,29	+1,74
Imports of treasure	5,96	10,39	7,59	7,70	4,20	3,59
Exports of treasure	..	7	23	9	13	15
Balance of transactions in treasure	-5,96	-10,32	-6,86	-7,61	-4,07	-3,44

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

Karachi

	In lakhs of rupees					
	January 1923	February 1923	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	3,31	3,63	2,96	2,49	3,47	5,26
Imports do.	1,70	2,77	1,82	2,07	1,16	1,92
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+1,61	+86	+1,14	+42	+2,31	+3,34
Imports of treasure	3	6	7	6	6	1
Exports of treasure	6	..	..	..	..	2
Balance of transactions in treasure	+3	-6	-7	-6	-6	+1

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 :—

	a.	d.		a.	d.		
August 1922	..	1	332	February 1923	..	1	45
September ..	..	1	332	March ..	..	1	48
October ..	..	1	17	April ..	..	1	41
November ..	..	1	332	May ..	..	1	45
December ..	..	1	316	June ..	..	1	46
January 1923	..	1	416	July ..	..	1	43

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

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

In crores of rupees †

	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923	Total January to June 1923
Bombay	67	53	55	237
Karachi	3	3	3	18
Calcutta	76	65	68	457
Rangoon	9	9	9	58
Total (four ports)	155	130	135	770

† 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The latest report shows the rupee portion of the reserve in Bombay at 19 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 64 as against 63 in May 1923 and 62 in April 1923.

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

January 1922	..	Rs. 1,650	October 1922	..	Rs. 1,433
February ..	..	1,593	November ..	..	1,266
March ..	..	1,604	December ..	..	1,222
April ..	..	1,613	January 1923	..	1,255
May ..	..	1,609	February ..	..	1,216
June ..	..	1,659	March ..	..	1,125
July ..	..	1,688	April ..	..	1,193
August ..	..	1,578	May ..	..	1,215
September ..	..	1,517	June ..	..	1,042

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



THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR JUNE 1923

A fall of two points

All articles .. 51 per cent.

Food only .. 46 per cent.

In June 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 153 in May and 151 in June 1923. The general index is 22 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 13 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921 and 8 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922. The cost of living index has fallen nearly to the level of July 1918.

In comparison with the previous month, there was a fall of 2 points (or more than one per cent.) in the general level of retail prices of food articles. The important changes during the month in the prices of food-grains were a fall of 29 points in gram, 2 points in rice, and a rise of 5 points in bajri. There was no change in the price of wheat, while jowari fell by 3 points and turdal rose by 2 points. The prices of ghee, sugar, jaggery (gul) and salt remained stationary. The price of tea advanced by 8 points.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
January ..	34	82	83	69	73	56
February ..	34	76	81	62	65	55
March ..	36	72	77	60	65	54
April ..	44	67	72	60	62	55
May ..	47	68	73	67	63	53
June ..	48	74	81	73	63	51
July ..	49	86	90	77	65	..
August ..	53	79	91	80	64	..
September ..	65	72	92	85	65	..
October ..	75	74	93	83	62	..
November ..	75	73	86	82	60	..
December ..	83	74	81	79	61	..
Yearly average	54	75	83	73	64	..

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

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in May and June 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.	May 1923.	June 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in June 1923 over or below May 1923.
Rice	100	128	126	- 2
Wheat	100	126	126	..
Jowari	100	110	107	- 3
Bajri	100	114	119	+ 5
Gram	100	143	114	- 29
Turdal	100	117	119	+ 2*
Sugar (raw)	100	167	167	..
Sugar (refined)	100	294	294	..
Tea	100	170	178	+ 8
Salt	100	199	199	..
Beef	100	176	148	- 28
Mutton	100	231	222	- 9
Milk	100	191	191	..
Ghee	100	170	170	..
Potatoes	100	159	167	+ 8
Onions	100	339	331	- 8
Cocanut oil	100	113	129	+ 16
All food articles (weighted average)	100	148	146	- 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.	May, 1923.	June, 1923.	July, 1914.	May, 1923.	June, 1923.
<b>Cereals—</b>								
Rice .. ..	Maund	70	Rs. 5·594	Rs. 7·177	Rs. 7·063	Rs. 391·58	Rs. 502·39	Rs. 494·41
Wheat .. ..	"	21	5·594	7·047	7·047	117·47	147·99	147·99
Jowari .. ..	"	11	4·354	4·781	4·667	47·89	52·59	51·34
Bajri .. ..	"	6	4·313	4·922	5·120	25·88	29·53	30·72
<b>Total and Average—Cereals</b> .. ..	—	—	100	126	124	582·82	732·50	724·46
<b>Pulses—</b>								
Gram .. ..	Maund	10	4·302	6·167	4·922	43·02	61·67	49·22
Turdal .. ..	"	3	5·844	6·849	6·974	17·53	20·55	20·92
<b>Total and Average—Pulses</b> .. ..	—	—	100	136	116	60·55	82·22	70·14
<b>Other food articles—</b>								
Sugar (raw) .. ..	Maund	7	8·557	14·287	14·287	59·90	100·01	100·01
Sugar (refined) .. ..	"	2	7·620	22·375	22·375	15·24	44·75	44·75
Tea .. ..	"	40	40·000	68·083	71·109	1·00	1·70	1·78
Salt .. ..	"	5	2·130	4·234	4·234	10·65	21·17	21·17
Beef .. ..	Seer	28	0·323	0·568	0·479	9·04	15·90	13·41
Mutton .. ..	"	33	0·417	0·964	0·927	13·76	31·81	30·59
Milk .. ..	Maund	14	9·198	17·583	17·583	128·77	246·16	246·16
Ghee .. ..	"	14	9·198	17·583	17·583	128·77	246·16	246·16
Potatoes .. ..	"	11	50·792	86·484	86·484	76·19	129·73	129·73
Onions .. ..	"	3	4·479	7·141	7·495	49·27	78·55	82·45
Cocoanut Oil .. ..	"	1	1·552	5·135	4·666	15·77	15·41	15·41
<b>Total and Average—Other food articles</b> .. ..	—	—	100	184	184	381·18	700·28	701·79
<b>Total and Average—All food articles</b> .. ..	—	—	100	148	146	1,024·55	1,515·00	1,496·97
<b>Fuel and lighting—</b>								
Kerosene oil .. ..	Case	5	4·375	7·500	7·500	21·88	37·50	37·50
Firewood .. ..	Maund	48	0·792	1·281	1·281	38·02	61·49	61·49
Coal .. ..	"	1	0·542	0·367	0·333	0·54	0·37	0·33
<b>Total and Average—Fuel and lighting</b> .. ..	—	—	100	164	164	60·44	99·36	99·32
<b>Clothing—</b>								
Chudders .. ..	Lb.	27	0·594	1·203	1·188	16·04	32·48	32·08
Shirtings .. ..	"	25	0·641	1·385	1·354	16·03	34·63	33·85
T. Cloth .. ..	"	36	0·583	1·203	1·188	20·99	43·31	42·77
<b>Total and Average—Clothing</b> .. ..	—	—	100	208	205	53·06	110·42	108·70
<b>House rent</b> .. ..	Per month	10	11·302	18·700	18·700	113·02	187·00	187·00
<b>Grand Total and General Average</b> .. ..	—	—	100	153	151	1,251·07	1,911·78	1,891·41

NOTE.—If the aggregate expenditure in July 1914 at the prices ruling in that month was Rs. 1,251·07 crores, the aggregate expenditure in June 1923 at June price levels was Rs. 1,891·41, i.e., an increase of 51 per cent. (Rs. 1,251·07 = 100; Rs. 1,891·41 = 151).



## 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 X Index Number.	
		May 1923.	June 1923.	May 1923.	June 1923.
<b>Cereals—</b>					
Rice .. ..	31·4	128	126	4,019·2	3,956·4
Wheat .. ..	9·4	126	126	1,184·4	1,184·4
Jowari .. ..	3·8	110	107	418·0	406·6
Bajri .. ..	2·1	114	119	239·4	249·9
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	46·7	126	124	5,861·0	5,797·3
<b>Pulses—</b>					
Gram .. ..	3·1	143	114	443·3	353·4
Turdal .. ..	1·3	117	119	152·1	154·7
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	4·4	135	115	595·4	508·1
<b>Other food articles—</b>					
Sugar (raw) .. ..	4·8	167	167	801·6	801·6
Sugar (refined) .. ..	1·2	294	294	352·8	352·8
Tea .. ..	0·1	170	178	17·0	17·8
Salt .. ..	0·9	199	199	179·1	179·1
Beef .. ..	0·7	176	148	123·2	103·6
Mutton .. ..	231	222	254·1	244·2	244·2
Milk .. ..	1·1	191	191	1,967·3	1,967·3
Ghee .. ..	10·3	170	170	1,037·0	1,037·0
Potatoes .. ..	6·1	159	167	636·0	668·0
Onions .. ..	4·0	331	331	135·6	132·4
Cocoanut oil .. ..	0·4	339	339	132·4	129·0
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	30·6	182	184	5,616·7	5,632·8
<b>Fuel and lighting—</b>					
Kerosene oil .. ..	1·8	171	162	307·8	307·8
Firewood .. ..	3·0	162	61	486·0	486·0
Coal .. ..	0·1	68	61	6·8	6·1
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	4·9	163	163	800·6	799·9
<b>Clothing—</b>					
Dhories .. ..	1·3	203	200	263·9	260·0
Shirtings .. ..	1·3	216	211	280·8	274·3
T. Cloth .. ..	1·7	206	204	350·2	346·8
<b>Total and Average Index No.</b> .. ..	4·3	208	205	894·9	881·1
<b>House rent</b> .. ..	9·1	165	165	1,501·5	1,501·5
<b>Grand total of weights</b> .. ..	100			15,270·1	15,120·7
<b>General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)</b> .. ..	153	151			



### COMPARISON OF COST OF LIVING

India (Bombay) and the United States of America

Research Report No. 57\* of the National Industrial Conference Board, New York, estimates the increase in the total cost of living for average American wage-earners' families at 58.4 per cent. between July 1914 and November 1922. The following table shows for India and the United States of America the percentages of increase between July 1914 and November 1922 in the cost of the major heads of expenditure with their respective weights.

Group percentage increase in November 1922 over July 1914

Budget items.	Relative importance in pre-war family budget.		Percentage increase in cost between July 1914 and November 1922.		Percentage increase as weighted in total budget.	
	U.S.A.	India.	U.S.A.	India.	U.S.A.	India.
Food	43.1	81.7	45	55	19.4	44.9
Fuel and light	5.6	4.9	86	67	4.8	3.3
Clothing	13.2	4.3	60	128	7.9	5.5
Rent	17.7	9.1	67	65	11.9	5.9
Sundries	20.4	..	71	..	14.4	..
All items	100.0	100.0	..	..	58.4	60

The last two columns in the above table show how much each major head of expenditure contributed to the increase in the total cost of living index. The comparatively high increase of food and clothing in India is noticeable.

Between July and October 1920, when the peak of the rise in the cost of living since July 1914 was reached in the United States of America and India respectively, and November 1922 the variations in the cost of living were as follows:—

	U.S.A.	India.
	Per cent.	Per cent.
Food	.. -34	-19.7
Fuel and light	.. +12	+5.7
Clothing	.. -40	-21.6
Rent	.. +6	Nil.
Sundries	.. -8	..
All items	.. -22.5	-17.1

\* Changes in the Cost of Living—July 1914 to November 1922, Research Report No. 57, National Industrial Conference Board, New York.

The decrease in food and clothing in India is much less than in the United States of America.

### COST OF LIVING IN ASIA

#### AN AMERICAN VIEW

The results of an extensive personal investigation by Mr. Walter H. Rastall of the Department of Commerce, Washington, in regard to the markets for industrial machinery in India, Ceylon and the countries of the Far East, are embodied in an interesting report\* recently published.

In a section of the report dealing with the cost of living in Asia, Mr. Rastall says "the cost of living is rising so rapidly all over Asia that the matter needs to be reviewed frequently. In order to emphasize the variation in the cost of living in the different cities of Asia, it is well to summarise certain totals (of monthly expenses) appearing in the journal of the British Chamber of Commerce of Shanghai."

Localities.	Young bachelor.		
	" Mess "	Boarding house.	Hotel.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Burma	454 2 0	459 0 0	522 7 0
Shanghai	596 14 0	643 15 0	948 4 0
Tientsin	710 11 0	642 0 0	728 1 0
Hongkong	555 10 0	604 11 0	904 6 0

Localities.	Young married couple.		
	Rented house.	Boarding house.	Hotel.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Burma	1,198 4 0	957 0 0	1,098 10 0
Shanghai	1,285 15 0	1,085 11 0	1,665 0 0
Tientsin	1,543 3 0	1,321 5 0	1,541 1 0
Hongkong	1,170 1 0	1,005 3 0	1,586 6 0

Note.—Rs. 15 = £1.

\* Asiatic Markets for Industrial Machinery by Walter H. Rastall (Special Agents Series No. 215, Department of Commerce, Washington Government Printing Office, 1922, Price 60 cents).



"Fuel has been included in the Tientsin figures and omitted from the Shanghai table. Telephone, medical attendance, and contingencies are excluded. Also, this represents the standard of living of those in subordinate positions. . . . In Japan the cost of living is higher than in Shanghai. A somewhat similar investigation made by some business men in Tokyo showed that a married man without children, in a position carrying no social responsibility whatever, as for instance one sent to supervise the erection of a plant, could not possibly get along on less than 800 yen (practically Rs. 1,232-11-0) per month."

### COST OF LIVING IN IRELAND

#### INCREASED PRICES

According to a report published by the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the cost of living in Ireland in January 1923 was 90 per cent. above the level of July 1914. The retail prices which showed a fall of 3 per cent. between March 1922 and June 1922, rose gradually after June, resulting in an aggregate increase of about 3 per cent. in January 1923. The cost of living in January 1923 approximately reached the level of March 1922. Noticeable changes during the quarter ending mid-January 1923 were (1) decreases of 10 per cent. in bacon and 3 per cent. in potatoes, and (2) increases of 13 per cent. in milk, 6 per cent. in tea and 4 per cent. in butter. The decrease in the prices of bacon and potatoes was counterbalanced by an increase in the prices of milk, butter and tea, thus showing an increase of about 1.1 per cent. in the general level of food prices. Changes in the other groups were decreases of about 2 per cent. in clothing, 1.4 per cent. in fuel and lighting and an increase of nearly one per cent. in house-rent. The following table compares the cost of living levels in India (Bombay) and in Ireland:—

	India (Bombay.)	Ireland.
July 1914	.. 100	100
March 1922	.. 165	191
June	.. 163	185
October	.. 162	189
January 1923	.. 156	190

It will be seen from this table that while prices in India have fallen steadily since March 1922, in Ireland they show a gradual rise.

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### WHOLESALE PRICES IN JUNE

#### BOMBAY\*

In June 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay continued to be stationary. This level has been maintained constant for the last three months. In comparison with the previous month, there was a further rise in food articles, while non-food articles continued to fall. There was also a rise in the prices of food-grains. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by 8 per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1922 being 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 June 1923 as compared with	
		the preceding month (May 1923).	the corresponding month of last year (June 1922).
1. Cereals	.. 7	+ 3	- 24
2. Pulses	.. 2	+ 3	- 29
3. Sugar	.. 3	- 6	+ 6
4. Other food	.. 3	+ 6	+ 31
Total food	.. 15	+ 2	- 4
5. Oilseeds	.. 4	+ 2	- 12
6. Raw cotton	.. 5	+ 3	+ 4
7. Cotton manufactures	.. 6	- 2	- 17
8. Other textiles	.. 2	..	..
9. Hides and skins	.. 3	- 11	+ 6
10. Metals	.. 5	+ 1	- 3
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	.. 3	- 2	- 26
Total non-food	.. 28	- 1	- 9
General average	.. 43	..	- 8

\* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 40-42.



The index number for food articles stood at 179 in June as against 176 in May, thus showing a rise of nearly 2 per cent. Food prices have now risen to the level of March 1923 and this is the highest level recorded since September 1922. Cereals and pulses advanced by three per cent. each. There was, however, a fall of 6 per cent. in the average price of sugar. The average for "other food" advanced by 6 per cent. during the month.

In June 1923, the average level of non-food articles showed a further fall of nearly one per cent. The level now reached is the lowest so far, during the year. There was a fall of 11 per cent. in the average prices of hides and skins and 2 per cent. in cotton manufactures. Changes in other important groups were, increases of 3 per cent. in raw cotton, 2 per cent. in oilseeds and one per cent. in metals.

The subjoined table compares June 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.	June 1922.	Sept. 1922.	Dec. 1922.	March 1923.	May 1923.	June 1923.
I. Cereals ..	102	99	78	77	75	78
II. Pulses ..	91	90	75	66	62	65
III. Sugar ..	101	98	100	112	114	108
IV. Other food ..	100	104	115	128	122	130
Total food ..	101	100	91	96	95	96
V. Oilseeds ..	109	96	96	99	94	96
VI. Raw cotton ..	112	106	102	118	113	117
VII. Cotton manufactures ..	105	94	91	93	89	87
VIII. Other textiles ..	100	100	100	100	100	100
IX. Hides and skins ..	96	100	86	94	113	101
X. Metals ..	102	97	100	100	99	99
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	101	95	96	76	76	75
Total non-food ..	104	98	95	96	96	95
General average—all articles ..	103	98	94	96	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
Six-monthly " 1923 ..	175	176	175

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

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	Index Nos.	July 1914.		June 1923.	
			Total Numbers.	Total Numbers.	Total Numbers.	Total Numbers.
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri).	7	700	895	128	128
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal).	2	200	181	91	91
3	Sugar (Refined and raw).	3	300	202	67	67
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3	300	307	102	102
5	Total, all food	15	1,500	2,885	396	396
6	Oil seeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and gingelly)	4	400	535	134	134
7	Raw cotton	3	300	634	211	211
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.)	6	600	1,271	212	212
9	Other textiles (Silk)	2	200	277	138	138
10	Hides and skins	3	300	431	144	144
11	Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.)	5	500	929	186	186
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (kerosene and coal)	3	300	431	144	144
13	Total, non-food	26	2,600	4,580	1,173	1,173
14	General Average	41	4,100	7,188	175	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 May and June 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 May 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	94	112	99	124
Wheat ..	100	74	95	98	90
Jowari ..	100	77	77	77	85
Bajri ..	100	80	116	92	103
Average—Cereals..	100	81	98	92	101
Pulses—					
Gram ..	100	66	91	70	71
Turdal ..	100	83	97	90	112
Average—Pulses..	100	75	94	80	92
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined) ..	100	93	102	110	104
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	89	93	83	74
Tea ..	100	78	118	94	90
Salt ..	100	73	79	98	99
Beet ..	100	99	66	66	66
Mutton ..	100	65	78	65	71
Milk ..	100	47	57	76	83
Ghee ..	100	84	103	79	97
Potatoes ..	100	63	70	199	65
Onions ..	100	63	69	127	52
Cocconut oil ..	100	98	112	96	98
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	77	86	99	82
Average—All food articles ..	100	78	90	95	87

Bombay prices in June 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	94	113	105	141
Wheat ..	100	72	93	94	90
Jowari ..	100	78	82	81	87
Bajri ..	100	74	110	90	99
Average—Cereals..	100	80	100	93	104
Pulses—					
Gram ..	100	83	116	88	83
Turdal ..	100	82	83	91	102
Average—Pulses..	100	83	100	90	93
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined) ..	100	88	102	114	104
Jagri (Gul) ..	100	86	93	70	74
Tea ..	100	75	113	90	96
Salt ..	100	73	79	98	99
Beet ..	100	118	78	78	78
Mutton ..	100	67	81	54	74
Milk ..	100	43	57	76	83
Ghee ..	100	86	106	74	97
Potatoes ..	100	87	82	134	79
Onions ..	100	49	78	65	68
Cocconut oil ..	100	82	98	82	94
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	78	88	85	86
Average—All food articles ..	100	79	92	87	91

On page 44 will be found statistics of food prices in May and June 1923 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.

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

FOOD-GRAINS IN BOMBAY ABOUT 80 YEARS AGO

A comparison of the present prices of certain food-grains with those in 1846 affords a striking example of the rise which has taken place during the last 77 years. The prices of 1846 are taken from a paper read before the Royal Statistical Society in 1847 by Lieut.-Col. W. H. Sykes who was Statistical Reporter to the Government of Bombay in 1824 and did great pioneering work in Indian Statistics. He was Vice-President of the Royal Society having been elected a Fellow in 1834 and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the East India Company in 1856.

The following table compares the present level of retail prices of three principal food-grains in some important districts of the Presidency, with those of the period ending 15th August 1846. This period was one in which the monsoon failed, resulting in a scarcity of food-grains and high prices.

The retail price of food-grains expressed in seers per rupee in 1846 and 1923

Districts.	Rice.		Wheat.	
	1846.	1923.	1846.	1923.
	Seers.	Seers.	(1846=100)	Seers.
Ahmedabad ..	25.71	5.00	514	27.08
Khaira ..	16.79	5.25	320	22.66
Broach ..	27.20	5.00	544	12.85
Surat ..	21.23	6.00	354	13.96
Thana ..	18.81	5.94	317	12.64
Khandesh ..	12.73	5.06	252	18.94
Kolaba ..	19.33	6.31	306	11.59
Average (unweighed) ..	..	..	372	..

Districts.	Wheat.		Gram.		Expressed as a percentage of prices in 1846.
	Expressed as a percentage of prices in 1846.	1846.	1923.	Expressed as a percentage of prices in 1846.	
	(1846=100)	Seers.	Seers.	(1846=100)	
Ahmedabad ..	451	16-90	7-00	241	
Khaira ..	412	16-58	7-50	221	
Broach ..	214	11-90	6-00	198	
Surat ..	209	13-31	9-25	144	
Thana ..	298	12-39	6-88	180	
Khandesh ..	286	16-66	9-88	169	
Kulaba ..	250	12-49	7-19	174	
Average (unweighed)	303	..	..	190	

In spite of the comparatively high prices that must have been ruling in the fortnight ending 15th August 1846 on account of the failure of the monsoon, it will be seen from the above table that, since 1846, the prices of food-grains have risen to a very large extent. The average price of rice is now nearly four times the price in 1846, while the price of wheat has trebled and that of gram nearly doubled since 1846. Prices appear to have risen more in Ahmedabad and Kaira than in other districts. The rise in the price of rice is, however, at a maximum in Broach. Comparative figures for Bombay City and Island, on the same basis are not available.

### WAGES IN MINES IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

#### WEEKLY EARNINGS

An account of the working of the two manganese mines in the Panch Mahals, during the year 1921, was published on page 19 of the *Labour Gazette* for May 1922. It will be remembered that manganese is the only mineral of importance mined in the Bombay Presidency, and that the two mines—the Shivrajpur and Bamankuwa—are situated in the Halol Taluka of the Panch Mahals. During the year ended 31st December 1922, both the mines worked for 312 days each. The ore is raised by hand labour. The total quantity of manganese ore raised at these two mines in 1922, was 23,518 and 16,185 tons respectively as against 29,574 and 14,702 tons in the previous year. The average number of

persons employed in the mines during the year under report was 923 in the Shivrajpur mine and 682 in the Bamankuwa mine as against 1,153 and 668 respectively in 1921. The former mine employed 538 men over 12 years of age, 312 women over 12 years of age and 74 children under 12 years of age, the figures for the other mine being 415 men, 224 women and 43 children. Their wages are given in the following table.

Class of Labour.	Average weekly earnings per person.			
	Shivrajpur.		Bamankuwa.	
	Rs.	a. p.	Rs.	a. p.
Miners ..	Men ..	3 13 0	3 2 0	
	Women ..	3 1 0	2 7 0	
Other persons employed under ground.	Men ..	6 14 6	4 14 0	
	Women ..	..	2 7 0	
Other persons employed on surface.	Men ..	4 10 6	3 9 0	
	Women ..	2 10 0	2 7 0	

The average number of hours worked per week per person was 54 in both the mines.

The number of accidents during the year in the Shivrajpur mine was 6 (3 fatal and 3 serious) as against 5 in 1921, and there were 2 accidents in the Bamankuwa mine as against the same number in 1921. There were no prosecutions under the Mines Act during the year.

### Short Time in Bombay Mills

The question of short time in the mills in Bombay, referred to on page 20 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1923, was again discussed at a meeting of the Committee of the Millowners Association on July 11th. It was pointed out that stocks of unsold cloth in the mills in Bombay were only slightly less in the first week of July than those of the corresponding week of the preceding month. The demand for cloth in the market had, however, been somewhat brisker towards the end of June and early July as a result of the arrival of the monsoon. In view of this, further discussion on short time was postponed until the meeting to be held next month.

## INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

### Disputes in June .. 7

On page 47 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during June 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 June 1923.

### I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in June 1923.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in June 1923.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in June 1923.*
	Started before 1st June.	Started in June.	Total.		
Textile ..	1	6	7	49,111	159,837
Engineering ..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..
Total, June 1923 ..	1	6	7	49,111	159,837
Total, May 1923 ..	5	6	11	44,894	1,169,930

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

There were 7 industrial disputes in June 1923, all of which were in cotton mills. The number of workpeople affected was about 49,000 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced)

### Workpeople involved .. 49,111

159,837, which is a large decrease on the May 1923 statistics. This decrease is due to the termination of the general strike in the Ahmedabad mills.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

### II.—Industrial Disputes—Results February to June 1923

	February 1923.	March 1923.	April 1923.	May 1923.	June 1923.
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	22	9	14	11	7
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	2	1	1	5	1
Fresh disputes begun ..	20	8	13	6	6
Disputes ended ..	22	9	9	10	6
Disputes in progress at end ..	..	..	5	1	1
Number of workpeople involved ..	11,789	3,167	51,807	44,894	49,111
Aggregate duration in working days ..	68,590	37,298	1,116,303	1,169,930	159,837
Demands—					
Pay ..	13	3	7	4	4
Bonus ..	2	..	..	2	..
Personal ..	5	4	1	2	2
Leave and hours ..	..	1	..	..	..
Others ..	2	1	6	3	1
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	7	6	1	1	..
Compromised ..	1	1	2	..	2
In favour of employers ..	14	2	6	9	4

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



## III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled			In progress. (Per cent.)
			In favour of employ-ers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employ-ees. (Per cent.)	Com-promised. (Per cent.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April 1921 ..	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
May 1921 ..	11	227,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921 ..	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	1,111,103	40	7	13	40
May 1923 ..	11	1,169,930	82	9	..	9
June 1923 ..	7	159,837	57	..	29	14
Totals or (cols. 4 to 7) Average	362	4,590,775	58	15	11	16

## A General Review of Disputes

The termination of the general strike in 56 Ahmedabad cotton mills on June 4th was followed by a temporary lull in industrial unrest in the Presidency. The strikes during June were, with one exception, of short duration.

During the month there were seven industrial disputes in the Presidency as compared with eleven in the preceding month. All the disputes were in the cotton mill industry. Four of these were due to the question of pay, out of which two were settled in favour of the employers and two were compromised.

## BOMBAY

Five disputes were reported in Bombay City and Island during June, four of which were settled in favour of the employers, and in the remainder, the demands of the strikers were partially granted. About 2,150 workers of the Bradbury Mills struck work on June 1st against the introduction of a new rule to the effect that absentees' pay should be withheld until 14 days after the pay day in place of the usual 8 days. The management partially yielded to the demand and the strikers resumed work. A strike among the workers of the Spring Mill, on June 1st, involved 1,300 workers directly and affected nearly the same number of work-people indirectly. The strike was in protest against (1) the introduction of an attendance ticket system into the Weaving Department, and (2) the insufficient supply of yarn. The management did not concede to the demands and the strikers were compelled to resume work unconditionally after remaining on strike for 17 days. Another strike occurred in the Folding Department of the same mill when 200 workers struck work against a notification issued by the management to the effect that those workers who were compelled to be idle during the first strike were not to be paid for the idle days. The management did not grant the demand and the strikers resumed work unconditionally. There was another strike about the end of June in the Standard Mill affecting about 590 workers. The strikers demanded an increase of two pies per pound of cloth produced. The management promised to consider their demand, after enquiry into



the existing rates in other mills, provided the strikers resumed work. The strikers refused to do so in the beginning, but afterwards resumed work unconditionally. About 350 weavers in the Madhaorao Scindia Mill struck work on the 29th June in protest against the dismissal of a weaver, and demanded his reinstatement. The management refused to concede to their demand. The strikers were paid off and new hands engaged in their places.

## AHMEDABAD

Mention is made above of the general strike at Ahmedabad which came to an end on the 4th June when a compromise was effected between the representatives of the Millowners' Association and the Labour Union. The strike was reviewed on page 23 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1923. The decision of the Sessions Judge of Ahmedabad who was appointed an Umpire to decide the dispute regarding the interpretation of the last Bonus Award will be found on this page.

On 23rd June there was a small strike of 20 weavers in the Rajnagar Spinning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., against the dismissal of a Mukadam. The strike was of short duration, the strikers resuming work unconditionally the next day.

## OTHER CENTRES

A strike of 160 sewers employed by the various firms in Karachi, which was in progress at the end of May was subsequently reported in June. The strikers demanded an increase in the rates of wages, which was granted by the firms concerned. This was the only dispute out of 11 in June that was settled in favour of the employees.

## Strike in Burma

According to the Labour Officer, Government of Burma, the general strike in the oil-fields of Yenang-Yaung and Singu, Magwe District, Burma, which took place in March 1923, affected a total of 6,505 workers. The strike was the outcome of a number of grievances which had been put forward by the workers as far back as November 1922. The strike lasted until the end of April when a compromise was arrived at. The situation in the oil-fields is still disturbed.

## THE AHMEDABAD STRIKE

## THE BONUS AWARD

A reference was made on page 23 of the June issue of the *Labour Gazette* to the appointment of the District and Sessions Judge at Ahmedabad to act as umpire in regard to the dispute regarding the interpretation of the last Bonus award. The point at issue in connexion with the bonus award, which was arrived at conjointly by the President of the Millowners' Association and Prof. A. B. Dhruva on 1st October 1922, relates to the correct interpretation of clause 1 (b) of the award. This is as below :—

"A person who is absent for 15 days or more in any month shall lose his bonus for the whole month, but this rule of 15 days' absence shall not apply to December 1921."

The month of December 1921 was excluded as in this month the Congress meetings were held in Ahmedabad.

The contention of the Millowners' Association was that the days of absence in the several months should be totalled up, reduced to months and counted against the worker, fifteen days being allowed as a matter of grace from the total days absent. The Labour Union maintained on the other hand, that absence for less than fifteen days in any particular month should be condoned and the whole month should be reckoned as a full working month in calculating the period qualifying for the bonus.

The decision of the umpire on the question referred to above, was to the effect that "under clause 1 (b) of the award, periods of absence of less than fifteen days in any particular month should be condoned in calculating the period qualifying for the bonus. They should not be totalled up, reduced to months and counted against the workers". It may, therefore, be said that the award of the umpire over the disputed clause was in favour of the employees.

As stated in the June issue of the *Labour Gazette*, referred to above, the general strike of cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad ended on June 4th when an agreement was arrived (1) by fixing the reduction of wages at 15 5/8 per cent. on the monthly wages of all operatives and (2) by referring the question of the



interpretation of the last bonus award to an umpire. Thus, with the decision of the umpire in regard to the latter, the longest strike the Bombay Presidency has experienced for over two years ended in a compromise between the parties concerned. The award of the umpire is given *in extenso* below :—

#### THE AWARD

"A difference having arisen between Sheth Mangaldas Girdhardas and Professor Anandshanker Dhruva regarding the interpretation of the Bonus Award jointly delivered by them on 1st October 1922, the question was referred to me for decision by the President of the Labour Union and the Secretary to the Millowners' Association, on behalf of their respective Associations. Both parties agree to accept my decision as final and binding. The conditions laid down by Government for my acceptance of the office of Umpire are thus fulfilled.

Professor Anandshanker Dhruva, Shrimati Ansuya Behn and Mr. Shankerlal Banker stated their case before me on behalf of the Labour Union and Mr. Gordhandas J. Patel and Sheth Mangaldas G. Parekh on behalf of the Millowners' Association. The proceedings were taken down in shorthand by Mr. Hormasji E. Mehta, who has supplied me with an excellent transcript. Both sides have also put in a detailed statement in writing of their case.

The point in dispute relates to the correct interpretation of clause 1 (b) of the Award which runs as follows :—

A person who is absent for 15 days or more in any month, shall lose his bonus for the whole month; but this rule of 15 days' absence shall not apply to December 1921 (The Ahmedabad Congress month).

It is common ground that under this clause an operative who has been absent for fifteen days or more in any particular month forfeits the bonus for the entire month. But if a worker has been absent for a number of days in different months, but less than 15 days in each month, are these days of absence to be reckoned against him in calculating the period qualifying for bonus?

The contention on behalf of the Millowners' Association is that the days of absence in the several months should be totalled up, reduced to months and counted against the worker, fifteen days being allowed as a matter of grace. The contention of the Labour Union on the other hand is that absence for less than fifteen days in any particular month should be condoned and the whole month should be reckoned as a full working month in calculating the period qualifying for bonus.

It is admitted for the Millowners that the mode of calculation for which they contend is not expressly embodied in the Award. But it is argued that in construing the Award, effect must be given to the tacit understanding between the Arbitrators that details not specially provided for were left to be adjusted on the basis of the previous awards.

On behalf of the Labour Union Professor Anandshanker stated that the previous awards did not form the basis of discussion before the Arbitrators and that he was not aware of their contents. He emphasised that he signed the present award, fully believing that the penalty provisions against absentee workers which it contained were exhaustive and not supplementary to the penalties previously enforced of which he was unaware.

I accept implicitly the statement of Sheth Mangaldas that though the point was not expressly mentioned between the Arbitrators, yet when he signed the Award he tacitly assumed that the proviso for which he contends was one of its implied terms. If corroboration were needed, it is to be found in the instructions which he immediately issued to the Mills from the Millowners' Association in this sense.

With equal readiness I accept Professor Anandshanker's assurance that he had absolutely no idea that the penalty proviso now in dispute was one of the terms of the previous awards and that if he were asked in the witness box, he would say that it was not to be inserted in the present award.

Evidently this was a question to which the minds of the Arbitrators were not pointedly directed. It was a *casus improvisus*. I have to find a solution in the terms of the Award as it stands. And in attempting to do so, I have to confine myself to the four corners of the document with special reference to the language of the disputed clause and the context in which it is found without regard to extrinsic considerations save when the language and the context imperatively demand it.

Now the Award after reciting in the preamble that the Arbitrators, having considered the oral and written agreements of both parties and having considered the relevant circumstances, with a view to promote harmony between the parties, announced their decision, directs by clause (1), which is the dominant clause, that Millowners shall give one month's salary with three rupees as bonus, the maximum not to exceed fifty-five rupees, to those operatives who have worked for a full twelve months.

To this clause there are three provisos. Proviso I (a) provides for a proportionate deduction from the full amount of bonus, or integer bonus as it is called, for each month of non-attendance. And proviso I (b) lays down that a person who is absent for 15 days or more in any month shall lose his bonus for



the whole month. With the third proviso we have no concern.

*Ex facie* of the award then the period qualifying for the integer bonus is a twelve month. The unit for calculating the period of non-attendance is one month. Further by an express provision the Award directs that absence for fifteen days or more in any month shall involve the forfeiture of bonus for the entire month.

The inference is that absence for less than fifteen days in any month shall not entail the forfeiture of bonus for that month and for the purposes of bonus that month shall be considered a full working month. Because the ordinary canon for interpretation is *expressio unius est exclusio alterius*.

Professor Anandshanker was not a party to the earlier awards and not informed of their provisions. It would therefore not be right to hold, with reference to *any matter in dispute* actually referred to arbitration, that the terms of the earlier awards impliedly governed the present settlement, unless they were expressly superseded, because the *consensus ad idem* of both arbitrators to such an arrangement would be wanting.

Bai Ansuya Behn's leaflet merely reassures the operative that the old concession regarding child-birth, accidents, death, etc., would still continue in force under the present award. Incidentally the leaflet states that "in this award, only those conditions as have been altered from the last year's Award are given". This statement in my opinion refers only to details about which there was no controversy such as concession dictated by the humanity of the Millowners to which they still adhere. The statement cannot, I think, be strained so as to embrace matters about which there has been a difference which had been referred to arbitrators, and about which there was a pronouncement.

Certain extrinsic considerations were pressed on my attention as material to the interpretation of the disputed clause. It was forcibly suggested that on the interpretation of the Labour Union, a worker who is absent for 168 days in the year, 14 days each month, would be entitled to the same amount of bonus as a worker who works the full twelve months. It is never safe to base an argument on extreme cases. It is a trite saying that hard cases make good law.

Then it was said that to interpret the Award in this way would be to put a premium on irregularity and indiscipline on the part of the operatives. But the present award rendered the provisions against absenteeism more stringent than before (1) by raising the period of attendance qualifying for the integer bonus from nine months to twelve months, (2) by entailing forfeitures of the entire month for absence of 15 days or more. The interpretation for which the Millowners contend would import a third condition of stringency for which the Award furnishes no warrant.

The point at issue between the Millowners and the Labour Union is a comparatively simple one. The amount involved is inconsiderable. But the question was keenly contested on behalf of the Millowners because it was said that the ostensible reason for the last strike was this bonus grievance and the Millowners felt that it was a matter of prestige with them especially as they had been branded in the public press as cruel and unjust. Expression was also given to an apprehension that if the decision went against them, it would stiffen the attitude of labour and might precipitate another conflict.

Professor Anandshanker on behalf of the Labour Union unreservedly disavowed any imputation of chicanery or injustice, which may have been levelled against the Millowners by irresponsible persons. He gave every credit to Sheth Mangaldas for sympathy and honesty of purpose and frankly admitted that considerations of discipline and regularity among the operatives were the paramount object of the Millowners. But he pressed for a decision in favour of the Labour Union, because he said the moral confidence of the workers in the good faith of their employers had been shaken as they honestly believed that the employers withheld the rights guaranteed to them by the Award.

As the discussion before me proceeded on this high plane, I take it that neither side will claim the decision as a partisan victory. The principle that has triumphed is the principle of the finality of the written award. And the lesson to be learnt is that awards in important labour disputes should not be drawn up by arbitrators in a hurry.

With so much good-will prevailing on both sides I earnestly commend to the consideration of the leaders of both parties whether by agreement they cannot devise some machinery for a speedy settlement of disputes of this character which, if allowed to be prolonged, embitter feelings and as in this instance precipitate conflicts disastrous to capital no less than to labour.

My decision on the question referred to me is that under clause 1 (b) of the Award, periods of absence of less than fifteen days in any particular month should be condoned in calculating the period qualifying for bonus. They should *not* be totalled up, reduced to months and counted against the workers.

#### Annual Bonus for 1923 in Bombay

At the meeting of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association held on the 11th June 1923 it was decided that, in view of the decreased profits in all the mills as a result of the slump in the market, no annual bonus would be paid this year in the mills which are members of the association. Notices to this effect were posted in the mills on the 23rd instant.



### LABOUR IN COAL MINES

On the 15th June 1923 Sir Thomas Catto, Bart., presiding over the half-yearly Ordinary General Meeting of the shareholders of the Bengal Coal Co., Ltd., Calcutta, reviewed the coal situation in India. The following extracts from his speech are of interest :—

" Raisings for the half-year are slightly better than in the previous six months but they are still at a figure that gives great concern to your Directors and Managing Agents. I referred to this in my address to you at our last meeting. It is of vital concern to your Company, and with your permission, I would like to examine the causes, so that you may fully understand the difficulties, and the steps we are taking to meet them. Some of you may remember that in addressing you, on 2nd June 1920, I said :—

'The miner like all classes of Indian labour, is primarily an agriculturist. Owing to the excellent harvest and new industries which have started in the coal fields it has been very difficult to get labour to engage in coal mining. In spite of handsome inducements, the miner, not unnaturally prefers to work on the surface rather than underground, especially during the dry months. The earnings in brickmaking and earth cutting, although possibly only half of what a miner would earn underground, together with the results of a good harvest, are sufficient for his present needs. As a rule he lives from day to day, and thinks little of to-morrow.'

The situation, I outlined then, has become progressively worse. Higher wages, and increased prosperity, have not made the miner more industrious. On the contrary, they have tended to idleness and, I regret to say, often to a serious increase in intemperance. I fear the grog seller reaps a large part of the benefit of the higher wages.

At present, in some collieries the average output per miner is only about one tub per shift. As a considerable part of the raisings, particularly in your Desherghur Group of mines, is obtained from machine cut coal that has only to be filled into tubs, it is clear that the present production per man is ridiculously low. Only a few years ago, under much less favourable working conditions in mines a man would cut and fill 3 to 4 tubs in a shift. Machine mining has greatly helped the situation, but we cannot always get labour even to fill and clean up the coal cut. Only a few days ago, I had brought to my attention a case in one of your collieries where 10 galleries had been cut by machine and the coal blasted down on to the floor ready for loading, but there was practically no labour available to fill and clean up. The result was that next day the machine could only operate in two or three places and the whole advantage of machine

mining was wasted. As an instance of the increase in idleness I may mention the manner in which marriage festivities are prolonged now as compared with only a few years ago. This has been an auspicious year for marriages in certain parts of the coal fields. These marriage festivities commenced in March, and in many places are still going on. For the marriage period to continue without a break for over three months was quite unheard of until recently. In one of our own villages 22 marriages have been celebrated, and from that village we have not had a miner at work for six weeks. The average man makes no attempt to be thrifty or to improve his mode of living. This is very regrettable, for your Company has ever been in the forefront in endeavouring to improve the lot of the Indian miner. It proves what a difficult problem this is. We have given it careful consideration over and over again. A great deal of educational work will be required, and this takes years. I fear it will only be in the coming generation that we shall see any actual improvement. We have many critics of conditions in the coal fields, but few practical suggestions of how those conditions can be changed among a class that does little to help themselves. Increased pay has not helped; in fact some of the most experienced men in the coal fields advocate a return to a lower scale, as they consider the increases have been out of proportion to those given to other classes of labour, and that this has tended to promote idleness and intemperance."

### PRODUCTION OF COAL

#### GREAT BRITAIN AND INDIA

Statistics recently published by the Mines Department of Great Britain in regard to the production per head of persons employed in Mines afford an interesting comparison with the production per head of persons employed in India. The total production in Great Britain in 1922 amounted to 234 millions tons which, expressed in terms of *per capita* production, gives an output of 219 tons per person employed. The production of coal in India during the year 1921, the latest year for which information is available, was 18 million tons, according to the Report on the Production and Consumption of Coal in India for 1921. The *per capita* production in India in this year was 168 tons. The figure for the quinquennium 1916—1920 was 179 tons. This shows that the *per capita* production of coal in India in 1921 was 23 per cent. below that of Great Britain in 1922.



### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION ACT, 1923

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

Under Section 20 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923, published on page 37 of the *Labour Gazette* for April 1923, local Governments are empowered "to appoint any person to be a Commissioner" for the purposes of the Workmen's Compensation Act. The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have now addressed a circular letter to all local Governments and administrations as follows :—

I am directed to address you on the subject of the appointment of Commissioners under section 20 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The Act will not come into force until the 1st of July 1924, but its successful operation will depend largely upon the choice of suitable officers as Commissioners, and the Government of India are consequently anxious that this question should be considered by local Governments at an early date.

2. The Government of India consider that in the more important industrial areas the appointment of whole-time Commissioners is desirable, though they recognize that outside such areas considerations of economy and the amount of work to be done may necessitate the appointment as Commissioners of officers who have other duties to fulfil. It is in their opinion, however, desirable to ensure that as large an area as possible should come under the jurisdiction of Commissioners who are entirely occupied on work connected with the Act and who possess the necessary judicial and administrative qualifications.

3. In their opinion the most important qualification, which a Commissioner should possess, is judicial training and experience. While the Act has been drafted with the object of minimising litigation, the subject is one which gives rise to difficult cases in a peculiar degree, and it appears to the Government of India that in addition to a sound initial knowledge of the principles of civil law a Commissioner should, before undertaking his duties, become acquainted with the practice and case law on the subject in the United Kingdom and possibly in America.

4. But the Government of India do not wish it to be understood that they do not attach much importance to other qualifications, beyond judicial experience and a knowledge of the law on the subject. Under the Act the Commissioner has been invested, in some instances, with wide discretionary powers. He will have complete discretion, for instance, in regard to the distribution of compensation among dependents (section 8). He has power to refuse acceptance of

agreements (section 28) and such provisions as those contained in section 6 and section 11 (4) require the exercise of judgment in matters in which the law itself will give him little assistance. Moreover, the intention of the Act is that the Commissioner should not content himself merely with the decision of such disputes as come before him in his judicial capacity. He should take a part in preventing the occurrence of disputes and should be generally responsible for the protection of the rights of the parties. When a dispute arises, it will be frequently desirable that he should visit the place of occurrence and settle the matter on the spot. It will not always be desirable that a case should be decided merely on a strict consideration of the formal evidence produced by the parties themselves.

5. The Government of India have no desire in any way to restrict the discretion of local Governments in making appointments of Commissioners under the Act, but they desire that the considerations indicated above should be borne in mind. I am to suggest that the most suitable officers for the post will possibly be found either among District Judges with some previous experience of the administrations of districts, or District Magistrates, who have, if possible, combined magisterial experience specially in industrial areas with a study of the law and practice relating to workmen's compensation in England or elsewhere. It may, the Government of India anticipate, be found the best course to make arrangements for giving an officer of this type a short period of training in England in the principles and practice of the law on the subject, and I am to ask that this suggestion may receive the consideration of His Excellency the Governor in Council.

### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

The original Workmen's Compensation Act of Great Britain, which was passed in 1906, was subsequently amended by the War Additions Acts of 1917 and 1919. These Acts raised the weekly maximum benefits for temporary disablement from 20 to 35 shillings but they did not alter the law regarding death compensation. During and after the war, owing to the large increases in wages the amounts of premiums also increased as the premiums were based on the total wages bills. As a result of this, Insurance Companies in Great Britain made large profits. This situation was examined by the Holman Gregory Committee in 1920, who recommended that 70

per cent. of the premiums, under the compulsory insurance schemes, should be fixed as compensation to the injured workmen and their dependents. The Labour Party recently introduced a bill based on these recommendations. The bill passed its second reading in the House of Commons before the Whitsuntide adjournment. The Home Secretary, though not officially opposing this bill, announced his intention of producing a Government Bill better suited to the changed conditions.

The Government Bill, now introduced, is to amend the existing law with special reference to employers' liability, insurance, the notification of accidents, first-aid and the provision of ambulances. This Bill does not accept the recommendations made by the Holman Gregory Committee in regard to compulsory insurance but proposes to accept an agreement entered into with the Accident Officers Association by which the amount to be paid as compensation during the next three years is not to be less than 60 per cent. of the premiums, to be increased to 62½ per cent. after three years. The following is a brief summary of the Bill. Important sections of the Indian\* Law on the subject are published in smaller type for the purpose of comparison:—

Clause 15 provide for the amendment of the Act of 1906 and repeal of the War Additions Acts of 1917 and 1919. They also provide that the total maximum amount payable to the dependents of a deceased workman shall be increased from £300 to £500 and that the maximum weekly payments during a workman's incapacity shall be 30 shillings instead of £1. They also provide that compensation shall vary according to the number and ages of the children left by the deceased workman and that, in cases of incapacity, while 50 per cent. of the average weekly earnings are to remain the basis of compensation, the proportion shall be increased when the wages are actually less than 50 shillings a week.

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

B. Where death results from the injury—

(i) in the case of an adult, a sum equal to thirty

\* The Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923. This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 1st March 1923 and will come into force on the 1st July 1923. It was published in page 21 of the Labour Gazette for April 1923.

months' wages or two thousand five hundred rupees, whichever is less, and

(ii) in the case of a minor, two hundred rupees; B. Where permanent total disablement results from the injury—

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

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

C. Where permanent partial disablement results from the injury—

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

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

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

D. Where temporary disablement, whether total or partial results from the injury, a half-monthly payment payable on the 16th day after the expiry of a waiting period of ten days from the date of the disablement, and thereafter half-monthly during the disablement or during a period of five years, whichever period is shorter,—

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

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

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

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

Clause 6 makes it possible for a workman to claim compensation for an injury even if he was acting against the orders or the regulations of the employer, provided "such act was done by the workman for the purposes of and in connection with his employer's trade or business".

Section 3 (b). An employer shall not be liable in respect of any injury to a workman resulting from an accident which is directly attributable to the wilful disobedience of the workman to an order expressly given or to a rule expressly framed, for the purpose of securing the safety of the workman.

Clauses 7-8 extend the benefit of the law to taxi-cab drivers, share-fishermen, persons employed in games or recreation and on a ship, otherwise than as members of the crew.

Clauses 9-10 amend the existing provisions regarding the notification of accidents and the reference to medical referees.

Clause 11 allows the approved society or committee under the National Insurance Act to appear before the County Court, Registrar or Judge and object to registration of an agreement whereby an employer makes a compromise with the workman by giving him a lump sum for the injury.

Section 28 (1). Where the amount of any lump sum payable as compensation has been settled by agreement, a memorandum thereof shall be sent by the employer to the Commissioner, who shall record the same in the prescribed manner on being satisfied as to its genuineness.

Clause 12 allows the grant of compensation in cases of certain industrial diseases without the production of a medical certificate from the certifying surgeon.

Clause 13 restricts the power of an employer to stop a weekly payment otherwise than in pursuance of agreement or arbitration. Such employer will be permitted to stop or diminish such payment in the following cases only, viz.:

(1) when a workman receiving a weekly payment in respect of total incapacity returns to work.

(2) where the weekly earnings of a workman receiving a weekly payment in respect of

a partial incapacity have actually been increased.

Clause 14 requires adequate provision to be made for the discharge of liabilities arising under the certification of schemes by the Registrar of Friendly Societies both during its currency and after.

Clause 15 ensures the interest of the workman in the event of an employer's bankruptcy.

Section 14 (4). There shall be deemed to be included among the debts which under section 49 of the Presidency Towns Insolvency Act (III of 1909), or under section 61 of the Provincial Insolvency Act (V of 1920), or under section 230 of the Indian Companies Act (VII of 1913), are in the distribution of the property of an insolvent or in the distribution of the assets of a Company being wound up, to be paid in priority to all other debts, the amount due in respect of any compensation the liability whereof accrued before the date of the order of adjudication of the insolvent or the date of the commencement of the winding up, as the case may be, and those Acts shall have effect accordingly.

Clause 16 ensures the workman's interest against employers residing abroad.

Clause 17 includes within the definition of a dependent, a person dependent wholly or partially on contribution from another person.

Section 2 (d) "Dependent" means any of the following relatives of a deceased workman, namely, a wife, husband, parent, minor son, unmarried daughter, married daughter who is a minor, minor brother or unmarried sister, and includes the minor children of a deceased son of the workman and a paternal grand parent where no parent of the workman is alive.

Clause 18 provides for repayment by the person liable to pay compensation, of relief advanced by an authority.

Clauses 19 and 20 make a number of minor amendments and provide for the fees of medical referees.

Clause 21 makes it obligatory to notify all accidents causing death or such injury as would disable a workman for more than three days.

Clause 22 requires first-aid boxes, or cupboards or an ambulance room to be kept in each factory.

Clause 23 provides that certain provisions of the Act shall not apply to accidents that



happened before the commencement of the Act, viz., 1st January 1923.

The Bill was read a second time on the 30th May and referred to a Standing Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir S. Roberts, for consideration.

### TRADE BOARDS

#### THE PRESENT POSITION

The recommendations of the Cave Committee appointed to enquire into the working and effects of the Trade Boards Acts in Great Britain were published in the *Labour Gazette* for December 1922 (page 32). Recently, Sir Montague Barlow, Minister of Labour, speaking at the National Chamber of Trade, outlined Government's proposals in this connexion. He had recently introduced in the House of Commons a Bill, based on the recommendations of the Cave Committee. Government proposed to accept the existing Trade Board machinery and Trade Boards broadly as they are constituted at present, but to restore the legislation generally to very much where it stood in 1909. Low wages and the want of organisation are the grounds for establishing any new Trade Board, but the full operation of the Trade Board machinery, especially the criminal enforcement of the rates, was to be restricted in future to the minimum rates. In regard to graded rates above the minimum, they are not to be fixed without the consent of a majority of both employers and workpeople, and when fixed are only to be enforceable civilly and not criminally. The administration of the Trade Boards is made more elastic and effective by means of facilities for district boards, speeding-up administrative time limits, etc. Sir Montague Barlow said that two things to be striven for were (1) greater security for both capital and labour, and (2) the realisation of the material, moral and even spiritual dependence of labour on capital and capital on labour. In short, the Bill will give effect to the main recommendations of the Cave Committee. Trade Boards will be enabled to fix rates of wages enforceable at law only for the lowest class of workers, while the rate of wages above the minimum in industries which come under Trade Boards will be left to voluntary settlement.

### BUDGET OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE

#### NATIONAL CORRESPONDENTS IN ASIA

The Governing Body of the International Labour Office at its eighteenth session, held on 13th April 1923, adopted the budget estimates of the Office for the financial year 1st January to 31st December 1924. Provision is made for the establishment of a Correspondence Office at Tokyo. This is to give effect to the following resolution adopted by the Fourth International Labour Conference at the instance of the Indian and Japanese Workers' delegates:—

"The Conference requests the Governing Body to consider the expediency of instituting the services of National Correspondents in Eastern Countries, especially in Japan and India."

The Governing Body after having carefully considered the matter have come to the conclusion that the need for Correspondence Offices is greater in those countries in which industry is at present beginning to be organised. In addition to the assistance which these Correspondence Offices would be able to render by the documentary information and knowledge acquired by them, such offices would enable the International Labour Office to obtain directly from these countries the necessary information by which it would follow with precision and certainty their economic and social evolution. Lastly, as provided in the Treaty of Peace, the Eastern countries are entitled to receive special consideration, and it is in the interests of the countries enjoying exceptional privileges to possess the means by which they can establish definitely the exceptional nature of their position. The creation of Correspondence Offices in Eastern countries has, therefore, received general approval.

Again, it is to be remembered that some of these countries contribute largely to the maintenance of the International Labour Organisation. While it has been found difficult to make known to them the work of the Organisation, owing to reasons of distance and of language, it has been no less a difficult task to obtain from them precise and up-to-date information about their own industrial development. In this connexion, it is considered



that Japan presents greater difficulties than India, as India relies to a very large extent on the English language and can make considerable use of the publications of the International Labour Office. Japan has no such advantage and, therefore, the International Labour Organisation, in order to create closer relations with that country, has made provision for the institution of a Correspondence Office at Tokyo. Japan is the only one of the chief industrial countries which neither has a Correspondent, nor receives any publication of the Office in its own language. The International Labour Office is of opinion that it would be difficult, from more than one point of view, to establish two Correspondents at present in the Eastern countries. In view of the circumstances stated above, Japan has a stronger claim, and the experiment will therefore be made first in Japan before considering its application to India.

The Japanese Government has shown considerable interest in the establishment of the Correspondence Office, and the *Kyochō Kai* (Association for Harmonious Co-operation) has offered to place premises at the disposal of the Correspondent to be appointed by the International Labour Office. The following are the estimates for the establishment of the office at Tokyo:—

	Estimates* for 1924.	
	Yen.	Rs.
(a) Salaries .. .. .	16,560	26,454
(b) Travelling expenses .. .. .	5,000	7,987
(c) Establishment and office expenses .. .. .	5,000	7,987
(d) External collaboration and collection of information .. .. .	3,000	4,792
(e) Miscellaneous and capital expenditure .. .. .	1,000	1,597
Total .. .. .	30,560	48,817

\* 100 yen = Rs. 159-12-0 at current rates.

### India and the International Labour Office

Lord Winterton speaking in the House of Commons on the India Office vote, referred to the co-operation of the Government of India in the activities of the International Labour Office in the following terms:—

The Government of India had wholeheartedly co-operated in most of the activities

of the League of Nations and adopted the highest ideals of honesty and fair dealing in international affairs, notably labour matters. M. Thomas, Director of the International Labour Office, had repeatedly testified to India's support. The full benefit of the changes making for the development of India could not be enjoyed unless the efficiency of Indian labour was greatly improved. This could only be accomplished slowly not merely in the matter of wages but by better education, housing and working conditions. A beginning had been made in this matter. The Government had extended to the Government of India cordial good wishes in the great task.

### INDIAN LABOUR IN FIJI

#### OCCUPATIONS AND WAGES

The following interesting details regarding Indian immigrant labour in the Fiji Islands have been received from the Colonial Secretary, Suva, Fiji:

"Since 1916 there has been no immigration into Fiji of labourers from India. Indians in Fiji are employed mainly in agricultural pursuits, although as many as 14,000 are engaged in industrial occupations. The number of Indians who are classed either as Agriculturists or Cultivators exceeds 15,000 and of this number a large majority are either farmers growing sugarcane, which they sell to the Sugar Companies, or are agricultural labourers employed in the sugar industry at a daily wage. Labourers so employed are housed by employers, and are given free medical attention by the Government. Generally also they are allowed the use of plots of land on which to grow rice, dhall and other products.

Field labourers engaged in the sugar industry are paid at the rate of 1s. 8d. a day, or task, with a bonus of 6d. per week. Skilled labourers draw up to 18s. a day. The Colonial Sugar Refining Company, the principal employer of labour in the Colony, has regulated prices at the Company's stores to ensure that employees, and their families, are able to purchase food-stuffs at a moderate cost so that the cost of a weekly ration as formerly fixed by Ordinance does not exceed 3s.



Growers of cane are paid at present the sum of 3s. 6d. per ton in addition to the ordinary standard price (at present 10s. a ton), and provided that the benefit derivable from the British Preferential Duty remains as at present, a similar bonus will be paid during the crushing seasons of 1924 and 1925."

**Honorary Correspondents of the Labour Office.**

The following changes have been made in the list of Honorary Correspondents of the Labour Office, published on page 18 of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1923:—

*Addition of the name of—*

Professor K.T. Shah, B.A., B.Sc., Bar-at-Law, University Professor of Economics, Bombay University.

*Deletion of the name of—*

Mr. I. H. Desai, Secretary, Ahmedabad Millowners' Association, Ahmedabad.

**ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS**

**STATISTICS FOR JUNE 1923**

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 35 and 36 of this issue, contain details of the accidents reported during the month of June in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During June in Bombay City and Island, there were in all 179 factory accidents of which 13 were serious and the remainder 166, minor accidents. There were no fatal accidents reported. Of the total number of accidents 58 or 32.4 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 121 or 67.6 per cent. to other causes. As in previous months, by far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the percentages classified according to class of factory being 64.8 per cent. in workshops, 33.0 per cent. in textile mills, and 2.2 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad there were eleven accidents, all in cotton mills. Ten of these were due to machinery in motion, and one to other causes.

Of these eleven accidents, five were serious and six minor accidents.

In Karachi, there were six accidents, all in workshops, due to causes other than machinery in motion. Of these one was serious and five were minor accidents.

In the other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 21, of which 7 were in textile mills, 13 in workshops and one in miscellaneous concerns. Six accidents were due to machinery in motion, and fifteen to other causes. There were one fatal, two serious, and 18 minor accidents.

**PROSECUTIONS**

There were no prosecutions under the Factory Act, either in Bombay City and Island, or in other centres, during the month under review.

**VARIATIONS IN EFFICIENCY IN COTTON WEAVING**

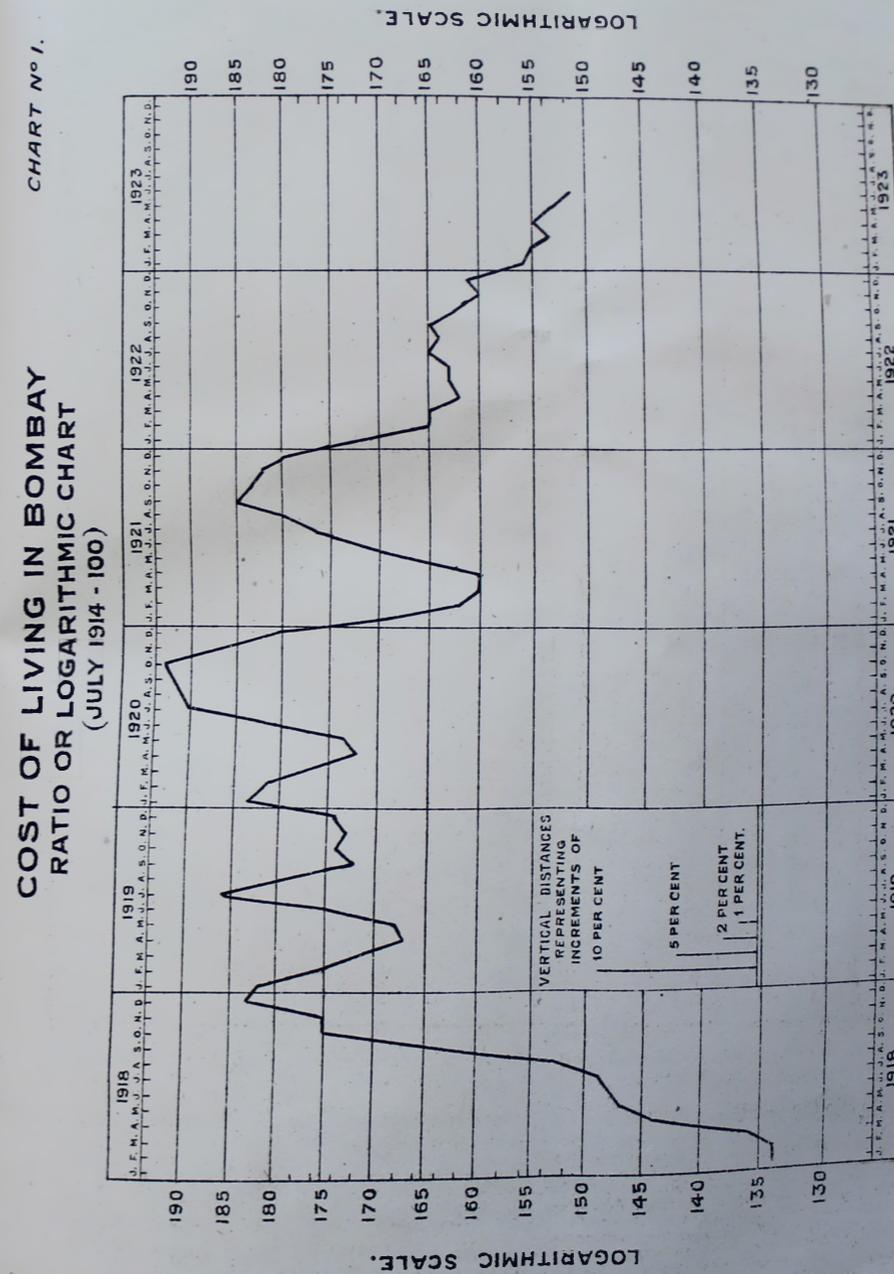
A copy of Report No. 23 of the Industrial Fatigue Research Board on *Variations in Efficiency in Cotton Weaving* (Textile Series No. 7 by S. Wyatt, M.Sc.) has recently been received by the Labour Office.

The Report is the result of an extensive enquiry undertaken by Mr. Wyatt in nine weaving sheds in Great Britain in which conditions regarding output appeared to be fairly homogeneous. Both humid and dry sheds containing ordinary looms, and humid sheds containing automatic looms, were chosen in order to determine the various factors influencing production. Over a million output readings were taken at hourly intervals and these readings were spread over a period of one year.

The main conclusions arrived at are briefly set out below:—

Working capacity is inter-dependent with pure efficiency of production as apart from the elemental human factors determining the efficiency of the operative. Mr. Wyatt classifies the various factors entering into the determination of working capacity and objective efficiency under three main heads:—(1) Environmental, (2) Personal, and (3) Physical. Environmental influences include temperature, humidity and lighting. Personal influences include ability, incitement and practice, experience, incentives and

(Continued on page 27.)



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 on a natural scale chart. Note the steadiness of the curve in 1922.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1923.

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

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

NOTES

1. Within the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and Black areas excessive rains.
2. Excess: More than 120 per cent of the normal.  
Normal: 80-120 per cent of the normal.  
Fair: 40-75 per cent of the normal.  
Scanty: Less than 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.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

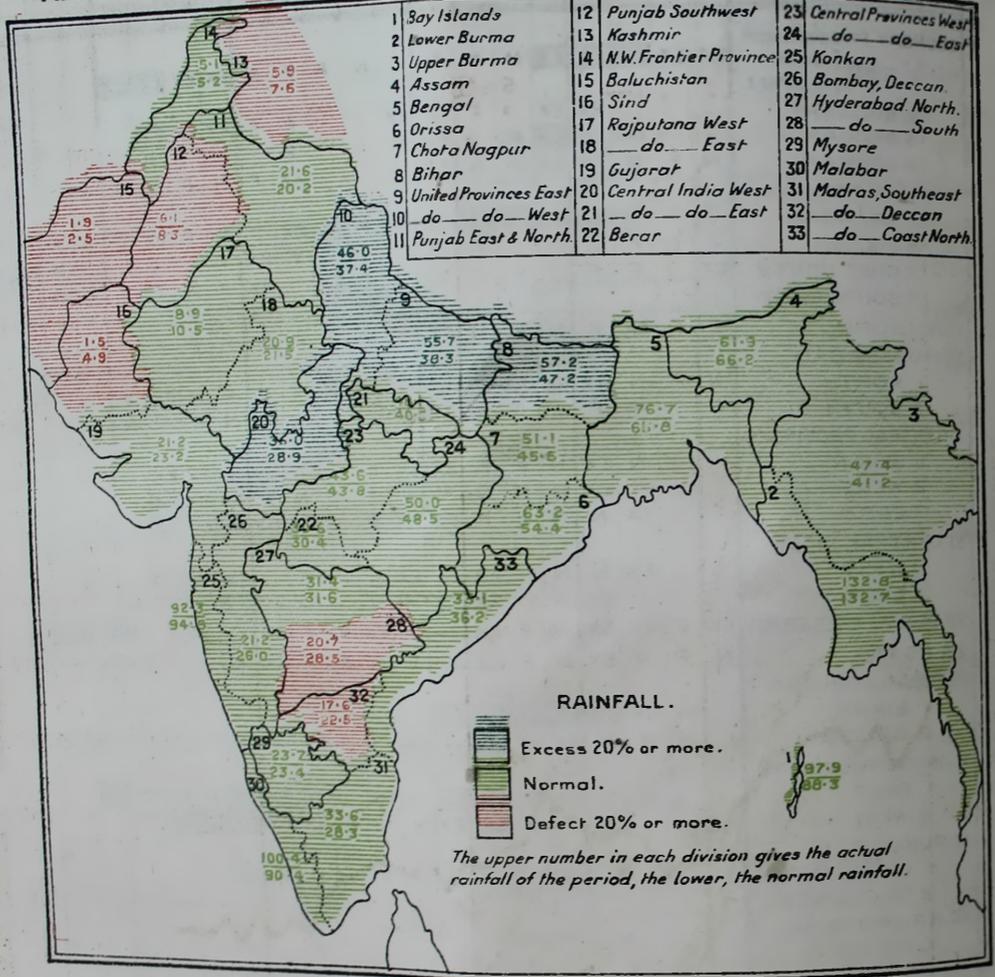
Abbreviations:- S-Scanty, F-Fair, N-Normal, EX-Excess.

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

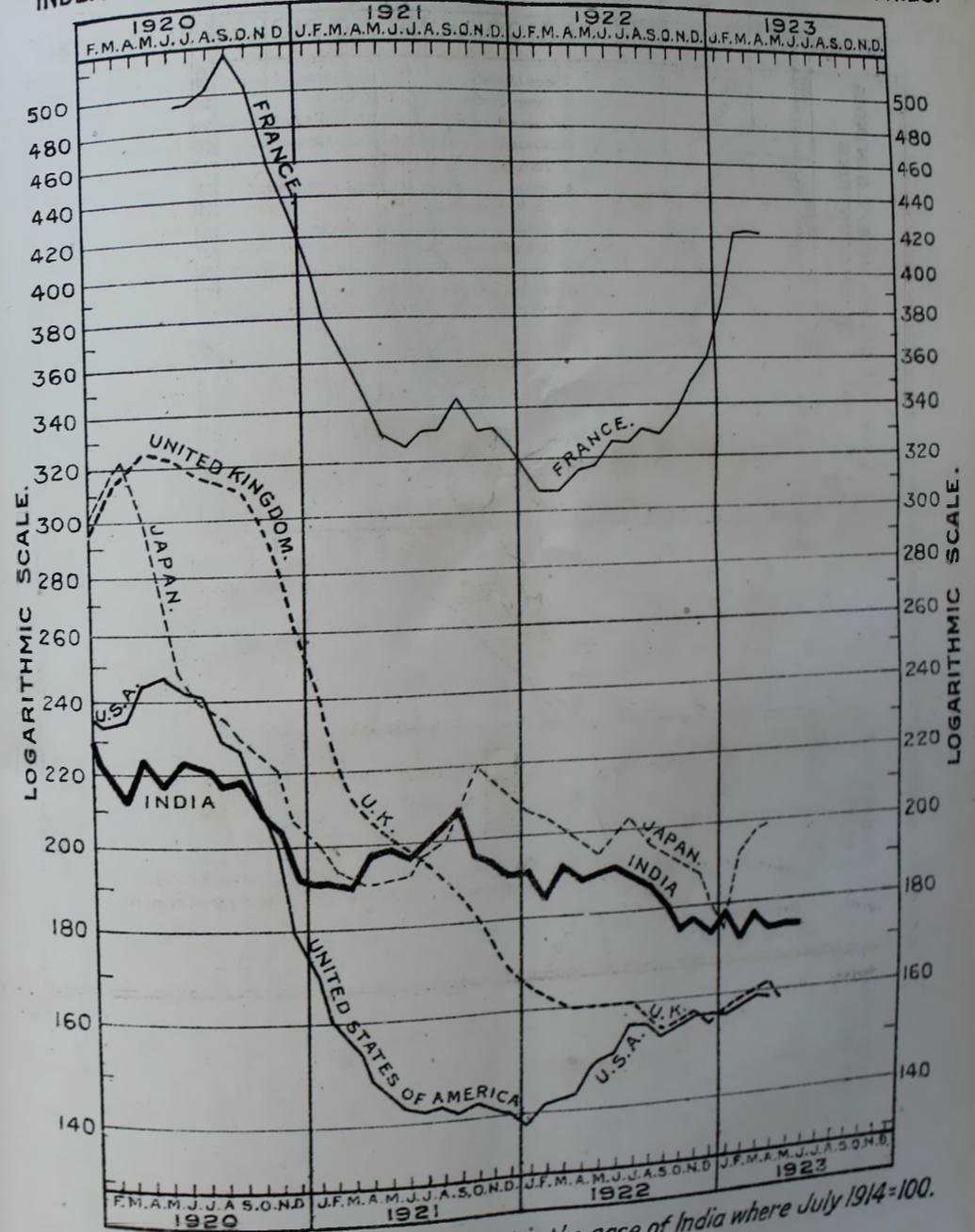
NOTES

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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.

RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1922.

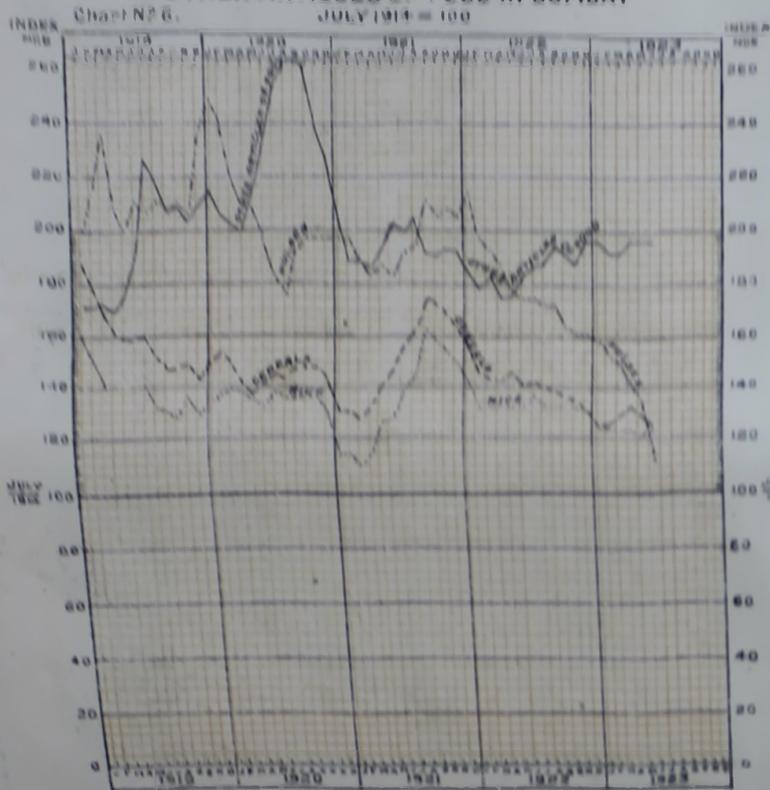


INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.



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

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



Note:—Pulses Average Price of Gram & Turdal  
Rice—Clean  
Cereals—Average Price of Rice, Wheat, Jawar, & Bajra  
Other articles of food—Average Price of Sugar, Tea, Salt, Beej, Muttan, Ghise, Potatoes, Onions, Coconut oil, &c.

**COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES**

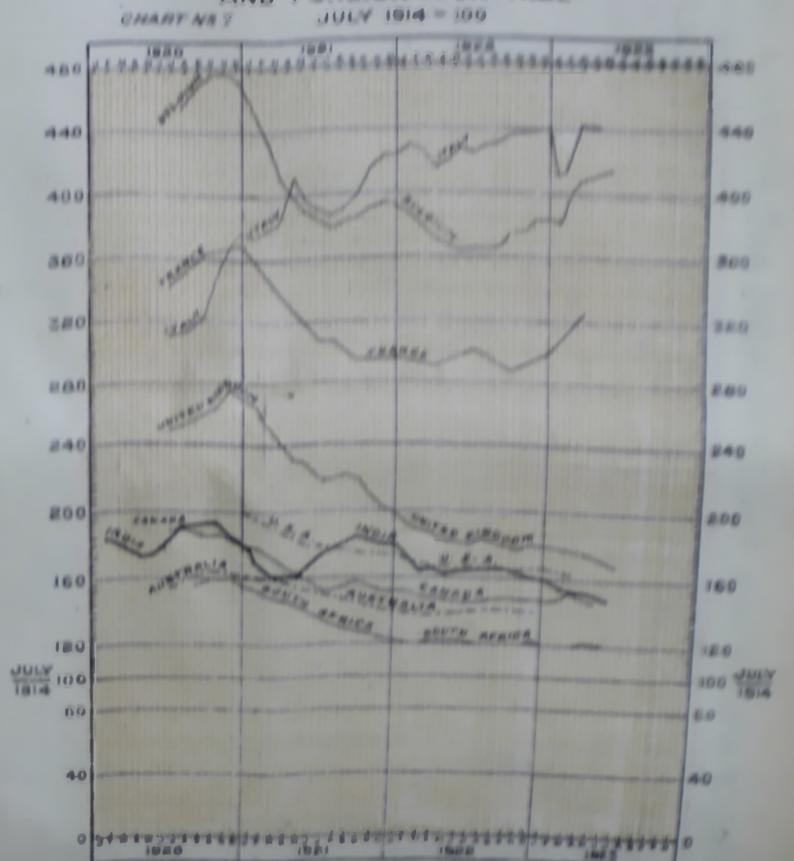
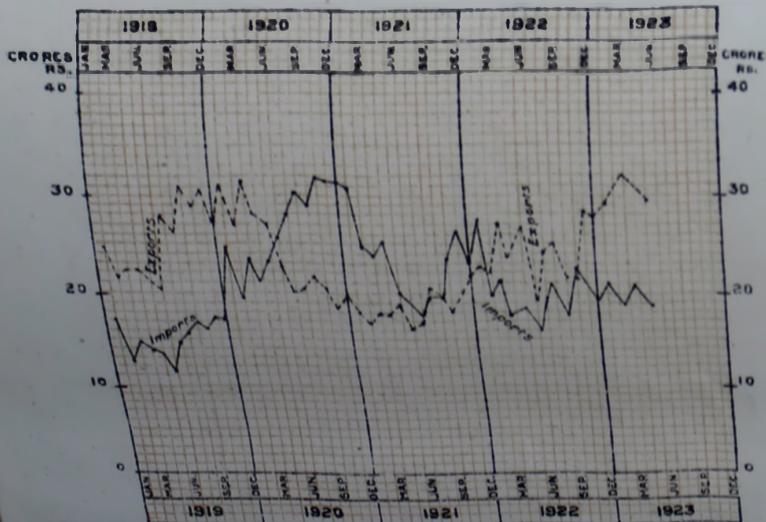


CHART No 8

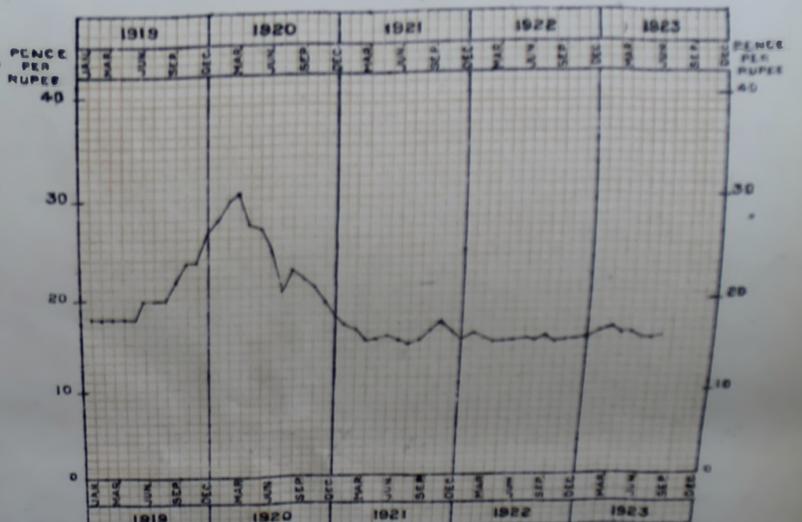
**IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA**



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

CHART No 9

**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 > 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





JULY, 1923

## THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1923

(See Chart No. 2.)

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

"Normal" in the charts is a variation from 80 to 120 per cent. of the true normal, "late" 40 to 75 per cent. of this normal, and "scanty" is less than 40 per cent. The white statement, the more satisfactory nature of the monsoon; the redder it is, the more the monsoon. The rainfall in other provinces also has been shown, as those (e.g., the United Provinces which exports to us hajt and jowari for our millworkers) have an influence on the long run on future price levels of food.

In Sind, the monsoon scarcely counts; it is the level of the Indus that does. The rise of the river up till the end of September is shown in the charts; after this date the rise is of little national importance. The table below shows the rainfall up to 26th July 1923, in Bombay, the Deccan (Ahmednagar, Sholapur, Bijapur and Poona), Gujarat (Surat and Ahmedabad) and in Kathiawar (Rajkot and Bhavnagar).

Station	Rainfall in inches		Station	Rainfall in inches	
	(Up to June 26th July.)	Departure from normal.		(Up to June 26th July.)	Departure from normal.
Bombay	40.22	+ 7.26	Surat	12.90	- 8.71
Ahmednagar	4.17	- 7.40	Ahmedabad	1.42	- 10.12
Sholapur	4.15	- 7.45	Rajkot	2.79	- 9.56
Bijapur	4.15	- 7.45	Bhavnagar	6.18	- 2.21
Poona	4.15	- 7.45			

fatigue. Physical influences include size and uniformity of yarn, sizing and loom speeds. "Personal" influences affect working capacity and "Physical" influences affect efficiency of production as determined by objective factors only. Temperature and humidity have direct influences on both subjective and objective factors but ventilation and lighting only influence subjective factors determining the personal efficiency and working capacity of the operatives.

Temperature and humidity tend to increase production by causing a decrease in the number of yarn breakages, but at the same time, tend to decrease production by acting unfavourably upon the worker.

Efficiency varies directly according to the sufficiency of natural light, and, in the absence of natural light, to proper and adequate artificial lighting. The want of a proper determination for the placing of light sources, where artificial lighting has to be resorted to, results in considerable eye strain, and a consequence of this is loss in efficiency.

The efficiency at the end of the week is very low. This is largely due to the sweeping and cleaning of looms once a week usually on the last working day.

The efficiency on Monday morning is relatively low owing to the week-end break. Tuesday is generally the most efficient day.

The establishment of short time has been found to have an adverse effect upon efficiency.

In order to obviate the adverse effects of a high temperature and artificial humidification on the workers it has been suggested (1) to modify the composition of air and (2) to adopt a system for the local humidification of looms so that the atmosphere round the worker would not be affected. It is also proposed to improve measures regarding ventilation and lighting. The Report may be seen in the Labour Office Library.

## THE SPINNING INDUSTRY IN JAPAN

### LABOUR CONDITIONS

The International Labour Review for the month of May 1923 contains an interesting article on the spinning industry in Japan. The following is a brief summary of the article.

One of the most important industries of Japan is the Spinning Industry. According to the *Monthly Annual Report on Factory Inspections of the number of workers in the different branches of this industry in 1919* was as follows:—

\* 200-2

Class of Factory.	Number of workers	Per cent.
Silk	17,661	8.4
Cotton	205,528	86.1
Wool	6,550	2.5
Wood	1,475	0.6
Total	231,214	100.0

The distribution of these workers by sex and age groups is very striking. It shows (1) the predominance of female labour (over 75 per cent. of the total) and (2) the large percentage of labourers under twenty years of age engaged in the industry.

The following table shows the classification by sex and age:—

Age	Males	Females	Total
10 and under	—	26	26
11 " " 15	2,076	10,712	12,788
16 " " 20	16,476	74,000	90,476
20 and over	15,475	102,018	117,493
Total	33,527	176,836	210,363

### LABOUR TURNOVER

The labour turnover is exceptionally high and investigations conducted by the Department of Agriculture and Commerce show that 169,751 workers left the industry, and that 208,138 workers were engaged in the industry, during the year 1921. Of the numbers taken off the wages rolls, 45.7 per cent. left work for personal reasons while only 30.2 per cent. were actually discharged. Of the remainder, 15.4 per cent. left service on account of the termination of their contracts, 7.4 per cent. left for reasons of sickness and 1.3 per cent. died or abandoned. This large turnover of labour throws much light on the conditions under which labour works in this industry. The system of "living in" is very common and a large percentage of the workers live in dormitories attached to the factories. Sanitary conditions in both dormitories and factory looms much to be desired and, as a result, the percentage of diseases affecting the respiratory organs is abnormally high. Hours of labour in cotton spinning factories have been restricted



during recent years in order to reduce production. Nevertheless, the double shift system still continues and the number of hours worked varies from 22 in some factories to 20 in others. Owing to trade depression in the Jute Industry night work has been discontinued and a 12-hour day has been brought into force. On the other hand, the silk and wool factories work two shifts of twelve hours each. In factories where two shifts are worked, four days' rest per month is given, and in the factories working day shifts only some employers give four rest days while others give only two.

#### RECRUITMENT OF LABOUR

Suitable labour for the spinning industry is scarce in Japan and factory owners experience no little difficulty in recruiting workers, especially female workers. The procedure generally followed is the appointment of intermediary Agents who tour the districts and recruit the requisite labour force. Incentives in the form of cash advances are usually offered and it has now become quite customary to pay a recruit an advance amounting on an average to 15 Yen (Rs. 22-15 or £1-10). The actual cost for recruiting workers amounts on an average to about 30 Yen (Rs. 45-15 or £3-1) per head. Workers engaged in this manner seldom continue in the employ of the owner who engages them for any reasonable period of time, and the initial outlay under this head is therefore considerable. All recruits are required to pass medical and general knowledge tests and on certification have to sign contracts which, in most cases, are to the advantage of the employers. They frequently contain clauses demanding the previous consent of the worker to the renewal of the agreement on the same conditions.

#### ABSENTEEISM

As in the case of India and also in other industries in Japan, attendance in the spinning industry falls after the payment of wages. Women workers who live in the dormitories show the best records of attendance, and absenteeism amongst them rarely exceeds three to four per cent. It is different, however, with the women workers who live outside the factory. For these workers, absenteeism is often as

high as seventeen per cent. This marked difference is due to the fact that women workers who live outside the factory have their domestic duties to attend to. Moreover, workers who live in dormitories are encouraged by frequent awards of prizes for the best attendance in inter-dormitory competitions. The absenteeism among male workers living outside the factory normally remains at a level of about ten per cent.

#### WAGES

Men workers in cotton spinning mills are usually paid wages on a time scale while women workers are paid by piece rates. These are either paid to an individual or to a group of workers on a collective basis. Women supervisors and apprentices only are paid on a time scale and men workers in packing and certain other special occupations receive piece rate wages. In silk yarn spinning factories both time and piece rates are in force but in jute spinning factories the piece rate system is generally adopted, time wages being given only to apprentices. The average daily wages paid in the cotton, silk and jute spinning industries from 1910 to 1920 were as follows:—

Year.	Cotton.		Silk.		Jute.	
	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.	Men.	Women.
	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.	Yen.
1910	0.42	0.27	0.45	0.23	0.46	0.28
1911	0.44	0.28	0.45	0.24	0.49	0.29
1912	0.44	0.29	0.45	0.23	0.52	0.30
1913	0.45	0.29	0.46	0.25	0.52	0.30
1914	0.48	0.30	0.46	0.28	0.52	0.27
1915	0.48	0.30	0.46	0.28	0.51	0.30
1916	0.50	0.32	0.47	0.29	0.54	0.34
1917	0.57	0.38	0.55	0.35	0.60	0.39
1918	0.74	0.51	0.64	0.41	0.88	0.58
1919	1.30	0.95	1.06	0.71	1.14	0.74
1920	1.33	0.95	1.29	0.78	1.15	0.85

Note.—1 Yen, Rs. 1-8-6.

Special prizes in addition to wages are awarded for good attendance, carefulness in the use of materials, discovery of defective products, long service and good conduct, useful inventions and for labour saving devices. Bonuses are paid half-yearly and sometimes take the form of profit sharing. The twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fuji Spinning Company



was, for example, commemorated by a distribution of half a million yen and 40,000 shares (12.50 yen paid up) among 19,000 workers.

#### WELFARE WORK

The Housing Problem is one which centres round the question of the dormitory. In the case of women workers living in the dormitories arrangements are made for the supply of necessaries by agents, appointed by the owner of the mill, to provide certain necessary commodities at rates lower than the local market rates. Free medical attendance is provided in all cases and efforts are being made to stop the spread of tuberculosis, the prevalence of which is causing some alarm. Health insurance is undertaken by Mutual Aid Societies and benefits are granted for accidents, sickness, child birth, death of the worker and also for natural calamities. These societies are universally in vogue. Workers are required to subscribe monthly to the society and employers also subscribe amounts varying from 33 1/3 per cent. to 50 per cent. of the total contributions received from the workers themselves. A Health Insurance Act was passed in April 1922 and when this Act comes into force the work which is at present being done by the Mutual Aid Societies will be transferred to the new Health Insurance Societies to be established under the Act. Disablement as a result of work in the factory is compensated for by the employer by the payment of a benefit, the amount of which rests with the discretion of the manager in each case.

#### TRADE UNIONS

There has been practically no progress made in the organisation of Trade Unions among workers in the spinning industry. This is attributed to the low standard of education and the lack of any feeling of self-reliance among the women operatives. There is only one union of spinning workers at present in existence in the country. This is the *Boseki Rodo-Ko Kumiai* (Union of Spinning Workers) affiliated to the General Federation of Japanese Labour. Its membership, however, is very small.

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

As compared with the engineering industry, the number of industrial disputes in the

spinning industry is very small. One dispute in a spinning concern in the autumn of 1920, and another in a similar concern in June 1922, isolated disputes in eastern and western parts of Japan respectively, both ended in favour of the employers.

### THE COLLECTION OF LABOUR STATISTICS

#### LEGISLATION IN JAPAN

On page 26 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1923, a reference was made to the first labour Census in Japan to be taken in accordance with the Act of 19th April 1922. The following are the provisions of the Act.

Act No. 52, concerning investigations for the collection of labour statistics. Promulgated 19th April 1922.

1. Whenever it is necessary for the collection of statistical information concerning labour, the Government shall institute an investigation into actual conditions throughout the country or within a certain specified district upon a specially fixed date.

Provisions respecting date, scope, method, and any other essential matters connected with the investigation into actual conditions provided for in the preceding paragraph shall be issued by an Imperial Ordinance.

2. Information collected in the course of investigations into actual conditions shall not be used otherwise than for statistical purposes.

3. Any person engaged in the work of investigating actual conditions who divulges without reasonable cause any information obtained in the performance of his duties concerning individuals, bodies corporate or associations, or their business, shall be liable to a fine (bakkin or karyo) not exceeding 100 yen.

4. Any person who evades enquiries, refuses to give information, or intentionally gives false information in the course of an investigation of actual conditions, shall be liable to a fine (bakkin or karyo) not exceeding 50 yen.

5. Any person who obstructs an investigation of actual conditions by spreading false rumours, by trickery, or by coercion or violence, shall be liable to a fine (bakkin or karyo) not exceeding 200 yen.

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## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN IN MINES

### INTRODUCTION OF A SHIFT SYSTEM.

The new Mines Act—Act IV of 1923—which received the assent of the Governor General on the 23rd February 1923, was published on page 27 of the *Labour Gazette* for May 1923. The Government of India have now addressed all local Governments and administrations inviting their opinions on (1) the question of the prohibition of employment of women in mines and (2) introduction of a system of shifts in coal and other mines. The circular letter issued by the Government of India is republished below :—

*The employment of women in mines.*—Section 20, sub-section (2) (1), of the Indian Mines Act, 1901, enables the Governor-General in Council or the Local Government to make rules prohibiting, restricting or regulating the employment of women below ground or on particular kinds of labour where such employment is attended by danger to the life, safety or health of such women. In the twenty-two years since the Act was passed, no rules appear to have been made under this sub-section. It will be observed that rules could be made only if it could be proved in each case that the employment was attended by *danger* to life, safety or health and not because of objections based on general, social or hygienic considerations. When framing the Bill which has since become Act IV of 1923 and will come into force on the 1st July 1924, the Government of India considered carefully a proposal to prohibit forthwith the employment of women in mines by statute. They came to the conclusion that it would be inexpedient to make any such provision immediately effective, in view of the fact that women form more than a third of the mining labour of the country and the immediate prohibition of their employment would very seriously disorganize a very important key industry. In the Bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly in September 1922, two provisions were inserted bearing this point. In the first place it was proposed to prohibit the presence of all children below ground in a mine. This provision has since become law (section 26 of the Act of 1923), and will, it is anticipated, automatically involve the exclusion from mines of some proportion of the women who would otherwise work below ground. Secondly, in clause 30 (d) of the Bill, it was proposed to give the Local Government power to prohibit, restrict or regulate the presence or employment in mines of women either above or below ground, or on particular kinds of labour. It will be noticed that this was a very much wider authority than either the Government of India or Local Governments possess under the Act of 1901.

After the Bill was introduced there was considerable discussion on the subject in the press and elsewhere. The Joint Committee of the Indian Legislature to which the Bill was referred, devoted particular attention to this point. In their report they made the following observations on the subject :—

*“Employment of women.*—The present law regarding the employment of women is contained in section 20 (2) (1) of Act VIII of 1901. This is a provision which enables rules to be made prohibiting, restricting or regulating the employment of women either below ground or on particular kinds of labour where the employment is attended by danger. The rule-making power vests in the Governor-General in Council or the Local Government. The Bill referred to us in clause 30 (d) enables a Local Government, subject to control, to make rules prohibiting, restricting or regulating the presence or employment in mines of women, either above or below ground or on particular kinds of labour. It is, we think, generally realized that the absolute prohibition of the employment of women below ground in coal mines is a mere matter of time. It cannot be introduced at once because time must be given to employers to replace the labour of the 90,000 women who are at present working in mines. Some of us pressed for the inclusion of a statutory prohibition in the Bill with a provision that it should not come into force for five years after the passing of the Bill. We think, however, that this would involve such a radical alteration in the Bill that re-circulation would be essential, and as we are reluctant to delay its passage, we think it desirable to attempt to effect a compromise. We have, in the first place, transferred the provision relating to the employment of women from clause 30 to clause 29 of the Bill, so that the power of control may vest in the Governor General in Council. We have further re-drafted the provision so as to follow more closely the wording of the present law. We desire, however, to place on record a recommendation that the question of the employment of women below ground in mines, should be taken up at a very early date with Local Governments with a view to prohibiting such employment either in all mines or in particular classes of mines at the end of a specified period, which we think should be about five years.”

In accordance with the recommendation of the Joint Committee, section 29 (j) of the Act of 1923 empowers the Governor General in Council “to make regulations . . . for prohibiting, restricting or regulating the employment in mines or in any class of mines, of women either below ground or on particular kinds of labour, which are attended by danger to the life, safety or health of such women”. I am to invite



attention to the phraseology of the clause. The power conferred on the Government of India is not as wide as was proposed for Local Governments in the Bill as originally introduced, for, in the case of labour *other than below ground*, the Government of India must be satisfied, as in the Act of 1901, that the labour of the women concerned is attended by danger to their life, safety or health.

In accordance with the suggestion made in the report of the Joint Committee and quoted above, I am to ask for the views of the Local Government on the question of framing regulations under clause (j) of section 29 of Act IV of 1923.

The question of the prohibition of the employment of women in mines was raised by the Secretary of State for India as long ago as 1890, when Lord Cross forwarded to the Government of India the proceedings of the Berlin Conference and suggested that Government should consider the advisability of legislating for the regulation of the employment of women in mines. The Government of India took the question up along with the general proposals for the regulation of mines to insure the health and safety of the workers. The Bill framed in 1899, for the inspection and regulation of mines, contained a clause empowering an Inspector of Mines to prohibit the employment of women when such employment was dangerous, or unsuited, to female labour; and another clause empowering the Governor General in Council, and the Local Government, to make rules prohibiting, restricting or regulating the employment of women below ground or on particular kinds of labour. When the Bill was submitted to the Secretary of State for his approval, the Secretary of State noted that, while the Bill provided for the supervision and control of female labour, it did not prohibit the employment of women altogether; he warned the Government of India that, as the mining industry developed, it would become increasingly difficult to prohibit the employment of women, and suggested that the question of further safeguarding such employment should be carefully considered in Committee. When the Bill was circulated, the provisions regulating the employment of women aroused considerable criticism, and expression was given to the fear that if steps were taken to prevent their female relatives from going below ground with the male workers, the latter would themselves refuse to work in the mines. It was argued that the conditions of employment in Indian mines were fundamentally different from those in western countries; that Indian mine labour worked in family gangs, the women assisting their relatives and helping to swell their earnings and that, when proper precautions were taken to rescue ventilation and to make the workings healthy, conditions in the mines were not unpleasant or prejudicial to health. When the Bill was finally

considered in the legislature, the provisions relating to the employment of women were altered into the form in which they appear in the Act of 1901.

Since that time, mining conditions have undergone a considerable change. Indian mining is no longer in its infancy. The mines are deeper, and the risk of danger is accentuated. There is a steadily increasing body of public opinion, which strongly deprecates the continued employment of women in mines. The Government of India accept the view of the Joint Committee of the Indian Legislature that the time has now come to consider seriously the prohibition of employment of women underground, particularly in coal mines, in which probably the conditions of work are hardest and open to most objection. As stated above, however, more than a third of the total mining community are women, and although manual labour in mines is to some extent being supplanted by machine cutters, it is an undoubted fact that the sudden removal of female labour from underground work in mines would seriously dislocate the industry, and possibly compel a number of mines to close down. The only way of minimizing such a dislocation would be by giving the mine-managers sufficient notice of the intentions of Government, to enable them to secure and train the new labour which they will require, when the underground employment of women is prohibited.

I am now directed to ask that the Government of India may be favoured with the views of the Local Government on the general proposition that the employment of women in mines, or in particular classes of mines, should be prohibited at some specified time, e.g. five years after the new Mines Act comes into force. I am in particular to enquire whether the Local Government would make the prohibition a general one, or applicable only to certain classes of mines, such as coal mines, and whether the period of grace suggested before the prohibition comes into effect, *viz.*, five years, is suitable. The Government of India are provisionally of opinion that the prohibition should apply only to workings which extend beneath the superjacent ground; there would appear to be no greater objection to the employment of women above ground or in open quarries or shallow pits than to their employment on ordinary earth-work. But on this point, too, the Government of India would be glad of the views of the Local Government.

*The introduction of a system of shifts.*—In the course of the discussions in the Indian Legislature on the clause enacted as section 23 of the new Indian Mines Act, which prescribes weekly limits of work for mine-labourers generally, it was contended in certain quarters that the prescription of a weekly limit did not go far enough; it was urged that in the coal-fields miners worked sometimes for 18 hours a day, a practice which the prescription of a weekly limit

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would not stop. It was recognised, however, that under present conditions of mine-labour in the coalfields it was impracticable to insist on a daily limit of hours, although it might be possible, if due warning were given to the mine-owners, to introduce at some later date a system of shifts, which would automatically restrict the hours which an individual labourer could work in a single day. I am to note here that the Act of 1923 does not authorise the enforcement of a system of shifts, and if any such system is to be made compulsory, fresh legislation will be necessary.

From the point of view of the proper and economic working of the collieries there is little doubt that the introduction of a system of shifts would be an advantage. Instead of relying as at present on a fluctuating labour supply, which works for perhaps three days and absents itself for the remainder of the week, the mine-manager would be assured of a constant supply of regular labour. This argument was urged by Mr. Treharne Rees in 1919, after a careful examination of mining methods in the Indian coalfields; and the principle of a shift system appears generally to have commended itself to the Coalfields Committee in 1920, though that Committee were of opinion that in view of the then existing labour conditions it would be premature to enforce such a system by statute. The crux of the difficulty is undoubtedly the effect which the introduction of fixed and limited hours of work would have on the labour population at the mines. Although it is an accepted fact that the restriction of daily working hours to a reasonable limit, ordinarily makes for a more contented and efficient labour force, it is certain that, in the peculiar conditions of mining labour in the coalfields, a statutory restriction of this nature, imposed without due warning, would be unwelcome to the miners and might quite possibly drive a number of them away to other employment, where they would be free of statutory interference. If such was the case, the proposed legislation, while doing little good to the labourers themselves, would seriously affect the coal industry and, by curtailing the output of coal, be a source of grave embarrassment to other industries which depend on coal for their source of power.

The Government of India are, however, provisionally of opinion that any such dislocation of the labour supply could be minimized by giving the industry ample warning that a compulsory shift system would be introduced in coal mines on a fixed date some years hence. They are inclined to the view that if, as appears to them probable, the change in the methods of work in the coal mines, which the introduction of a system of shifts would involve, would be to the ultimate advantage at once of the mine-owners and of the labourers themselves, the introduction of this change is probably only a matter of time. It might be possible in the first instance to arrange the shifts in such a

manner as to interfere as little as possible with existing mining practice. For instance, it has been suggested that, to commence with, the day might be divided into two shifts of twelve hours each (6 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 6 a.m.). The Government of India are inclined to the view that, as the labourers become used to the stricter regulation of hours which a shift system postulates, the time will come when a shorter working day with definite rest intervals will have to be imposed.

I am to ask for the views of the Local Government on this question, both generally and with particular regard to the following points:—

- (a) whether the introduction of a compulsory system of shifts is practicable and advisable;
  - (b) what period of grace should be given before any legislation enforcing such a system should be imposed;
  - (c) what limits should be placed on the working day, and what particular system of shifts should be enforced;
  - (d) whether such legislation should apply to any mines other than coal mines;
  - (e) if applied only to coal mines, whether it should be enforced in all coalfields without exception.
- Attention is in this connection invited to paragraph 47 of the Report of the Coalfields Committee. The Government of India believe that the views of that Committee that any such system, if adopted at all, should be adopted universally, are likely to meet with general approval.

The Local Government will realise that this question of the introduction of a system of shifts is on a different footing from the question of prohibiting the employment of women, since the latter can be effected by regulations made under the Act of 1923, while the former would require legislation. In these circumstances the Local Government may find it convenient to deal with the two questions independently, making each the subject of a separate reply.

#### Works Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Crescent Mills Works Committee, agents Messrs. Currimbhoy Ebrahim & Co., Ltd., was held on the 3rd July 1923. The meeting consisted of 30 out of 47 representatives of the workmen and the management, and the Manager of the Mills presided. Complaints regarding the inadequacy of the sanitary arrangements were brought before the meeting. The president promised to take prompt measures to provide the conveniences asked for. Other matters brought before the Committee related to the working of the co-operative credit societies in the weaving department of the mill.

## EMPLOYMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

### MATERNITY BENEFITS

The following sections of the Workers' Protection Act of the Serbo-Croat Slovene Kingdom, dated 28th February 1922, relating to the employment of women before and after childbirth and to creches are of interest:—

22. "All work in the undertakings mentioned in section 1\* of this Act shall be prohibited for women during the two months before and the two months after confinement.

A pregnant woman shall have the right to cease all work in the undertaking where she is employed as soon as it is shown by a medical certificate that her confinement is expected within two months.

Within the limits of the above-mentioned four months, a woman shall be entitled to all benefits accruing to her under the Workers' Sickness Insurance Act for the whole duration of any illness connected with confinement.

23. A lying-in woman who is ill for more than two months after her confinement shall not be dismissed by her employer until she has completely recovered, unless the illness lasts for more than one year reckoned from the day of her confinement.

24. Occupiers of undertakings shall afford mothers facilities for nursing their children at the proper times. For this purpose every occupier of an undertaking shall grant a special break for nursing to mothers who nurse their children themselves, in addition to the ordinary breaks, as follows:—

- (1) if the child is at the mother's dwelling, not more than 30 minutes every four or five hours of work, or
- (2) if the child is in the creche of the undertaking where the mother works, fifteen minutes every four or five hours of work. The ordinary breaks and wages of the mothers concerned shall not be reduced on account of this break.

25. For this purpose a woman shall mean any female person, without distinction of age, status

\* 1. This Act shall apply to all undertakings (establishments) carrying on handicrafts, industry, commerce, transport, mining and similar activities within the territory of the Serbo-Croat-Slovene Kingdom in which workers are employed, irrespective of whether they belong to private individuals or public bodies, whether they are carried on permanently or temporarily, whether they are principal undertakings or subsidiary business carried on in connection with other undertakings, or whether they are carried on as entirely independent undertakings or form parts of undertakings in agriculture or forestry.

Undertakings in which only members of one and the same family are employed shall be exceptions hereto, and the provisions of this Act shall not apply to them.

In case of doubt, the Ministry of Social Affairs shall decide whether an undertaking comes under this Act or not, after hearing the chambers and councils concerned.

(married or unmarried), or nationality, and a child shall mean any child, whether legitimate or illegitimate.

### CRECHES

26. In every industrial undertaking where more than 100 persons are employed, and at least 25 of them have young children whom they cannot entrust to the care of any person at home while they are employed in the undertaking, the occupier shall establish a special creche in the immediate vicinity of the undertaking, where the children of employees as specified above may be cared for during working hours.

27. The occupiers of these undertakings shall provide suitable rooms and the requisite furniture for these creches, and shall likewise furnish the staff necessary to care for and supervise the children. The expenses of the establishment and maintenance of these creches shall be borne by the occupiers of the undertakings.

28. Every new undertaking in respect of which it appears sufficiently probable before the establishment thereof that on beginning work it will become liable to the obligation mentioned in section 26 of this Act shall, when sending in the application for the approval of the establishment of the undertaking, submit to the labour inspection office at the same time, for examination and approval, the plans for the creche which it is required to establish under section 26.

Existing undertakings which fulfil the conditions laid down in section 26 of this Act shall establish the creches specified in this section not more than six months after this Act comes into operation.

Before establishing creches, the undertakings shall submit their plans to the competent labour inspection office for examination and approval.

29. If State or other public creches are situated in the immediate vicinity of an undertaking on which the obligation under section 26 is incumbent, the competent labour inspection office may exempt the occupier of the undertaking in question from the obligation to establish a special creche, provided that he shall be bound to maintain regularly in the said State or public creche at his own expense all children of the persons employed by him who are entitled to care in a creche under section 26 of this Act.

If it appears that the occupier of the undertaking fails to discharge this obligation conscientiously, or that for any reason it is no longer possible to require State or other public creches to care for the children of persons employed in a private undertaking, the obligation prescribed by section 26 of this Act shall again become incumbent upon the occupier of the undertaking in question."



## QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. N. M. Joshi asked: Will Government be pleased to state the time when they propose to introduce Trade Union legislation as per resolution passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 1st March 1921?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: The Government of India hope to be in a position to introduce a Bill early next year.

### Workmen's Compensation

Mr. N. M. Joshi asked: (a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they have addressed the Secretary of State for India regarding the steps to be taken to include Indian Seamen, serving on ships registered in Great Britain, under the Workmen's Compensation Act of the Indian Legislature?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the affirmative, will Government be pleased to state whether they have received a reply from the Secretary of State for India? If so, will they be further pleased to state what that reply is?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: A despatch to the Secretary of State is under issue.

Mr. N. M. Joshi asked: Will Government be pleased to state whether they have consulted the advisability of giving the benefit of the Workmen's Compensation Act to Postal runners and some other classes of Postal employees? If so, will they be further pleased to announce the exact terms of their decision?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: The matter will be considered, but the Government of India are not, as at present advised, inclined to include any fresh classes of workers by notification under section 2 (3) of the Act until the Act has itself been in force for some time and experience of its working has been gained. I would remind the Honourable Member that a proposal to include postal runners was rejected by the Workmen's Compensation Committee which sat in June 1922, when the principles of the Bill were under examination.

## JAPANESE FACTORY LAW

### EFFECT OF THE AMENDMENT

The effect of the amendment of the Japanese Factory Act and the Act concerning the minimum age to industrial employment form the subject of an enquiry conducted by the Bureau of Social Affairs, Japan. Under the original Act (which applied only to factories in which at least fifteen workers are regularly employed) there were 24,080 factories giving employment to 1,372,706 workers. As the Act now extends to factories employing at least ten workers, there is an increase of 9,460 (or 39 per cent.) in the number of factories and of 99,141 (or 7 per cent.) in the number of workers. Thus the total number of factories coming within the operation of the Act is 33,540 and the total number of workers 1,471,847. Of these 15,556 factories and 883,639 workers belong to the textile industry.

The following table shows the hours of work prevailing in all the factories at the end of 1921.

	Under 8 hours.	8 to 9 hours.	9 to 10 hours.	10 to 12 hours.	Over 12 hours.	Un-known.	Total.
Number of factories	4,661	6,608	10,680	9,933	1,525	131	33,540
Number of workers—							
Male	114,594	150,319	203,428	160,264	15,795	2,552	646,952
Female	31,282	55,964	236,183	451,853	47,599	2,014	824,895
Total	145,876	206,283	439,611	612,117	63,394	4,566	1,471,847

In regard to the employment of children, the original Factory Act permitted the employment of children over 12 years of age, while children over 10 and under 12 years could be employed on light and easy work. The new Act regulating the minimum age to industrial employment, while prohibiting the employment of children under 14 years, makes an exception in the case of those who have finished the elementary school course. This Act applies not only to factories and mines but also to other industrial undertakings. In this connection the number of children employed in factories and mines is of interest.

Class of Factory.	Children over 10 and under 12.		Children over 12 and under 14 who have not finished the elementary school course.		Total.
	(a) In July 1920.	(b) In 1917.	(a) In July 1920.	(b) In 1917.	
Factories	..	2,827	18,632	21,459 (a)	
Mines	..	....	120	120 (b)	

(a) In July 1920.

(b) In 1917.



## Accidents in Factories during June 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 June 1923.	June 1923.	
	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.			
<b>I. Textile Mills—</b>													
Cotton Mills	207	39	72	17	2	..	25	5	252	51	279	56	
Woollen Mills	5	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	6	1	6	1	
Others	5	1	2	1	..	..	1	1	6	1	7	2	
<b>Total</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>264</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>59</b>	
<b>II. Workshops—</b>													
Engineering	12	1	79	24	1	..	3	..	87	25	91	25	
Railway	63	13	368	72	2	..	16	6	413	79	431	85	
Mint	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	
Others	13	1	10	5	..	..	6	1	17	5	23	6	
<b>Total</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>457</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>116</b>	
<b>III. Miscellaneous—</b>													
Chemical Works	..	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	6	..	
Flour Mills	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	
Printing Presses	3	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	3	1	4	1	
Others	6	1	11	2	..	..	4	..	13	3	17	3	
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>4</b>	
<b>Total, All Factories</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>551</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>805</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>867</b>	<b>179</b>	

### 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 June 1923.	June 1923.	
	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.			
<b>Textile Mills—</b>													
Cotton	20	10	4	1	1	..	14	5	9	6	24	11	
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>11</b>	

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

Accidents in Factories during June 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 June 1923.	June 1923.	
	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.			
Workshop— Halbey and But Trust	4	2	21	6	..	..	5	1	20	5	25	6	
Total	4	2	21	6	..	..	5	1	20	5	25	6	

4. Other Centres

Class of Factory	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to June 1923.	June 1923.	
	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.	January to June 1923.	June 1923.			
I. Textile Mills— Cotton Mills Cotton Press Others Total	17 3 .. 20	1 2 .. 3	15 1 .. 16	4 .. .. 4	2 1 .. 3	1 .. .. 1	10 .. .. 10	1 .. .. 1	20 3 .. 23	3 2 .. 5	32 4 .. 36	5 2 .. 7	
II. Workshops— Railway Ammunition Works Others Total	16 .. 1 17	3 .. .. 3	78 3 6 87	9 .. 1 10	.. .. 1 2	.. .. .. 1	2 .. .. 3	2 .. .. 2	92 .. 2 99	12 .. .. 13	94 .. 3 104	12 .. .. 13	
III. Miscellaneous— Gin Factory Paint Works Others Total	3 1 1 5	.. .. .. ..	2 .. 1 3	1 .. 1 2	.. .. 1 ..	.. .. .. ..	3 .. .. 3	1 .. .. 1	2 .. .. 3	.. .. .. ..	5 .. 1 8	1 .. .. 2	
Total, All Factories	42	6	108	15	7	2	16	4	125	18	148	21	

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	June 1922.	May 1923.	June 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 11 5	5 11 5
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	9 12 0	6 13 0	6 15 0
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	105 0 0	61 8 0	62 8 0
Do.	Jubbulpore	..	40 0 0	77 8 0	47 8 0	47 8 0
Jowari	Rangoon	Md.	3 2 6	4 3 9	4 0 4	4 3 9
Barley	..	..	3 4 6	4 7 1	3 9 7	3 6 2
Bajri	Ghati	..	3 4 6	5 11 5	4 3 9	5 1 3
Pulses— Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	..	4 3 9	5 8 1	3 9 7	3 11 3
Turdal	Cawnpore	..	5 10 5	7 3 5	5 1 3	5 4 8
Sugar— Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	22 6 0	29 8 0	27 12 0
Do.	Java white	..	10 3 0	22 12 0	29 0 0	25 12 0
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	15 3 10	10 14 2	11 9 0
Other food— Turmeric	Rajapuri	..	5 9 3	17 0 1	25 2 9	28 0 5
Ghee	Deshi	..	45 11 5	91 6 10	84 4 7	84 4 7
Salt	Bombay (black)	..	1 7 6	2 12 0	3 3 0	3 4 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals— Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	100	142	121	121
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	100	174	122	124
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	100	233	137	139
Do.	Jubbulpore	100	194	119	119
Jowari	Rangoon	100	134	128	134
Barley	..	100	135	110	103
Bajri	Ghati	100	174	129	155
Average—Cereals	..	100	169	124	128
Pulses— Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	100	130	85	87
Turdal	Cawnpore	100	128	90	94
Average—Pulses	..	100	129	88	91
Sugar— Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	100	244	321	302
Do.	Java white	100	223	285	253
Raw (Gul)	Sangli	100	193	138	147
Average—Sugar	..	100	220	248	234
Other food— Turmeric	Rajapuri	100	305	451	502
Ghee	Deshi	100	200	184	184
Salt	Bombay (black)	100	187	217	221
Average—Other food	..	100	231	284	302
Average—All food	..	100	187	176	179

## Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	June 1922.	May 1923.	June 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<i>Oilseeds—</i>						
Linseed	.. Bold	.. Cwt.	8 14 6	15 4 0	13 1 0	13 10 0
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	.. ..	8 0 0	11 5 0	9 7 0	9 9 0
Poppysseed	.. Do.	.. ..	10 14 0	14 12 0	13 2 0	13 6 0
Gingelly	.. White	.. ..	11 4 0	17 14 0	15 4 0	15 10 0
<i>Textiles—Cotton—</i>						
(a) <i>Cotton—raw—</i>						
Broach	.. Good	.. Candy	251 0 0	518 0 0	515 0 0	530 0 0
Oomra	.. Fully good	.. ..	222 0 0	448 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	393 0 0	420 0 0	445 0 0
(b) <i>Cotton manufactures—</i>						
Twist	.. 40S	.. Lb.	0 12 9	1 10 0	1 11 0	1 10 6
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	.. Piece	5 15 0	13 12 0	13 0 0	12 12 0
White mulls	.. 6,600	.. ..	4 3 0	12 0 0	8 12 0	8 4 0
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	.. ..	10 6 0	27 0 0	25 8 0	25 0 0
Long cloth	.. Local made 36"×37½ yds...	.. Lb.	0 9 6	1 11 3	1 4 3	1 4 0
Chudders	.. 54"×6 yds.	.. ..	0 9 6	1 9 0	1 3 0	1 3 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

<i>Oilseeds—</i>						
Linseed	.. Bold	.. ..	100	171	147	153
Rapeseed	.. Cawnpore (brown)	.. ..	100	141	118	120
Poppysseed	.. Do.	.. ..	100	136	121	123
Gingelly	.. White	.. ..	100	159	136	139
Average—Oilseeds	.. ..	.. ..	100	152	131	134
<i>Textiles—Cotton—</i>						
(a) <i>Cotton—raw—</i>						
Broach	.. Good	.. ..	100	206	205	211
Oomra	.. Fully good	.. ..	100	202	198	198
Dharwar	.. Saw-ginned	.. ..	100	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Khandesh	.. Machine ginned	.. ..	100	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Bengal	.. Do.	.. ..	100	199	212	225
Average—Cotton—raw	.. ..	.. ..	100	202	205	211
(b) <i>Cotton manufactures—</i>						
Twist	.. 40S	.. ..	100	204	212	208
Grey shirtings	.. Fari 2,000	.. ..	100	232	219	215
White mulls	.. 6,600	.. ..	100	287	209	197
Shirtings	.. Liepman's 1,500	.. ..	100	260	246	241
Long cloth	.. Local made 36"×37½ yds...	.. ..	100	287	213	210
Chudders	.. 54"×6 yds.	.. ..	100	263	200	200
Average—Cotton manufactures	.. ..	.. ..	100	256	217	210
Average—Textiles—Cotton	.. ..	.. ..	100	238	213	212

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	June 1922.	May 1923.	June 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
<i>Other textiles—</i>						
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
<i>Hides and Skins—</i>						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. Lb.	1 2 6	1 13 11	2 0 9	1 13 8
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	1 1 3	1 0 9	0 13 1	0 12 5
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	1 4 0	1 13 10	2 14 1	2 7 10
<i>Metals—</i>						
Copper braziers	.. —	.. Cwt.	60 8 0	79 8 0	77 0 0	79 0 0
Iron bars	.. —	.. ..	4 0 0	10 8 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 0 0	18 0 0	18 0 0
Tin plates	.. —	.. Box	8 12 0	17 0 0	19 0 0	19 0 0
<i>Other raw and manufactured articles—</i>						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. Ton	14 12 0	30 0 0	10 0 0	8 12 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

<i>Other textiles—</i>						
Silk	.. Canton No. 5	.. ..	100	105	105	105
Do.	.. Nankin	.. ..	100	172	172	172
Average—Other textiles	.. ..	.. ..	100	139	139	139
<i>Hides and Skins—</i>						
Hides, Cow	.. Tanned	.. ..	100	162	177	160
Do. Buffalo	.. Do.	.. ..	100	97	76	72
Skins, Goat	.. Do.	.. ..	100	149	230	199
Average—Hides and Skins	.. ..	.. ..	100	136	161	144
<i>Metals—</i>						
Copper braziers	.. —	.. ..	100	131	127	131
Iron bars	.. —	.. ..	100	263	200	200
Steel hoops	.. —	.. ..	100	200	181	181
Galvanized sheets	.. —	.. ..	100	167	200	200
Tin plates	.. —	.. ..	100	194	217	217
Average—Metals	.. ..	.. ..	100	191	185	186
<i>Other raw and manufactured articles—</i>						
Coal	.. Bengal	.. ..	100	203	68	59
Kerosene	.. Elephant brand	.. ..	100	174	171	171
Do.	.. Chester brand	.. ..	100	199	196	196
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	.. ..	.. ..	100	192	145	142
Total—Food	.. ..	.. ..	100	187	176	179
Total—Non-food	.. ..	.. ..	100	191	175	173
General Average	.. ..	.. ..	100	190	175	175



## Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	June 1922.	May 1923.	June 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	60 0 0	47 0 0	47 0 0
Wheat, white	5% barley 3% dirt.		31 8 0	47 12 0	38 12 0	37 8 0
" red	30% red. 5% barley 3% dirt.		31 4 0	47 4 0	38 0 0	36 12 0
" white	92% red. 2% barley		32 8 0	49 4 0	39 14 0	38 10 0
" red	1 1/2% dirt. 2% barley		32 4 0	48 12 0	39 2 0	37 14 0
Jowari	1 1/2% dirt.		25 8 0	32 8 0	26 0 0	26 0 0
Barley	Export Quality 3% dirt		26 8 0	37 0 0	25 12 0	27 0 0
Pulses—						
Gram	1% dirt		29 8 0	43 0 0	27 8 0	28 0 0
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	21 12 0	27 9 0	24 4 0
Do.	" brown		8 1 6	20 0 0	....	....
Other food—						
Salt		Bengal Maund.	2 2 0	1 10 6	2 15 0	2 14 3

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—						
Rice	Larkana No. 3		100	154	121	121
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt 30% red.		100	152	123	119
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt 92% red.		100	151	122	118
" white	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt		100	152	123	119
" red	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt		100	151	121	117
Jowari	Export Quality		100	127	102	102
Barley	3% dirt		100	140	97	102
Averages—Cereals			100	147	116	114
Pulses—						
Gram	1% dirt		100	146	93	95
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java white		100	238	296	266
"	" brown		100	247	....	....
Average—Sugar			100	243	296	266
Other food—Salt			100	78	138	136



## Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	June 1922.	May 1923.	June 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3% admixture	Maund	2 11 3	4 4 0	4 3 0	4 4 0
Rapeseed	Black, 9% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	69 0 0	55 8 0	56 0 0
Gingelly			62 0 0	100 0 0	84 0 0	84 0 0
Textiles—						
Jute bags—	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	49 0 0	53 4 0	54 0 0
Textile—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	42 4 0	45 4 0	51 8 0
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Piece	10 3 6	21 12 0	24 4 0	24 0 0
Shirting	Liepmann's		10 2 0	25 8 0	25 0 0	24 8 0
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)	Lb.	0 12 2	....	....	....
Other Textiles—						
Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	24 0 0	37 0 0	37 0 0

Expressed as percentage of July 1914

Price in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3% admixture		100	157	155	157
Rapeseed	Black, 9% admixture		100	135	109	110
Gingelly			100	161	136	136
Average—Oilseeds			100	151	133	134
Textiles—						
Jute bags	Twills		100	128	139	141
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind		100	209	224	254
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill		100	213	237	235
Shirtings	Liepmann's		100	252	247	242
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)		100	....	....	....
Average—Cotton manufactures			100	233	242	239
Average—Textiles—Cotton			100	225	236	244
Other Textiles—Wool			100	86	132	132



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	June 1922.	May 1923.	June 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides— Hides dry .. ..	Sind	Maund ..	21 4 0	11 0 0	11 0 0	12 0 0
	Punjab	.. ..	21 4 0	11 0 0	11 0 0	12 0 0
Metals— Copper Braziers .. ..	.. ..	Cwt. ..	60 8 0	82 0 0	78 0 0	76 0 0
	Steel Bars .. ..	.. ..	3 14 0	8 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0
	.. Plates .. ..	.. ..	4 6 0	9 8 0	7 12 0	7 4 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
	.. ..	Elephant ..	2 Tins ..	4 7 0	7 8 6	7 6 0
	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	June 1922.	May 1923.	June 1923.
Hides— Hides dry .. ..	Sind	.. ..	100	52	52	56
	Punjab	.. ..	100	52	52	56
Average—Hides .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100	52	52	56
Metals— Copper Braziers .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100	136	129	126
	Steel Bars .. ..	.. ..	100	206	181	181
	.. Plates .. ..	.. ..	100	217	177	166
Average—Metals .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100	186	162	158
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal .. ..	1st Class Bengal	.. ..	100	219	219	219
	Kerosene .. ..	Chester Brand	.. ..	100	195	193
	.. ..	Elephant ..	.. ..	100	170	166
	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100	195	193	193
Total—Food .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100	158	134	130
Total—Non-food .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100	162	159	161
General Average .. ..	.. ..	.. ..	100	160	149	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.
<b>1920</b>														
June ..	161	152	420	170	213	173	159	310	178	172	294	198	227	222
<b>1921</b>														
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
<b>1922</b>														
January ..	182	175	210	190	188	132	166	258	139	167	199	196	190	190
February ..	179	168	203	211	189	136	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	182	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
<b>1923</b>														
January ..	125	102	202	305	173	130	200	227	139	165	194	148	179	177
February ..	125	95	210	268	167	132	210	225	139	132	195	146	175	172
March ..	127	93	242	296	179	139	213	227	139	134	187	145	176	177
April ..	128	92	242	269	174	134	204	217	139	167	185	144	176	175
May ..	124	88	248	284	176	131	205	217	139	161	185	145	175	175
June ..	128	91	234	302	179	134	211	212	139	144	186	142	173	175

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, May and June 1923  
The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

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



Retail prices of Articles of food in May and June 1923

Articles.	Price per	May 1923.					June 1923.				
		Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
		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.
<b>Cereals—</b>											
Rice ..	Maund ..	7 2 10	6 11 9	8 0 0	7 1 9	8 14 3	7 1 0	6 10 8	8 0 0	7 6 10	9 15 6
Wheat ..	.. ..	7 0 9	5 3 11	6 10 8	6 14 1	6 5 5	7 0 9	5 0 8	6 8 6	6 10 0	6 5 5
Jowari ..	.. ..	4 12 6	3 11 2	3 10 10	3 10 11	4 1 4	4 10 8	3 10 2	3 12 11	3 12 2	4 1 4
Bajri ..	.. ..	4 14 9	3 15 0	5 11 5	4 8 1	5 1 3	5 1 11	3 12 11	5 9 10	4 10 0	5 1 3
<b>Pulses—</b>											
Gram ..	.. ..	6 2 8	4 1 3	5 9 10	4 5 0	4 5 8	4 14 9	4 1 3	5 11 5	4 5 0	4 1 4
Turdal ..	.. ..	6 13 7	5 11 5	6 10 8	6 2 8	7 11 1	6 15 7	5 11 0	5 13 1	6 6 0	7 1 9
<b>Other articles of food—</b>											
Sugar (refined) ..	.. ..	22 6 0	20 14 8	22 13 9	24 9 10	23 3 0	22 6 0	19 12 0	22 13 9	25 9 7	23 3 0
Jagri (gul) ..	.. ..	14 4 7	12 10 9	13 5 4	11 13 8	10 8 5	14 4 7	12 4 11	13 5 4	10 0 0	10 8 5
Tea ..	Lb. ..	0 13 3	0 10 5	0 15 7	0 12 5	0 12 0	0 13 10	0 10 5	0 15 7	0 12 5	0 13 3
Salt ..	Maund ..	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 2 8	4 3 4	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 2 8	4 3 4
Beef ..	Seer ..	0 9 1	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 7 8	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton ..	.. ..	0 15 5	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 14 10	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 8 0	0 11 0
Milk ..	Maund ..	17 9 4	8 3 3	10 0 0	13 5 4	14 8 9	17 9 4	7 9 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	14 8 9
Ghee ..	.. ..	86 7 9	72 11 8	88 14 3	68 1 4	84 3 4	86 7 9	74 6 8	91 6 10	64 0 0	84 3 4
Potatoes ..	.. ..	7 2 3	4 7 7	5 0 0	14 3 7	4 10 10	7 7 11	6 8 6	6 2 6	10 0 0	5 15 4
Onions ..	.. ..	5 4 1	3 4 9	3 10 2	6 10 8	2 11 10	5 2 2	2 6 6	4 0 0	3 5 4	3 7 7
Cocconut oil ..	.. ..	28 9 1	28 1 1	32 0 0	27 5 7	28 1 1	32 10 5	26 10 8	32 0 0	26 10 8	30 12 4

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

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

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
<b>Cereals—</b>										
Rice ..	128	101	130	134	154	126	100	130	141	173
Wheat ..	126	125	142	133	118	126	120	139	128	118
Jowari ..	110	102	97	128	119	107	100	100	131	119
Bajri ..	114	94	121	128	124	119	90	119	132	124
Average—cereals ..	120	106	123	131	129	120	103	122	133	134
<b>Pulses—</b>										
Gram ..	143	107	140	100	89	114	107	143	100	84
Turdal ..	117	86	108	106	116	119	85	95	109	108
Average—pulses ..	130	97	124	103	103	117	96	119	105	96
<b>Other articles of food—</b>										
Sugar (refined) ..	294	288	254	246	247	294	272	254	256	248
Jagri (gul) ..	167	182	150	153	150	167	177	150	129	150
Tea ..	170	150	200	120	146	178	150	200	120	162
Salt ..	199	234	221	187	224	199	234	221	187	224
Beef ..	176	180	100	180	141	199	234	221	187	224
Mutton ..	231	167	200	183	145	222	167	200	133	183
Milk ..	191	185	200	167	183	191	172	200	183	145
Ghee ..	170	170	200	121	163	170	174	206	114	163
Potatoes ..	159	83	131	356	139	167	120	162	250	177
Onions ..	339	181	182	267	137	331	132	200	133	173
Cocconut oil ..	115	114	160	103	100	129	108	160	100	110
Average—other articles of food ..	201	176	182	195	161	200	171	187	168	171
Average—all food articles (unweighted) ..	173	150	161	169	147	171	146	163	152	153



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)
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
No. of articles.	43	56	92	140	24	188	45	44	150	60	45	..
1913 Average ..	*	100	100	100	..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	100	95	106	104	100	97	100	99	..	..	102	95
1915 ..	..	97	147	123	102	107	127	123	..	..	140	133
1916 ..	..	117	138	134	124	123	160	160	..	..	188	201
1917 ..	..	148	153	151	169	141	206	204	..	..	262	299
1918 ..	..	237	196	178	175	207	226	225	..	..	339	409
1919 ..	..	222	239	189	178	226	165	242	..	..	356	366
1920 ..	..	215	260	228	212	299	223	295	283	307	510	624
1921 December ..	190	210	155	189	170	..	157	162	168	162	326	595
1922 February ..	186	204	154	181	169	..	156	158	162	156	307	563
.. March ..	192	201	153	180	153	..	157	160	160	156	307	533
.. April ..	188	198	155	180	148	128	159	159	160	158	314	527
.. May ..	189	195	162	177	141	..	159	162	160	158	317	524
.. June ..	190	198	163	175	139	..	160	163	160	159	326	537
.. July ..	188	202	164	177	138	127	158	163	160	159	325	558
.. August ..	186	196	163	177	139	..	153	158	156	156	331	571
.. September ..	181	193	165	175	138	..	151	156	154	156	329	582
.. October ..	174	190	167	174	140	129	153	158	155	159	337	601
.. November ..	176	188	170	175	144	..	154	159	157	161	353	596
.. December ..	173	183	168	172	147	..	152	158	155	159	362	580
1923 January ..	177	185	171	171	141	130	153	161	157	160	387	575
.. February ..	172	193	169	173	137	..	155	163	158	162	422	582
.. March ..	177	197	171	..	136	..	156	163	160	164	424	587
.. April ..	175	..	..	..	..	..	158	165	161	165	426	588
.. May ..	175	..	..	..	..	..	156	..	159	163	417	..
.. June ..	175	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

EUROPE—continued.

NORTH AMERICA.

Country.	Switzer-land.	Belgium.	Germany. (d)	Nether-lands (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Canada.	United States of America.		
									(5)	(6)	(7)
No. of articles.	71	209	77	..	93	47	33	272	96	325	88
1913 Average ..	..	..	100	100	(e)	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	..	100	105	105	100	116	..	100	..	98	..
1915 ..	..	..	142	145	(f) 159	145	138	109	..	101	..
1916 ..	..	..	153	222	(f) 233	185	164	134	..	127	..
1917 ..	..	..	179	286	341	244	228	175	..	177	..
1918 ..	..	..	217	392	345	339	293	205	..	194	..
1919 ..	..	..	415	297	322	330	294	216	..	206	211
1920 ..	..	..	1,486	281	377	347	..	246	216	226	239
1921 December ..	176	369	3,487	165	269	172	188	170	123	140	142
1922 February ..	171	356	4,103	162	253	166	177	169	124	141	146
.. March ..	163	350	5,433	161	240	164	182	166	126	142	147
.. April ..	161	344	6,355	162	236	165	178	166	125	143	149
.. May ..	160	348	6,458	165	231	164	177	167	127	148	158
.. June ..	161	356	7,030	167	230	164	179	165	129	150	162
.. July ..	163	360	10,059	162	232	165	180	166	131	155	165
.. August ..	163	360	17,985	155	227	163	180	164	131	155	165
.. September ..	163	364	27,419	153	225	158	178	163	131	153	164
.. October ..	169	385	56,630	156	221	155	176	162	136	156	164
.. November ..	170	408	115,100	158	221	154	180	164	145	156	164
.. December ..	175	407	147,480	158	220	155	182	165	150	156	164
1923 January ..	178	434	278,500	159	220	156	181	165	149	156	166
.. February ..	181	474	558,470	158	224	158	192	166	149	157	165
.. March ..	186	482	488,800								



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. & America.
Items included in the index.	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, light, rent, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, light, rent and miscellaneous.	Food, clothing, fuel, light, 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	(e) 100	100	(b) 100	(d) 100	(e) 100	(f) 100	100	100	100	(h) 100
1915 "	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
1916 "	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108
1917 "	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
1918 "	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
1919 "	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
1920 "	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
1921 "	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
1922 February	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
March	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
April	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
May	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
June	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
July	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138
August	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
September	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142
October	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
November	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148
December	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
1923 January	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
February	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
March	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158
April	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160
May	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162
June	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165

(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial. (d) April 1914. (e) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (f) June 1914. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base.

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

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India (Bombay).	United Kingdom.	Canada.	South Africa.	Australia.	New Zealand.	United States of America.	France (Paris) (b).	Italy (Rome) (c).	Belgium.	Finland.	Germany.	Holland (a).	Norway.	Sweden (b).	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 "	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
1916 "	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108	108
1917 "	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110	110
1918 "	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112	112
1919 "	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115	115
1920 "	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118	118
1921 "	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120	120
1922 February	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125	125
March	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128	128
April	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130	130
May	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132	132
June	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135	135
July	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138	138
August	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140	140
September	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142	142
October	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145	145
November	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148	148
December	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150
1923 January	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
February	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155	155
March	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158	158
April	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160	160
May	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162	162
June	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165	165

(a) Average for the year 1914. (b) Includes fuel and lighting. (c) Unofficial. (d) January to June 1914. (e) 15th April 1914. (f) 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 June 1923

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trade.</i>						
1. General strike in cotton mills in Ahmedabad.	43,113	....	1 April	4 June	1. Against a 20 per cent. wage cut decided upon by the Millowners' Association, with effect from 1st April 1923.	Compromise effected the terms being— (i) a 15 per cent. reduction in wages instead of 20 per cent. and (ii) Reference to arbitration of the question of the last Bonus award.
2. The Bradbury Mills, Ripon Road, Bombay.	2,151	....	1 June	6 June	Against keeping back absentees' pay 14 days beyond the usual payday, in place of the usual eight days, and other minor grievances.	Demands partially granted, and work resumed.
3. The Spring Mill, Naigaon Road, Bombay.	1,300	1,390	1 June	18 June	Against the introduction from 1st May 1923, of an attendance ticket system, for weavers, which was already in force in other departments of the mill.	Work resumed unconditionally.
4. The Standard Mill, Parbhadevi Road, Parel, Bombay.	590	....	27 June	29 June	Demand for an increase of two pies per pound of cloth produced.	Work resumed unconditionally.
5. The Spring Mill, Naigaon Road, Bombay.	200	....	28 June	29 June	Demand for payment of wages for the days they were compelled to be idle owing to a strike in the weaving department.	Work resumed unconditionally.
6. The Rajnagar Spinning and Manufacturing Company, Ltd., Ahmedabad.	20	....	23 June	25 June	Against the dismissal of a Mukadam.	Work resumed unconditionally.
7. The Madhavrao Scindia Mills, DeLisle Road, Bombay.	347	....	29 June	....	Against the dismissal of a weaver.	....
* Strike in six Firms, Karachi.	160	....	25 May	25 May	Demand for an increase of 4 annas per day over Re. 1-12-0 per day, the rate paid by firms to sack sewers.	Increase granted and work resumed.
(1) Messrs. Ralli Brothers						
(2) " Sanday Patrick.						
(3) " E. D. Sassoon.						
(4) " Louis Dreyfus.						
(5) " Strauss & Co.						
(6) " Clement Robson & Co.						

\* Subsequently reported.

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

Count or Number.	Month of May.			Two months ended May.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds ..	6,051	6,429	6,012	11,627	12,533	11,736
Nos. 11 to 20 ..	19,173	20,814	17,141	38,701	39,243	33,763
Nos. 21 to 30 ..	13,581	14,167	9,818	25,896	27,315	18,361
Nos. 31 to 40 ..	1,282	1,251	624	2,510	2,545	1,245
Above 40 ..	152	185	161	278	343	273
Waste, etc. ..	8	10	14	18	20	28
Total ..	40,247	42,856	33,770	79,030	81,999	65,406

## Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of May.			Two months ended May.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds ..	5,542	5,931	5,604	10,675	11,527	11,013
Nos. 11 to 20 ..	13,813	14,518	13,971	28,209	27,482	27,515
Nos. 21 to 30 ..	8,522	8,857	7,897	16,460	16,465	14,735
Nos. 31 to 40 ..	576	518	460	1,097	1,048	892
Above 40 ..	89	113	95	171	198	159
Waste, etc. ..	2	2	4	6	3	8
Total ..	28,544	29,939	28,031	56,618	56,723	54,322

## Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of May.			Two months ended May.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds ..	127	123	5	268	206	9
Nos. 11 to 20 ..	2,348	3,037	514	4,804	5,626	951
Nos. 21 to 30 ..	3,718	4,102	414	7,133	8,214	839
Nos. 31 to 40 ..	600	582	71	1,195	1,222	151
Above 40 ..	39	53	23	59	107	41
Waste, etc. ..	..	..	..	1	..	..
Total ..	6,832	7,897	1,027	13,460	15,375	1,991

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

## Bombay Presidency

Description.	Month of May.			Two months ended May.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
<b>Grey and bleached piece-goods—</b>						
Chudders Pounds ..	1,246	1,118	774	2,469	1,985	1,476
Dhotis ..	6,797	7,279	3,704	14,833	14,444	7,769
Drills and jeans ..	905	726	885	1,765	1,450	1,628
Cambrics and lawns ..	95	84	21	173	204	54
Printers ..	329	508	233	697	981	549
Shirtings and long cloth ..	8,225	9,349	5,995	19,457	17,362	12,628
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	1,532	1,029	1,065	3,044	2,034	2,111
Tent cloth ..	113	83	75	186	180	137
Other sorts ..	893	1,223	1,501	1,873	2,605	3,045
Total ..	20,135	21,404	14,253	44,517	41,245	29,397
<b>Coloured piece-goods</b> ..	6,884	5,895	6,235	13,713	11,257	12,473
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	185	117	144	351	240	263
Hosiery ..	16	10	10	29	24	25
Miscellaneous ..	104	106	49	165	174	103
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	7	9	33	10	18	46
Grand Total ..	27,331	27,541	20,724	58,785	52,958	42,307

## Bombay Island

Description.	Month of May.			Two months ended May.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
<b>Grey and bleached piece-goods—</b>						
Chudders Pounds ..	824	601	622	1,439	1,100	1,047
Dhotis ..	2,020	2,251	1,690	4,213	4,271	3,089
Drills and jeans ..	873	691	835	1,603	1,350	1,531
Cambrics and lawns ..	71	45	14	137	111	36
Printers ..	7	35	2	10	61	30
Shirtings and long cloth ..	5,924	6,754	5,096	13,799	12,873	9,989
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	1,311	821	977	2,434	1,710	1,871
Tent cloth ..	103	74	61	152	163	114
Other sorts ..	444	887	1,139	973	1,901	2,272
Total ..	11,577	12,159	10,436	24,760	23,540	19,979

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

Description.	Month of May.			Two months ended May.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	5,940	4,652	5,210	11,371	8,975	10,283
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	179	108	137	338	230	251
Hosiery ..	7	5	6	14	16	13
Miscellaneous ..	104	105	49	165	173	101
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	7	9	31	10	17	44
Grand Total ..	17,814	17,038	15,869	36,658	32,951	30,671

## Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of May.			Two months ended May.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders Pounds ..	336	455	120	875	772	366
Dhotis ..	3,636	3,975	1,019	8,433	8,083	2,703
Drills and jeans ..	22	10	28	126	65	43
Cambrics and lawns ..	20	29	4	26	70	10
Printers ..	257	321	100	560	638	245
Shirtings and long cloth ..	1,696	2,014	431	4,283	3,406	1,640
T. cloth, domestic, and sheetings ..	194	182	77	571	279	217
Tent cloth ..	....	1	7	....	1	11
Other sorts ..	250	140	115	502	325	337
Total ..	6,411	7,127	1,901	15,376	13,639	5,572
Coloured piece-goods ..	351	532	430	997	962	981
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods ..	1	1	1	3	1	1
Hosiery ..	8	5	3	13	8	10
Miscellaneous ..	....	1	1	....	1	4
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	....	....	....	....	....	....
Grand Total ..	6,771	7,666	2,336	16,389	14,611	6,568

## 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.**—The following table shows the average weekly earnings with index numbers in the textile industry in Great Britain in 1914, 1920, 1921, 1922 and 1923. It will be observed that at the end of 1922 and the beginning of 1923 wages tended to become more stable.

Date.	Cotton.		Woollen.		Worsted.	
	s. d.	Index No.	s. d.	Index No.	s. d.	Index No.
1914 ..	19 6	100	18 9	100	16 1	100
1920 ..						
June ..	60 6	310	53 2	283	48 7	288
December ..	42 9	219	46 1	246	46 4	288
1921 ..						
March ..	38 0	195	40 0	213	37 0	230
June ..	41 5	212	43 11	186	34 1	212
September ..	42 0	215	39 10	213	40 7	252
December ..	41 1	211	41 0	219	42 10	266
1922 ..						
January ..	41 1	211	38 11	207	43 8	271
February ..	39 5	202	41 4	220	42 1	262
March ..	40 6	208	41 10	223	42 5	264
April ..	41 6	213	42 4	226	43 6	270
May ..	38 1	195	42 3	225	41 11	261
June ..	38 7	198	41 7	222	40 2	250
July ..	38 10	199	42 5	226	40 2	250
August ..	37 10	194	42 7	227	39 2	244
September ..	37 4	192	43 2	230	40 9	252
October ..	36 7	188	43 0	229	40 1	249
November ..	34 2	176	42 9	228	40 7	252
December ..	34 4	176	42 9	228	40 0	249
1923 ..						
January ..	33 11	174	41 7	222	39 4	245
February ..	35 1	179	41 7	222	39 3	244

20s. = Rs. 15.

**South Africa.**—According to the Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics for May 1923 the statistics of migration in the Union during the period January to March 1923 were as follows:—

Nationality.	March 1923.			January to March 1923.		
	New Arrivals.	Perma- nent Departures.	All Ar- rivals.	New Arrivals.	Perma- nent Departures.	All depar- tures.
Non-European—						
British ..	32	(a) 635	159	119	(b) 1,339	1,043
Others ..	3	5	4	13	14	37
Total ..	35	640	163	132	1,353	1,080

(a) Including 630 Asiatics—406 males and 224 females.

(b) Including 1,312 Asiatics—863 males and 449 females.

**Japan.**—On page 61 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1923 a reference was made to the bills on labour questions which were to be submitted by Government to the legislature; of these, those relating to (1) the amendment of Factory Act, (2) the minimum age for employment in industry, and (3) the minimum age and health certificate of seamen, have now passed both Houses and were promulgated as Acts in the Official Gazette of 29th March 1923. The amendment of the Factory Act was referred to in detail on page 31 of the *Labour Gazette* for June 1923. The Act concerning the minimum age of industrial workers gives effect to all the provisions of the Washington Draft Convention on this subject, and the Act concerning the minimum age and certification of health of seamen embodies the provisions of the Genoa Draft Convention fixing the minimum age for admission of children to employment at sea and the Geneva Draft Convention concerning the compulsory medical examination of children and young persons employed at sea.

**Russia.**—The cotton industry of Russia is now having recourse to curtailed production. In the pre-war days there were nine million spindles at work, but now only 5,070,000 are working to 23 per cent. of their capacity. In spite of decreased production, the factories have on hand huge stocks of unsold goods. In order to pay their workmen the factories are forced to sell their accumulated stocks far below cost price. Consequently, the Government industrial trusts which are managing the factories are losing money all the time. To meet these losses Government is advancing capital in the shape of paper money to the trusts which apply for more working capital.