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**THE MONTH IN BRIEF****Employment***The Cotton Industry—Bombay*

During the month ended 15th September 1923, the supply of labour in the Presidency was generally plentiful. In Bombay City and Island, only 7 mills out of a total of 39 reporting mills, reported a slight deficiency in the supply of labour. The average absenteeism in 39 representative mills in Bombay, for which reports have been received, showed a further slight improvement over the figures of the previous month. The average absenteeism was 12.53 per cent. during the month ended 15th September as compared with 12.71 per cent. in the previous month, and 13.93 per cent., two months ago. Four mills out of the total reporting mills, reported an increase of absenteeism, and this was stated to be due, in certain cases, to ill-health and in others to the stoppage of machinery due to the trade depression. Absenteeism was reported to be highest in spinning departments, and lowest in weaving departments, during the month under review. After the monthly pay day, which was on the 15th instant in most mills, absenteeism rose from 9.62 per cent. to 15.01 per cent., on the 16th instant. This increase is approximately the same as that of the preceding month when absenteeism rose from 11.16 per cent. to 16.47 per cent., for the same period.

Owing to the continued trade depression in the cotton mill industry, numerous mills in Bombay have dispensed with surplus staffs while in other mills, looms and spindles have been stopped. This has caused a surplus of labour in this industry.

Ahmedabad

In Ahmedabad, the supply of labour was again reported to be plentiful during the

month under review. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been received from 20 representative mills in this centre. These reports show an average absenteeism of 4.64 per cent. during the month as compared with 2.95 per cent. last month. The highest absenteeism was stated to be in spinning departments. It is hoped to publish more detailed information on the state of employment in Ahmedabad in subsequent issues of the *Labour Gazette* as the Investigator, recently sanctioned for this centre, has now entered upon his duties. It will also be possible to increase the number of mills furnishing absenteeism reports.

Sholapur

In Sholapur, the supply of labour was adequate but absenteeism increased in the month under review. The average absenteeism showed a marked increase to 13.64 per cent. in the present month as compared with 9.65 per cent. last month and 12.44 two months ago. This increase was stated to be due to the holidays during the month. Absenteeism was highest in spinning departments. Absenteeism rose from 11.41 per cent. before the pay day to 15.27 after the pay day which was on the 15th August in most mills.

Broach

In Broach the supply of labour was insufficient in two of the reporting mills; in the remainder it was adequate. Two protracted strikes were also responsible for some dislocation during the month under review. Absenteeism, however, showed an improvement as compared with the preceding month, the figures being 19.57 per cent. in the present month as compared with 23.89 last month and 8.69 per cent. two months ago. The figures for the last two months show the effects of the strikes referred to above.



Surat

In Surat, the supply of labour was normal for this time of the year. Absenteeism showed a slight increase, the average absenteeism being 12.75 in the present month as compared with 10.80 in the preceding month.

The Engineering Industry—Bombay

In the engineering industry in Bombay the supply of labour was quite equal to the demand. The average absenteeism in representative engineering workshops (based on the returns from three large workshops) showed a further decrease, the figures being 12.25 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 13.38 per cent. last month and 14.52 two months ago. On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism increased to 8.0 per cent. as compared with 4.50 per cent. in the two previous months. 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 Development Directorate absenteeism showed a decrease to 5 per cent., as compared with 8 per cent. last month and 5 per cent., two months ago. The supply of unskilled labour, employed for loading, removing, storing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust, was more than equal to the demand. The percentage of absenteeism was 6.8 in the month under review, as compared with 15.8 last month and 20.20, two months ago. The decrease in absenteeism in the present month was due to absence of sickness among the labour employed. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust, the supply of labour was plentiful, and an increase in absenteeism was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism was 9.80, as compared with 7.82 last month, and 9.50, two months ago.

Karachi

In Karachi, the supply of all types of labour was plentiful. The average absenteeism, based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshop of the Karachi Port Trust, was approximately the same as last month, viz., 6 per cent.

The Cost of Living

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

The articles have been given the relative importance which each bears to the aggregate expenditure. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living, because an index number purporting to combine movements in prices with movements in consumption would present great difficulties in construction, interpretation and application. Moreover, such an index would not be materially different from a simple index of the general movement of prices in the case of the working classes. A further reference to the cost of living index will be found on page 9 and a description of the scope and method of construction of the cost of living index will also be found on page 12 of this issue.

The Wholesale Index Number

In August 1923, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay fell by more than one per cent. as compared with the previous month. With the exception of a few items, there was a general fall in all the principal groups, during the month. The general level is now 71 per cent. above the pre-war level. The movement by groups will be found on page 15 in the article on wholesale prices in August. 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.				
	April 1923.	May 1923.	June 1923.	July 1923.	August 1923.
Foods ..	74	76	79	78	76
Non-foods ..	76	75	73	70	68
All article ..	75	75	75	73	71



Industrial Disputes

The number of industrial disputes increased from 9 in July to 15 during August. The number of disputes involving stoppage of work as beginning in August was 11. During August 6,160 work-people were involved as compared with 3,097 in the previous month and 65,397 in August 1922. The aggregate duration of all disputes during August 1923 was about 25,244 working days, as compared with 35,363 in July 1923, and 87,927 in August 1922.

Cotton Mill Production

Cotton mill production in July 1923, as compared with the corresponding months of the two previous years, is shown in the table below. The salient features are that, during July 1923, production of yarn in Bombay and woven goods in Ahmedabad decreased as compared with the previous two years. In other centres of the Presidency the production of both yarn and woven goods records no change as compared with the preceding two years.

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun.			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced.		
	July.			July.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	31	28	26	17	17	18
Ahmedabad ..	8	8	8	5	7	6
Other centres ..	5	5	5	2	2	2
Total Presidency ..	44	41	39	24	26	26

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

	Net rate per lb. in annas.		
	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.
	Longcloth ..	27	20	19½
T. Cloths ..	23½	19	18½
Chudders ..	24½	19	18½

The Outlook

As mentioned in the paragraph on employment in this issue, the continued trade depression in the cotton mill industry of this Presidency has been causing anxiety. The stocks of cloth at the end of August were considerably in excess of the stocks at the end of the preceding month. Stocks of yarn, on the other hand, were less at the end of August. It is estimated that stocks of both cloth and yarn are likely to decrease at the end of the present month. This is a hopeful sign. Reports at the end of September showed that during the latter part of the month there has been a better enquiry for yarn and cloth in Bombay mills. In addition there has been an unusual spurt in export business, especially in cotton and seeds to the continent. The recent revival of the monsoon will have a good effect on crops, especially wheat crops, and, all things considered, there are indications of improvement in trade conditions in India. The reverse is the case, however, so far as Europe is concerned.

The position in Great Britain is that British trade has improved since 1921, but it is even now probably at a level of 20 per cent. below the volume of trade in the pre-war year 1913. The President of the Board of Trade in a recent speech in the House of Commons said that orders were not coming in to manufacturers as freely as had been expected and that the prospects were now worse than in December and January last. In the cotton industry output continues to be restricted and unemployment is increasing. The chief trouble for Lancashire is in the failure of the total volume of textile exports to equal, much less to surpass, the volume exported in 1913. The reason for this is the low purchasing power of European and Far Eastern populations.

In Germany, the demoralizing effects of the occupation of her most important industrial area are seen in the increase in unemployment and the collapse of the mark. Recent food riots have taken place in Dresden and Leipzig and unemployment demonstrations in Breslau and Thuringia. The rise in the cost of living runs ahead of the wage increases, and, as the workers find it increasingly difficult to adjust themselves to the situation, there is much industrial unrest.



Other countries in Europe, such as Norway, Sweden, Italy and Switzerland, are experiencing improvements in trade, and in these countries recent exports have exceeded the exports for the corresponding period of last year. In Spain, however, strikes and labour unrest have adversely affected the industrial situation.

In the United States, according to cable information received by the American Trade Commissioner at Calcutta, imports into the United States from India during the month of July amounted to \$9,716,000 while the exports from the United States to India during the same period totalled \$2,753,000. Despite the serious anthracite strike, the outlook is very promising. The financial situation is excellent. Consumers' stocks are low, wages are high and the demand for goods is good. Prices of steel, textiles, cotton and coal are advancing but the value of building materials are declining. According to the Department of Commerce, steel production is diminishing, being now from 15 to 20 per cent, below the peak reached in the spring of this year. Considering the season this is not surprising. New buying, however, remains conservative, and many buyers expect lower prices during the autumn. Production is, however, well above the average rate of 1922.

The Balance of Trade

During August 1923, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to 83 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1922 was a favourable balance of 296 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below :-

		In lakhs of rupees					
		March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	Rs.	15,81	10,24	10,00	17,80	16,12	17,42
Imports do.	Rs.	18,54	17,78	19,28	17,08	16,38	16,56
Balance of Trade in merchandise	Rs.	-2,73	-7,54	-9,28	+7,72	+1,74	+8,86
Balance of transactions in treasure	Rs.	-1,00	-1,00	-4,51	-1,82	-3,80	-3,20
Visible balance of trade including securities	Rs.	-3,73	-8,54	-13,79	+5,90	-2,06	+5,66

Bombay

In lakhs of rupees

	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	12,92	12,23	10,69	8,79	7,61	4,18
Imports do.	6,91	8,68	7,40	7,02	6,23	6,40
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+6,01	+3,55	+3,29	+1,77	+1,38	-2,22
Imports of treasure	7,09	7,70	4,20	3,59	3,52	3,09
Exports of treasure	23	9	13	13	13	12
Balance of transactions in treasure	-0,86	-7,61	-4,07	-3,44	-3,39	-2,97

Karachi

In lakhs of rupees

	March 1923	April 1923	May 1923	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923
Exports (private merchandise)	2,96	2,49	3,47	5,26	3,49	1,49
Imports do.	1,82	2,09	1,16	1,92	1,72	2,36
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+1,14	+42	+2,31	+3,34	+1,77	-97
Imports of treasure	7	6	6	1	7	2
Exports of treasure	"	"	"	2	"	"
Balance of transactions in treasure	-7	-6	-6	+1	-7	-2

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 :-

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

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 26th September exchange on London was 1s. 4 5/16d.

There was an increase of 9 crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in August as compared with the preceding month. In Karachi



and Rangoon the Bank clearings increased by 1 and 2 crores respectively, while the clearings in Calcutta decreased by 9 crores. The figures for the last three months are as follows :-

In crores of rupees *

	June 1923	July 1923	August 1923	Total January to August 1923
Bombay	55	46	55	338
Karachi	3	3	4	25
Calcutta	68	63	54	574
Rangoon	9	8	10	76
Total (four ports)	135	120	123	1,013

* 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India is 67 as against 65 in July 1923 and 64 in June 1923.

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

September 1922	Rs.	1,517	March 1923	Rs.	1,125
October "	"	1,433	April "	"	1,193
November "	"	1,266	May "	"	1,215
December "	"	1,222	June "	"	1,082
January 1923	"	1,255	July "	"	1,123
February "	"	1,216	August "	"	1,097

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

JAPAN AND THE GENEVA CONVENTIONS

GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE

The International Labour Office is informed that the attitude of the Government of Japan in regard to the first six Recommendations of the Third Session of the International Labour Conference is as follows :-

1. Recommendation concerning the prevention of unemployment in agriculture.—The majority of the measures stipulated in this Recommendation are already applied in Japan. The Government will endeavour to complete

them so far as financial and other circumstances permit.

2. Recommendation concerning the protection, before and after childbirth, of women wage-earners in agriculture.—In Japan, the majority of female agricultural workers are themselves small farmers or members of a farming family; they take a full rest during two or three weeks after childbirth, and during subsequent weeks are only employed on light work which is not injurious to their health. Moreover, employers accord the same treatment to their employees as to members of their own families. The Japanese Government does not therefore recognise the necessity at present of taking the steps which are stipulated by the Recommendation. It is further considered that the special benefits and attendance provided for in the Recommendation could not very well be accorded in practice and that, consequently, it is not possible to conform to the terms of the Recommendation.

3 and 4. Recommendations concerning night work of women in agriculture and concerning night work of children and young persons in agriculture.—There is no objection in principle to these two Recommendations. However, the conditions in certain branches of agriculture in Japan make it extremely difficult to enforce the prohibition of night work without any exception. The Government considers, therefore, that it is sufficient to conform to the principles of these Recommendations so far as this may be found possible, after having undertaken a thorough study of the limits within which such principles can be applied.

5. Recommendation concerning the development of technical agricultural education.—The principle of this Recommendation is already fully applied and it is, therefore, unnecessary to take any further steps.

6. Recommendation concerning living-in conditions of agricultural workers.—Owing to the considerable differences which exist between the housing conditions of Japanese workers and those of European and American workers, it would be difficult to adopt the provisions set forth in this Recommendation.

Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India (Bombay).	United Kingdom.	Canada.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Italy (Rome) (c).	Belgium.	Norway.	Switzerland.	South Africa.	France (Paris).	Germany.	U. S. of America.
Items included in the index.	Food, fuel, light, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, light, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, light, household utensils and furnishing.	Food and Rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, heat, rent and miscellaneous.	Food, clothing, light, fuel, and household utensils.	Food, clothing, fuel, light, rent, tax, etc.	Food, heating and lighting.	Food, fuel, light, and rent.	(g)	Food, heating and lighting, clothing and rent.	Food, clothing heating and lighting, rent and miscellaneous items.
1914 July	100	100	100	(a) 100	100	(b) 100	(d) 100	100	(f) 100	100	100	100	(h) 100
1915	125	125	97	119	107	99	..	(e) 117	119	103	..	..	105
1916	148	148	102	115	113	116	..	146	140	106	..	..	148
1917	180	180	130	116	119	146	..	190	180	114	..	..	142
1918	203	203	146	118	128	197	..	253	229	118	..	..	174
1919	208	208	155	132	133	205	..	275	261	126	238	..	177
1920	189	252	180	..	149	313	453	..	253	155	..	842	217
1921	177	219	152	..	157	387	379	..	209	133	..	11,124	..
1922 February	165	188	149	..	150	426	380	..	177	120	..	2,410	..
March	165	186	148	137	148	415	371	257	167	120	291	2,879	167
April	162	182	146	..	146	420	367	..	167	122	..	3,436	..
May	163	181	145	..	146	427	365	..	157	122	..	3,803	..
June	163	180	145	140	145	425	366	249	158	121	302	4,147	167
July	165	184	146	..	144	429	366	..	156	120	..	5,392	..
August	164	181	147	..	144	431	366	..	157	120	289	7,705	..
September	165	179	148	143	144	437	376	249	157	120	..	13,319	166
October	162	178	147	..	143	444	376	..	160	121	..	22,066	..
November	160	180	147	..	143	439	334	..	160	122	..	44,610	..
December	161	180	148	142	143	433	334	238	161	121	300	68,506	170
1923 January	156	178	150	..	142	412	383	..	160	120	..	112,027	..
February	155	177	150	..	143	413	397	..	158	120	..	264,300	..
March	154	176	152	136	143	441	458	240	161	119	324	285,400	169
April	155	174	149	..	143	441	409	..	160	120	..	293,400	..
May	153	170	147	..	..	449	413	..	163	120	..	381,600	..
June	151	169	146	..	..	..	419	239	166	120	324	765,000	170
July	153	169	146	..	..	..	429	..	..	119	..	3,765,100	..
August	154	171	147	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial. (d) April 1914. (e) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (f) June 1914 -100. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base.
 Note.—The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (a)	Italy (c)	Belgium	Finland	Germany	Holland (d)	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	(c) 100	(e) 100	100	100	(a) 100	100	100	100	100
1915	102	105	107	107	131	112	98	120	95	..	..	..	114	..	124	128	119
1916	111	114	116	116	130	119	109	129	111	..	..	..	117	160	142	146	141
1917	126	128	128	126	127	143	183	137	..	..	..	..	117	142	146	141	119
1918	175	175	175	175	131	139	164	206	203	..	..	..	146	214	181	166	179
1919	186	186	186	186	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	..	176	279	268	187	222
1920	258	227	227	227	194	167	215	373	318	459	582	1,156	210	319	297	253	299
1921	174	220	148	139	161	164	145	306	402	410	1,278	1,491	180	295	232	236	207
1922 February	160	179	143	119	140	145	139	307	463	399	1,115	3,020	150	245	189	..	173
March	161	177	142	119	141	141	136	294	446	382	1,093	3,602	143	230	185	..	162
April	157	173	138	121	143	144	136	304	455	378	1,124	4,356	137	234	182	..	159
May	158	172	138	120	147	145	136	317	455	379	1,092	4,680	136	230	178	..	152
June	158	170	137	118	146	145	137	307	454	384	..	5,119	137	227	179	..	153
July	160	180	138	116	148	144	139	297	459	381	1,105	6,836	144	233	179	184	153
August	159	175	141	116	149	141	137	289	463	377	1,127	9,746	144	232	181	..	152
September	161	172	139	117	149	139	137	291	472	386	1,129	15,417	145	228	180	..	151
October	158	172	138	119	146	139	140	290	482	406	1,121	26,623	148	220	178	..	153
November	155	176	139	120	145	139	142	297	477	432	1,108	54,982	141	216	170	..	155
December	157	178	140	118	146	138	144	305	476	429	1,092	86,700	142	215	168	160	155
1923 January	151	175	142	117	145	139	141	309	480	426	1,080	136,600	145	214	166	180	155
February	150	175	142	117	144	140	139	316	478	439	1,050	318,300	145	214	166	..	154
March	149	171	145	117	145	141	139	321	480	439	1,066	331,500	145	214	166	..	156
April	150	168	142	117	145	141	139	323	481	417	1,012	350,000	143	212	164	..	159
May	148	162	140	118	156	143	140	325	491	414	..	462,000	139	214	161	..	161
June	146	160	138	118	152	143	140	321	..	426	1,004	934,700	..	213	161	..	165
July	148	163	137	116	..	..	..	321	..	459	..	4,851,000	..	218	160	188	..
August	149	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.

THE COST OF LIVING INDEX FOR AUGUST 1923

A rise of one point

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

In August 1923 the average level of retail prices for all the commodities taken into account in the statistics of a cost of living index for the working classes in Bombay was one point above the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was about 153 in July and 154 in August 1923. The general index is 20 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 11 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1921 and 6 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922. The cost of living index has fallen nearly to the level of August 1918.

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

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

Articles.	July 1914.	July 1923.	August 1923.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in August 1923 over or below July 1923.
Rice	100	125	121	- 4
Wheat	100	126	126	..
Jowari	100	113	121	+ 8
Bajri	100	135	135	..
Gram	100	114	114	..
Turdal	100	119	119	..
Sugar (refined)	100	294	246	- 48
Sugar (raw)	100	167	167	..
Tea	100	178	178	..
Salt	100	199	199	..
Beef	100	158	158	..
Mutton	100	215	222	+ 7
Milk	100	191	191	..
Ghee	100	170	185	+ 15
Potatoes	100	208	227	+ 19
Onions	100	351	446	+ 95
Cocconut oil	100	120	113	- 7
All food articles (weighted average)	100	148	149	+ 1

In comparison with the previous month, there was a slight rise in the general level of retail prices of food articles owing to a rise in jowari and vegetables. Jowari rose by 8 points, but rice fell by four points. Other food grains remained stationary during the month. The noticeable changes in other food articles were (1) a fall of 16 per cent. in refined sugar, (2) a rise of 9 per cent. in potatoes, and (3) a rise of 27 per cent. in onions. The rise in the price of potatoes and onions was seasonal.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914.

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

NOTE.—A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the index number is published in this issue of the Labour Gazette on pages 12-15.



BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores.)	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	July 1923.	August 1923.	July 1914.	July 1923.	August 1923.
Cereals—								
Rice	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 6.974	Rs. 6.781	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 488.18	Rs. 474.67
Wheat	"	21	5.594	7.047	7.047	117.47	147.99	147.99
Jowari	"	11	4.354	4.932	5.281	47.89	54.25	58.09
Bajri	"	6	4.313	5.818	5.818	25.88	34.91	34.91
Total and Average—Cereals	—	—	100	125	123	582.82	725.33	715.66
Pulses—								
Gram	Maund	10	4.302	4.922	4.922	43.02	49.22	49.22
Turdal	"	3	5.844	6.974	6.974	17.53	20.92	20.92
Total and Average—Pulses	—	—	100	116	116	60.55	70.14	70.14
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	7.620	22.357	18.714	15.24	44.75	37.43
Sugar (raw)	"	7	8.557	14.287	14.287	59.90	100.01	100.01
Tea	"	40	40.000	71.109	71.109	1.00	1.78	1.78
Salt	"	5	2.130	4.234	4.234	10.65	21.17	21.17
Beef	Seer	28	0.323	0.510	0.510	9.04	14.28	14.28
Mutton	"	33	0.417	0.896	0.927	13.76	29.57	30.59
Milk	Maund	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Ghee	"	1½	50.792	86.484	94.120	76.19	129.73	141.18
Potatoes	"	11	4.479	9.328	10.156	49.27	102.61	111.72
Onions	"	3	1.552	5.443	6.927	4.66	16.33	20.78
Cocoanut Oil	"	½	25.396	30.474	28.568	12.70	15.24	14.28
Total and Average—Other food articles	—	—	100	189	194	381.48	721.63	739.38
Total and Average—All food articles	—	—	100	148	149	1,024.55	1,517.10	1,525.18
Fuel and lighting—								
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	0.294	0.297	0.54	0.29	0.30
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting	—	—	100	164	164	60.44	99.28	99.29
Clothing—								
Chudders	Lb.	27	0.594	1.188	1.188	16.04	32.08	32.08
Shirtings	"	25	0.641	1.354	1.359	16.03	33.85	33.98
T. Cloth	"	36	0.583	1.188	1.188	20.99	42.77	42.77
Total and Average—Clothing	—	—	100	205	205	53.06	108.70	108.83
House rent	Per month	10	11.302	18.700	18.700	113.02	187.00	187.00
Grand Total and General Average	—	—	100	153	154	1,251.07	1,912.08	1,920.30

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 August 1923 at August price levels was Rs. 1,920.30, i.e., an increase of 54 per cent. (Rs. 1,251.07 = 100; Rs. 1,920.30 = 154).



BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

B

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight × Index Number.	
		July 1923.	August 1923.	July 1923.	August 1923.
Cereals—					
Rice	31.4	125	121	3,925.0	3,799.4
Wheat	9.4	126	126	1,184.4	1,184.4
Jowari	3.8	113	121	429.4	459.8
Bajri	2.1	135	135	283.5	283.5
Total and Average Index No.	46.7	125	123	5,822.3	5,727.1
Pulses—					
Gram	3.1	114	114	353.4	353.4
Turdal	1.3	119	119	154.7	154.7
Total and Average Index No.	4.4	115	115	508.1	508.1
Other food articles—					
Sugar (refined)	1.2	294	246	352.8	295.2
Sugar (raw)	4.8	167	167	801.6	801.6
Tea	0.1	178	178	17.8	17.8
Salt	0.9	199	199	179.1	179.1
Beef	0.7	158	158	110.6	110.6
Mutton	1.1	215	222	236.5	244.2
Milk	10.3	191	191	1,967.3	1,967.3
Ghee	6.1	170	185	1,037.0	1,128.5
Potatoes	4.0	208	227	832.0	908.0
Onions	0.4	351	446	140.4	178.4
Cocoanut oil	1.0	120	113	120.0	113.0
Total and Average Index No.	30.6	189	194	5,795.1	5,943.7
Fuel and lighting—					
Kerosene oil	1.8	171	171	307.8	307.8
Firewood	3.0	162	162	486.0	486.0
Coal	0.1	54	55	5.4	5.5
Total and Average Index No.	4.9	163	163	799.2	799.3
Clothing—					
Dhoties	1.3	200	200	260.0	260.0
Shirtings	1.3	211	212	274.3	275.6
T. Cloth	1.7	204	204	346.8	346.8
Total and Average Index No.	4.3	205	205	881.1	882.5
House rent	9.1	165	165	1,501.5	1,501.5
Grand total of weights	100				
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100) .. ..	....	153	154	15,307.3	15,362.1

COST OF LIVING INDEX

A Description of the Scope and Method of Compilation

In view of enquiries made from time to time on the construction and the scope of the cost of living index, it has been thought necessary to republish the article that was published in the Labour Gazette for September 1921 brought up to date.

I. Method adopted

In an Indian bazaar some people are going in one direction, others in another, and some are stationary. Those who are moving do not move at the same rate. So it is with prices. Some go up, some down, while some are stationary.

To obtain a measure of the general movement of prices of those commodities which enter into the cost of living, resort is had to the method of index numbers. A series of commodities is selected and their prices are taken for a standard or basic period; with the prices of this period—the pre-war month of July 1914—the prices for the commodities for subsequent months have been compared, these prices being expressed as percentages of the prices ruling in July 1914.

A change in the cost of living may, of course, be due to (1) a change in the purchasing power of money; (2) a change in the commodities consumed or in the quantities of the commodities consumed; or (3) to both a change in the purchasing power of money and to a change in the commodities or quantities of commodities consumed. A cost of living index deals as far as possible with the variations caused by prices alone and not with the standard of living in so far as that standard is adequate or not. In other words, it measures the change in the purchasing power of money. It is assumed that the particular commodities and the relative proportions of the commodities consumed were the same in the period compared with the standard period—July 1914, 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.

II. The selection of commodities

The articles selected were those used by the bulk of the population in the city and island of Bombay. As everyone knows, the Indian is predominantly a vegetarian, and this accounts for the high importance given to cereals and pulses in the list of selected commodities. The Mahomedan, unlike the orthodox Hindu, consumes a certain amount of beef, although he, too, is mainly a vegetarian.

At the last census the city of Bombay had a population of nearly 1,176,000; approximately 71 per cent. are Hindus, 16 per cent. Mahomedans, Christians 6 per cent., Parsees 4 per cent. and Jains 2 per cent. There were nearly 15,000 Europeans. The articles 24 in number (including house rent) were divided into the following groups and sub-groups:—

I. Food—

1. Cereals—rice, wheat, jowari, bajri.
2. Pulses—gram, tur dal.
3. Other articles of food—raw and refined sugar, tea, salt, beef, mutton, milk, ghee (clarified butter), potatoes, onions, coconut oil.

II. Fuel and lighting—

Kerosene oil, firewood and coal.

III. Clothing—

1. Dhoties, saris and chadars.
2. Shirts and long cloths.
3. Nainsooks, etc.

IV. House-rent.

These commodities and groups of commodities are for practical purposes those consumed by the average population. It is obvious that no single index can with precision apply to each individual in Bombay or even to each group of individuals. It does not apply to mill-workers only but to the classes who consume these commodities, mainly of

course the working classes. The commodities, however, are those from which a fair general average can be calculated. This average is sometimes like army clothing which does for everybody but fits no one. The list could have been extended had data been available, but it is to be remembered also that prices of commodities, which cannot be included because they do not lend themselves to exact specification, tend, on the whole, to move in the same direction as those included, and approximately to the same extent. Thus, as a matter of fact, a more reliable result is obtained than would be the case if the investigation endeavoured to cover the whole of the items of expenditure.

III. Collection of the price statistics

Information as to the predominant retail prices of food is collected twice weekly between the 21st of one month and the 20th of the following month by an investigating clerk of the Collectorate of Bombay. That official is wholly engaged on this work and for each article the quotations of ten representative retailers are ordinarily taken. The prices are those at which transactions took place. The average of the prices collected on each visit to the bazaar is posted in the Register book. Ten per cent. of these prices are checked by an inspecting clerk. The prices obtained on eight occasions are summed up and the average for the month is struck by dividing the total obtained by eight. Each quotation is based monthly on $2 \times 10 \times 4$, i.e., 80 prices. This, however, is not a complete indication of the basis of the returns. In some cases these retailers have shops elsewhere or they arrange to fix the price uniformly throughout the locality. The Deputy Collector of Bombay is in charge of the collecting of the statistics in the Bombay Collectorate. He is in constant touch with both retail and wholesale merchants, and corrects, if necessary, any quotations noted by the staff supplied by the Collector of Bombay. The Investigators of the Labour Office collect prices independently and check the prices from actual transactions in bazaars in various parts of the city. The statistics of kerosene prices are not collected in the bazaar but are supplied by the Standard Oil Co., Ltd.

Clothing.—The price of clothing—by no means so difficult to arrive at as in Western countries where descriptions of articles purchased by the working classes are comparatively numerous—is obtained from certain wholesale merchants through the Chamber of Commerce. These quotations are also carefully checked by the Investigators.

House rent.—The rent statistics are not so comprehensive as might have been desired. They are, in fact, the least satisfactory of the data used in the index number. The Labour Office has undertaken an enquiry with special reference to working class rents in the various wards of the city and these will be used to supplement the information used for the index number. Data has already been collected for 9,189 working class and 8,246 middle class tenements for the years 1914-15 and 1922-23. The results will be published in a future issue of the *Labour Gazette*, after personal inspection of a percentage of the properties by the Investigators of the Labour Office, and will be incorporated in the cost of living index when the data from 1920 onwards are tabulated.

When the returns are received in the Labour Office they are subjected to a detailed examination and supplementary enquiries are made when required. All tabulations and compilations are checked by a responsible officer at each stage of the work. *A high degree of accuracy in the collection of prices is of vital importance.* Differences in methods of arriving at figures of weights are of secondary importance as compared with this, since *the probable error in the record of prices will produce a larger variation in the final index number than an error in weighting that need be anticipated.* *The real basis of the monthly variations is the careful ascertainment of prices.*

The same grade of each article is quoted throughout the year except in a few cases, e.g., in certain food-grains (bajri, etc.) and vegetables (potatoes) where seasonal changes require the substitution of quotations used for the earlier months of the year by others for closely related grades. The price movements of such substituted grades are not precisely parallel to those for which they are substituted but in actual results show no great difference.



IV. Weighting

The principal commodities and their prices having been selected and grouped, the next step is to assign to each article its relative importance in working class expenditure. A rise in the price of rice or jowari (which bulk largely in such expenditure) would be of far greater importance than, say, a rise in salt or sugar. The price of each commodity, therefore, is multiplied by a number representing its relative importance to the other commodities included in the index number. This number for each article is the total average consumption in that article by the whole of India, and is called a "mass unit". The mass units will be found on page 10, column 3, and are units of consumption. These are different from the 'weights' which are the percentage expenditures on the various articles in the base period, to the total aggregate expenditure. In the computation of the index number, the expenditure on rice has been estimated at 31.4 per cent. of the total expenditure while the unit of consumption is 70 (crores of maunds). If 31.4 is used as the weight, this should be multiplied by the index number, not by the price of rice. The aggregate expenditure method has sometimes been misunderstood in this respect. So long as the relative proportions of the quantities of the different articles do not vary it is immaterial whether we take the requirements for a family or for a nation. The nation can easily be imagined to be a group of workers in this respect.

The consumption of the articles, except house-rent, was arrived at by taking production *plus imports minus exports* for the five pre-war years for all-India, i.e., national mass units were calculated. By taking a series of five years as the basis of calculating consumption accidental errors in the proportionate production of different commodities are likely to cancel each other to a considerable extent. Moreover, the probable error in the figures of production is not so great in the relative proportions of production between different articles as in the absolute amount of production of any one article. It is the proportionate production of different commodities that is required. Even on the supposition that too large a proportionate figure is reached for any

one commodity this will not make a perceptible difference in the final figure unless that particular commodity varies in price much more or much less than the average of other commodities. The error of a given figure in the original figures of consumption becomes reduced to a small error in the final index number where a large number of items enter into the calculation.

The reasons for selecting the national mass units in place of Bombay city mass units were briefly these: The statistics of Bombay's consumption were carefully examined, but these were not sufficiently complete for the purpose in view. Moreover, the production of, for example, cloth in Bombay's 82 cotton mills *plus imports minus exports* would have given an excessively high mass unit or weight for clothing altogether out of proportion to the cloth worn by or consumed by the working classes actually in Bombay. It was also found that, while for the Bombay Presidency including Sind the average percentage consumption of rice and other food-grains was as follows (based on data 1914-15 to 1918-19):—

Rice	..	30 per cent.
Wheat	..	17 "
Jowari and bajri	..	45 "
Others	..	8 "

100

the consumption of food-grains in the city of Bombay was not typical of the Presidency. In other words, rice, jowari and bajri were consumed in proportions more closely approximating to the national or all-India mass units.

The Bombay worker is not a permanent inhabitant of the working class districts here, and his regimen is that of the agriculturist. In fact, he is a semi-agriculturist and returns to cultivate in his district from time to time. Practically all the Bombay weavers come from the Ratnagiri district and are to a great extent rice consumers. The Deccani Maratha also comes to Bombay although he has almost an instinctive dread of mill work. In addition to the Konkani and Ghati labourer we have the Guzerati Koli, but he too adopts a regimen characteristically similar to that of the agriculturist. It would have given the same result had proportional mass units been



based on the relative proportion which the population of Bombay City bears to all India. This has been done in some other countries. The percentage weights given to each group and each article in the group will be found in column 3 on page 10 and the detailed figures of the index number will be found on page 11.

Sir George H. Knibbs, the Australian Commonwealth statistician,* sums up the advantages of the method of aggregate expenditure thus: (1) It is incomparably superior to the unweighted price ratio method if the mass-units are *at all* near the true usage quantities; (2) If the mass units are only approximately correct, small differences in their value will not sensibly vary the result; (3) One can instantly see in compilation the influence of each term on the result and thus estimate any uncertainties; (4) It is the simplest of all methods the precision of which entitles them to consideration. A comparison of the aggregate expenditure method and the family budget method so called will be found on pages 37 to 39 of the Report on an enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay published by this office, some months ago. The results obtained by each method showed, as was anticipated, no appreciable variation, which is in accordance with statistical theory.

*Vide Labour and Industrial Branch Report No. 9—Australian Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, 1919, by Sir George H. Knibbs, C.M.G., F.R.S. (Honorary).

WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY

PRICES FALLING

In August 1923 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay had a further fall of more than one per cent., as compared with the previous month. With the exception of a few items, there was a general fall in all the principal groups during the month. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have fallen by 8 per cent., the fall from the twelve-monthly average of 1922 being about 7 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 August 1923 as compared with	
		the preceding month (July 1923).	the corresponding month of last year (August 1922).
1. Cereals	7	- 6	- 28
2. Pulses	2	- 6	- 36
3. Sugar	1	- 6	- 11
4. Other food	5	+ 8	+ 44
Total food	15	- 1	- 6
5. Oilseeds	4	- 1	- 5
6. Raw cotton	5	- 3	+ 7
7. Cotton manufactures	6	- 1	- 16
8. Other textiles	2	....	....
9. Hides and skins	1	- 1	- 1
10. Metals	5	- 2	- 3
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	3	....	- 25
Total non-food	28	- 1	- 9
General average	43	- 1	- 8

* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 29-41.

The noticeable feature in the movement of food prices during the month, was the appreciable fall in the prices of food-grains and sugar. There was a fall of six per cent. in each of the groups, cereals, pulses and sugar. The average price of wheat, fell by 7 per cent., while "other food articles" showed a rise of eight per cent. The average level of food articles stood at 176 in August as against 178 in July, thus showing a fall of more than one per cent.

The average for non-food articles showed a fall of more than one per cent., as compared with the previous month. There was a fall of 3 per cent. in raw cotton and 2 per cent. in metals. Hides and skins, oil seeds and cotton manufactures fell by one per cent. each. None of the groups of the non-food articles rose during the month.

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



100 = average of 1922

Group.	Aug. 1922.	Nov. 1922.	Feb. 1923.	May 1923.	July 1923.	Aug. 1923.
I. Cereals ..	100	85	76	75	75	75
II. Pulses ..	94	79	68	63	64	66
III. Sugar ..	105	98	97	114	99	95
IV. Other food ..	102	102	105	122	107	148
Total food ..	100	95	90	95	94	95
V. Oilseeds ..	98	95	94	94	94	94
VI. Raw cotton ..	100	95	116	103	120	116
VII. Cotton manufactures ..	102	92	95	89	87	86
VIII. Other textiles ..	100	100	100	100	100	100
IX. Hides and skins ..	98	100	95	100	98	97
X. Metals ..	98	99	104	99	97	95
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles ..	98	99	74	74	74	74
Total non-food ..	100	97	95	95	95	95
General average—all articles ..	100	95	95	95	94	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 construction of the wholesale index is shown in the following table :-

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	July 1923.		Aug. 1923.
		Total items.	Total items.	
1	Cereals (Wheat, rice, jowar, barley and bajra)	7	100	120
2	Pulses (Green and dahl)	2	200	85
3	Sugar (Refined and raw)	3	300	202
4	Other articles of food (Tea, oil, etc.)	3	300	540
5	Total, all food	15	1,000	1,000
6	Oilseeds (Mustard, rapeseed, groundnut and linseed)	4	400	520
7	Raw cotton	2	200	410
8	Cotton manufactures (Long staple, medium staple, etc.)	6	600	1,250
9	Other textiles (Silk, wool, etc.)	2	200	270
10	Hides and skins	3	300	414
11	Metals (Copper, lead, iron, zinc, tin, etc.)	5	500	892
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (Tea, etc.)	3	300	421
13	Total, non-food	35	3,000	4,090
14	General average	50	4,000	5,090

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 ..	179	279	237
" " 1919 ..	202	239	222
" " 1920 ..	206	221	215
" " 1921 ..	193	198	196
" " 1922 ..	186	183	184
Eight-monthly " 1923 ..	175	174	174

COMPARATIVE RETAIL PRICES

BOMBAY, KARACHI, AHMEDABAD, SHOLAPUR AND POONA

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in July and August 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 July 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	99	115	111	127
Wheat ..	100	68	87	91	95
Jowar ..	100	74	77	78	82
Bajra ..	100	72	95	82	95
Average—Cereals ..	100	78	93	91	98
Pulses—					
Green ..	100	81	114	86	82
Dahl ..	100	84	82	86	106
Average—Pulses ..	100	83	99	86	95
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined) ..	100	78	102	115	89
Jagg (Coil) ..	100	73	92	79	74
Tea ..	100	75	113	96	96
Salt ..	100	73	75	98	99
Butter ..	100	116	74	74	74
Mutton ..	100	79	84	79	77
Milk ..	100	45	57	74	82
Chicken ..	100	54	86	82	77
Poultry ..	100	104	95	123	85
Onions ..	100	48	88	68	85
Coconut oil ..	100	86	105	88	96
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	77	90	87	86
Average—All food articles ..	100	78	92	88	89



Bombay prices in August 1923 = 100

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice ..	100	100	118	115	131
Wheat ..	100	68	95	96	90
Jowar ..	100	69	75	72	77
Bajra ..	100	69	106	86	95
Average—Cereals ..	100	77	98	95	98
Pulses—					
Green ..	100	75	116	86	83
Dahl ..	100	88	82	87	112
Average—Pulses ..	100	81	99	87	98
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined) ..	100	86	106	122	100
Jagg (Coil) ..	100	79	90	79	74
Tea ..	100	80	115	90	105
Salt ..	100	75	79	102	99
Butter ..	100	116	74	74	74
Mutton ..	100	74	81	67	74
Milk ..	100	44	57	74	82
Chicken ..	100	81	97	81	89
Onions ..	100	100	98	131	104
Coconut oil ..	100	45	72	75	85
Average—Other articles of food ..	100	78	89	87	90
Average—All food articles ..	100	78	92	88	90

On page 43 will be found statistics of food prices in July and August 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 patronized by the labouring classes.

THE PRICE OF SALT

PRICE LEVELS IN VARIOUS CENTRES

In the Labour Gazette for June an article giving the consumption of salt was published. In the present article an examination of the official returns of the price of salt reveals a series of interesting fluctuations, as compared with the corresponding period of last year and with the month of February 1923, the month previous to that in which the increase in the salt duty by one rupee four annas per standard or railway maund took place.

We shall in the first place compare the prices in the main centres of this Presidency, and subsequently with other places of importance in other parts of India. The prices have in all cases been reduced to a common denominator—the price per maund of 82½ lbs.

Retail prices per standard maund

	Increase in price.		
	A year ago (August 1922).	Feb. 1923.	Present prices (August 1923).
	Re. a. p.	Re. a. p.	Re. a. p.
Bombay ..	3 3 10	2 9 11	4 3 9
Poona ..	3 0 11	3 6 6	4 3 4
Sholapur ..	3 9 5	3 13 8	4 5 7
Ahmedabad ..	2 8 0	2 8 0	3 5 4
Karachi ..	1 14 6	1 14 6	3 1 3

The quality of salt used at various centres for which quotations are given may not be identical. The fluctuations, however, are of special importance. Salt in Bombay, as against the corresponding date last year, has risen by 31 per cent.; 36 per cent. in Poona; 21 per cent. in Sholapur; 32 per cent. in Ahmedabad; and 61 per cent. in Karachi. As compared with February of this year the increases are :-

	Increase in price.	
	Per maund.	Per cent.
	Re. a. p.	
Bombay ..	1 9 10	62
Poona ..	0 12 10	25
Sholapur ..	1 7 11	15
Ahmedabad ..	0 13 4	32
Karachi ..	1 2 9	61

The industrial centres in order of importance are Bombay, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Karachi and Poona. The actual increase in the duty on salt was Re. 1-4-0 per maund and assuming that prices were constant as well as transport and similar charges, the maximum amount by which the price of salt may ordinarily have been expected to rise would have been the extent of the duty. It must, however, be remembered that other things were not constant. The price of salt in the Presidency is higher during the monsoon. In fact on an average of five years it is found that in Bombay the price of salt is higher during the period June to November than in other months. This year, however, the price of salt began to rise progressively from the month of March. As salt absorbs considerable moisture during



the rains, merchants usually take delivery of salt in Bombay before the monsoon. The 'Shilotri' or the owner of a salt work does not like to open up fresh salt stacks during the monsoon as when once the thatch is removed and the hard crust on the top of a salt heap is broken, rain and moisture enter and loss results. The tendency then is to take delivery of as little salt as possible during the monsoon period. This applies also to the retailer. This explains why salt prices in Bombay rise from June to November.

As compared with the corresponding period of last year, when the duty was half its present rate, it is found that retail prices in Poona had increased by 18 annas 5 pies per maund; in Karachi by 18 annas 9 pies; in Ahmedabad by 13 annas 4 pies; in Bombay by 15 annas 11 pies and in Sholapur by 12 annas 2 pies. It is interesting to compare these increases with those over February 1923.

SALT PRICES IN OTHER PROVINCES

To effect a comparison with retail prices in other parts of India we have taken the latest available return of prices published by the Director of Statistics, Commercial Intelligence Department. The change in prices is seen at a glance in the following table:—

—	A year ago (15th August 1922).	Retail prices per maund Feb. 1923.	Present prices (15th August 1923).
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Calcutta	4 0 0	3 14 1	5 0 0
Rangoon	5 11 5	4 4 9	5 11 5
Madras	2 3 7	2 3 7	3 9 2
Delhi	2 10 8	2 8 0	3 12 11
Allahabad	2 13 9	3 10 2	4 7 1
Lahore	2 8 0	3 1 3	5 0 0
Lyallpur	2 8 0	2 8 0	3 10 2
Nagpur	4 2 6	4 2 6	4 9 8

It will be seen that the increase over that of a year ago and February 1923 is as in the following table:—

Increase per maund as against

—	A year ago (Aug. 1922).	Feb. 1923.
	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Calcutta	1 0 0	1 1 11
Rangoon	.. ..	1 6 8
Madras	1 5 7	1 5 7
Delhi	1 2 3	1 4 11
Allahabad	1 9 4	0 12 11
Lahore	2 8 0	1 14 9
Lyallpur	1 2 2	1 2 2
Nagpur	0 7 2	0 7 2

The increase as compared with this time last year is not as much as Rs. 1-4-0 per maund except in Madras, Allahabad and Lahore.

COMPARISON WITH FOOD-GRAINS

It is interesting to compare the price fluctuations of salt with food-grains. The expenditure in the average family budget on salt in Bombay was shown to be 0.4 per cent. of the total expenditure as against 34.2 per cent. on food-grains, cereals and pulses. Since August 1922 and February 1923 there has been a steady fall in the prices of food-grains not merely in this Presidency but throughout India. The cost of living index of the Labour Office shows a fall in food-grains of 14 per cent. since August 1922 and 4 per cent. since February 1923 and in all articles—food, fuel and lighting, clothing, and house rent of 6 per cent. as compared with August 1922 and nearly one per cent. with February 1923. The price of food-grains has fallen since July 1922 by 28 per cent. throughout India. The price of wheat in Lahore, for example, in June 1923 was less than half of what it was last year. The price of Rangoon rice in the same period has fallen 5 per cent. and bajri and jowari 17 and 35 per cent.

COST OF LIVING IN BIHAR AND ORISSA

The Director of Industries of Bihar and Orissa has recently published an interesting bulletin (No. 7) showing the changes in the cost of living in Bihar and Orissa. Six important industrial centres have been chosen for the enquiry, Bihar (proper) being represented by Patna, Muzaffarpur and Monghyr; Chota Nagpur by Jamshedpur and Jharia; and Orissa by Cuttack.



THE METHOD ADOPTED

In the construction of the indexes for these centres, the family budget method has been adopted. Budgets collected by unofficial bodies at different periods have been used for the results. No mention has, however, been made of the number of budgets collected in each tract, and also of the number of budgets in each income group. The budgets appear to refer to different years and not to the same period and this invalidates to some extent the value of the results obtained in weighting. The percentage expenditures for Bihar (proper) are based on the budgets collected during the period of five years ending 1918-19, while those of Chota Nagpur relate to the year 1923. As regards Cuttack there is no mention of the period to which the family budgets refer.

Before these percentage expenditures were used as weights, these were not reduced to a common basis, usually the base period.* These expenditures therefore do not refer to the period 1909-14 which is taken to be the base. The British Ministry of Labour in its *Labour Gazette* of September 1921 pointed this out in a similar connexion thus:—

"As regards 'weighting' the Report again confuses 'weights' employed, applicable to a particular reference date, with the distribution of expenditure at subsequent dates" (p. 453). This procedure is a very unusual one and gives misleading results.

In the description of the percentage expenditures derived from the all-India consumption, there appears to be some misunderstanding as to what the aggregate expenditure method adopted by many countries, really is. The mass units which represent the number of units consumed of each commodity, have been mistaken for weights, and added together, irrespective of the units, viz., maund, seer or lb. in which they are expressed (page 3). The relative percentage expenditure on each group is also estimated by the respective ratio of the number of mass units in each group to the total mass units in all groups. Thus on page 3 the expend-

* C.f. pp. 37 and 38, *Report on an Enquiry into Working Class Budgets in Bombay* (Bombay Government Printing and Stationery, Poona).

† C.f. the article on *A description of the scope and method of compilation of the cost of living index* in this issue of the *Labour Gazette*, pp. 12-15.

iture on fuel and lighting oil (class IV) is said to be one-third of that on food grains, because the total of mass units for the former group is 54 and for the latter 154. Even supposing that the mass units of all items are reduced to a common unit, e.g., a maund, which is impossible as house-rent cannot be expressed in maunds, the relative percentage expenditures cannot be assumed to be the same as the relative amounts of consumption, as all the items are not of the same price. Rice is dearer than salt but cheaper than ghee, and so the relative expenditures on these three items cannot be the same as the relative amounts of consumption of the three items.

The bulletin also introduces much approximation in the base prices. Prices reported from Manbhum have been taken to represent Jharia and Jamshedpur prices. The wholesale prices for sugar (gur) and ghee have been slightly modified to represent retail prices. The base prices which affect the index figures for every month should have been based, perhaps, on more accurate data.

Table II of the report which is intended to show the comparative cost of living at different centres appears to require further examination. No special purpose appears to be served in comparing the cost of living in Jamshedpur or Jharia in January or February 1923, with the cost of living in Patna in April 1922. Again the table compares the increase in the cost of living in each centre in different months, with the increase in the cost of living in Patna in April 1922, over the base period 1909-14. A better method is that adopted for the table on "comparative retail prices" on page 16 of this issue of the *Labour Gazette*, i.e., the price of each article in different centres should be compared with the price of the same article at Patna for the same month, and an average of the index numbers thus arrived for all the articles should be calculated. The figures of the cost of living for important industrial centres such as Jamshedpur, Jharia and Monghyr, are in general agreement with those for Bombay, as the Director of Industries remarks in this interesting bulletin "The results obtained in Bihar and Orissa correspond very fairly with those calculated for Bombay."



PROFITS IN BOMBAY MILLS

THE YEAR 1922

Mr. J. A. Wadia annually publishes a review of the cotton mill industry in Bombay. His latest review, *i.e.*, for the year 1922 appeared in a recent issue of the *Times of India* in which the net profits (gross profits less commission and depreciation) for the year 1922 were estimated at about Rs. 5 crores against Rs. 12 crores in 1921 or Rs. 13 crores in 1920. These figures make no deduction on account of income-tax. Wages including office establishments were estimated at about 8.19 crores in 1922 as compared with 7.82 in 1921 and 6.72 in 1920. Actual wages to operatives were estimated by deducting 12 per cent. from these figures. The following table in addition to the net profits and wages for 1922 shows the progress of the industry from year to year since 1905 :—

Net profits and wages

Year.	Pro-fit.		Less com-mis-sion.		Less de-pre-cia-tion.		Net Pro-fit.	Spin-dles.	Looms.	Wages.
	Rs. Crores.	Rs. Crores.	Rs. Crores.	Rs. Crores.	No. (Lakhs).	No.					Rs. Crores.
1905	3.47	.47	.65	2.35	25.60	28,000	2.01			
1906	3.14	.40	.66	2.01	26.14	28,000	2.18			
1907	1.85	.36	.68	.81	26.13	32,000	2.17			
1908	1.31	.34	.72	.25	27.34	36,000	2.19			
1909	1.21	.30	.75	.16	28.00	39,200	2.29			
1910	.60	.26	.75	(a) .41	28.04	41,000	2.56			
1911	.50	.24	.77	(a) .51	28.90	42,500	2.56			
1912	2.60	.40	.78	1.42	28.85	43,400	2.68			
1913	1.82	.29	.80	.73	29.25	45,250	2.47			
1914	.89	.25	.83	(a) .19	30.09	49,000	2.87			
1915	1.86	.32	.83	.71	30.00	52,000	3.00			
1916	3.12	.42	.85	1.85	30.00	52,205	3.18			
1917	6.74	.76	.85	5.13	29.33	57,900	3.76			
1918	4.97	.61	.85	3.51	28.81	59,000	4.02			
1919	13.06	1.31	.86	10.86	29.64	60,778	5.00			
1920	16.53	1.53	1.70	13.30	29.64	60,684	6.72			
1921	15.35	1.40	1.77	12.28	30.39	62,768	7.82			
1922	7.22	.88	1.32	5.12	31.17	65,521	8.19			

Note.—R. 1 crore=10 millions of rupees.
(a) Minus (—) represents net loss.

The following table shows the results of the above table when converted into percentages of the pre-war year :—

Year.	Pro-fit.	Less com-mis-sion.	Less de-pre-cia-tion.	Net Pro-fit.	Spin-dles.	Looms.	Wages.
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
1905	191	162	81	322	88	62	81
1906	182	162	83	275	89	62	83
1907	102	124	81	111	89	71	88
1908	82	117	90	34	93	80	89
1909	66	103	94	22	96	87	93
1910	33	90	94	(a) 56	96	91	104
1911	27	83	96	(a) 70	99	94	104
1912	143	138	96	195	99	96	109
1913	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	49	86	104	(a) 26	103	108	116
1915	102	110	104	97	103	115	121
1916	171	145	106	253	103	115	129
1917	370	262	106	703	100	128	152
1918	273	210	106	481	99	130	162
1919	718	452	108	1,492	101	134	202
1920	908	528	213	1,822	101	134	272
1921	846	483	221	1,671	104	139	317
1922	399	284	165	701	107	144	332

(a) Minus (—) represents net loss.

THE FUTURE

In regard to the recent decision of the Bombay Millowners' Association published on page 19 of the July issue of the *Labour Gazette* that no annual bonus for the present year will be paid, it is of interest to note that the profits for 1923 are estimated by Mr. Wadia to be between one-third and one-fourth of the profits for the year 1922. The stocks of cloth were computed at 1.75 lakhs of bales, and those of yarn at 30,000 bales and the value of the whole stock was estimated at 9.65 crores. The immediate future of the industry is, according to the writer, not bright. He says "we have lost our profits and the workmen have lost their bonus of about 68 lakhs for the current year, and they may have to face a reduction in wages in the ensuing year."



INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES IN THE PRESIDENCY

Disputes in August .. 15

On pages 51 and 52 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during August 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 August 1923.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in August 1923.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in August 1923.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in August 1923.*
	Started before 1st August.	Started in August.	Total.		
Textile ..	4	8	12	5,625	23,860
Engineering ..	..	2	2	201	382
Miscellaneous ..	..	1	1	334	1,002
Total, August 1923 ..	4	11	15	6,160	25,244
Total, July 1923 ..	1	6	9	3,097	35,363

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

There were 15 industrial disputes in August 1923, twelve of which occurred in cotton mills, two in engineering and one in miscellaneous concerns. The number of workpeople affected

Workpeople involved .. 6,160

was about 6,200 and the working days lost (*i.e.*, the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 25,244 which is a large decrease on the July 1923 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results April to August 1923

	April 1923.	May 1923.	June 1923.	July 1923.	August 1923.
Number of strikes and lock-outs ..	14	11	7	9	15
Disputes in progress at beginning ..	1	5	1	1	3
Fresh disputes begun ..	13	6	6	8	12
Disputes ended ..	9	10	6	6	12
Disputes in progress at end ..	5	1	1	3	3
Number of workpeople involved ..	51,807	44,894	49,111	3,097	6,160
Aggregate duration in working days ..	1,116,303	1,169,930	159,837	35,363	25,244
Demands—					
Pay ..	7	4	4	5	10
Bonus ..	..	2	..	..	..
Personal ..	1	2	2	3	4
Leave and hours ..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	6	3	1	1	1
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	1	1	..	..	1
Compromised ..	2	..	2	..	3
In favour of employers ..	6	9	4	6	8

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



III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled			In progress.
			In favour of employers. (Per cent.)	In favour of employees. (Per cent.)	Compromised. (Per cent.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
April 1921 ..	6	184,450	33	17	17	33
May 1921 ..	11	227,115	27	9	18	46
June 1921 ..	10	79,894	70	10	..	20
July 1921 ..	10	12,260	60	15	16	25
August 1921 ..	14	192,101	36	36	7	21
September 1921 ..	21	254,408	80	10	..	10
October 1921 ..	15	231,896	27	13	27	33
November 1921 ..	31	51,888	29	42	19	10
December 1921 ..	9	26,321	78	11	11	..
January 1922 ..	17	33,389	65	18	..	17
February 1922 ..	12	32,087	67	8	17	8
March 1922 ..	8	360,829	75	..	25	..
April 1922 ..	15	18,352	54	13	20	13
May 1922 ..	15	54,930	80	..	7	13
June 1922 ..	10	4,250	79	20	10	..
July 1922 ..	14	58,809	93	..	..	..
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	22,896	80	..	10	10
January 1923 ..	6	14,968	50	17	..	33
February 1923 ..	22	68,590	64	32	4	..
March 1923 ..	9	37,298	22	30	11	..
April 1923 ..	14	1,111,103	40	7	13	40
May 1923 ..	11	1,169,590	82	9	..	9
June 1923 ..	7	159,887	57	..	20	14
July 1923 ..	9	35,363	67	..	..	33
August 1923 ..	15	25,244	53	7	20	20
Totals or totals to 71 Average	306	8,661,382	58	14	11	17

A General Review of Disputes

During August 1923, there were fifteen industrial disputes in the Presidency, as compared with nine in the preceding month, twelve of which occurred in the cotton mill industry. Ten disputes were due to the question of pay, out of which four were settled in favour of the employers, one in favour of the employees, three were compromised and two were in progress. The remaining strikes were due to minor personal grievances.

BOMBAY

In Bombay City and Island there were in August eight disputes one of which occurred in a Company of Building Contractors, one among Toddy drawers in Dadar and the remainder in cotton mills. In the New Islam Mill 177 weavers struck work on 1st August against a reduction in wages for a certain kind of cloth. The strikers, however, resumed work unconditionally the next day on the agents granting an increase of half a pie in the rates. On 2nd August, 60 female winders of the Planet Mills refused to work and demanded higher wages. The management demanded one month's notice from the intending strikers. The strikers thereupon resumed work unconditionally.

About the middle of the month, nearly 110 daily paid masons in the employ of a Company of Contractors for the Bombay Development Concrete chawls, struck work for two days, demanding higher wages. The Assistant Engineer put up a notice requiring the strikers to resume work unconditionally and stating that the wages of those who failed to do so, would be forfeited for staying away without notice. Some strikers resumed work and the others were replaced by new hands. About 230 workers of the Frame Department in the Crescent Mill struck work on 18th August demanding an increase in wages to make up the deficit caused by the discontinuance of Sunday allowances. The strikers, however, returned to work of their own accord, the next day. On 25th August, 1,274 weavers in the Century Mill, Elphinstone Road, struck work owing to alleged ill-treatment by the Assistant Weaving Master. The Manager succeeded in persuading them to return to work within three



days by promising to consider their grievances. The strikers resumed work in anticipation of the removal of the Assistant Weaving Master. The mill authorities, however, did not remove this official and the operatives again struck work. The authorities later intended to declare a lock-out for a few days and then discharge those strikers who did not resume work on the re-opening day. At close of the month a strike occurred among 334 Toddy drawers of Dadar who refused to work for their Toddy merchants unless their pay was increased from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 per mensem exclusive of the daily allowance of 2 annas. The merchants on the other hand were not for a time willing to grant any increase as an increase had been granted in the previous year, but later they offered to grant an increase of Rs. 5 in pay plus a daily allowance of one anna. The strikers resumed work on the 4th September. The strike in the Bombay United Mill over the question of higher wages in the winding department, which was in progress at the end of July, came to an end on the 3rd August when the strikers resumed work unconditionally.

AHMEDABAD

In August there were three new strikes in Ahmedabad. About 25 workers of the Frame Department in the Gordhan Spinning and Manufacturing Company struck work on 8th August demanding that the existing Marwari jobber should be replaced by another of their own community. The strikers resumed work two days later on condition that the jobber should not be allowed to harass them. The other two strikes occurred at the close of the month. In one strike 297 weavers of the New Maneckchowk Spinning and Weaving Company, who struck work for two days against a reduction of two pies in the rates for dhotis produced, resumed work when the Agent promised to restore the old rates. The other strike affecting 800 weavers occurred in the Ahmedabad Ginning and Manufacturing Company for the same reason. No settlement was reported in this strike during the month under review. The strike of 75 men in the Hathising Manufacturing Company which began in July ended on 3rd August when the strikers resumed work unconditionally.

OTHER CENTRES

There were two strikes in Broach in progress at the end of July; one was in the Saraswati Mill and the other in the Fine Courts Mill. In both cases the strikers resumed work, in one on 8th August and in the other on 18th August, on condition that the wages were to be reduced by 12½ instead of by 15½ per cent. as originally proposed. In the Carriage and Wagon Department of the North Western Railway, Kotri, about 71 workers struck work on the 21st August in sympathy with a co-worker who had been ill-treated by the Head Train Examiner. The strikers were joined by twenty more workers the next day. The Carriage Examiner issued a notice to the effect that the strikers would be discharged if they did not return to work immediately, as they had struck work without apparent cause or any warning. Only six workers resumed work on the 23rd in response to the notice. All the others were discharged and new men were engaged in their places.

WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

BOMBAY SCHEME

The Insurance Companies in Bombay, it is understood, have under consideration a scheme to cover employers' liability under the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923. The scheme will cover most of the important occupations which will be subject to the provisions of the Act.

LABOUR IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

FACTORY REPORT FOR 1922

The Labour Office has received a copy of the Annual Factory Report of the Bombay Presidency for 1922 which has just been issued.

The number of registered factories in the Presidency subject to the control of the Factory Act increased during the year under review by 136 to 1,062. Of these 188 were cotton mills and 563 cotton ginning, cleaning and pressing factories. In 1921 the number of cotton mills was 183, and the number of cotton ginning, cleaning and pressing factories was 562. The increase in the number of factories



is chiefly due to the amended Factories Act which became operative with effect from 1st July 1922.

OPERATIVES EMPLOYED

The following table shows the number of persons employed in Cotton Spinning and Weaving Mills and in all industries in the pre-war year 1913 and in 1921 and 1922 :—

	Total in 1913.	Total in 1921.	1922.			Total in 1922.
			Men.	Women.	Children.	
Cotton	176,564	241,606	185,895	46,907	11,855	244,657
Other factories	89,411	111,674	93,713	20,611	1,537	115,861
All factories	265,975	353,280	279,608	67,518	13,392	360,518

There was an increase of 2·2 per cent. in the number of persons employed in the cotton industry; women workers increased by 1·9 per cent. while the number of children showed a decrease of 15 per cent. This decrease was due to the raising of the age limit in the Amended Factories Act.

ACCIDENTS

The number of accidents was greater in 1922 than the previous year the total number being 1,110 as against 1,084 in 1921. The number of fatal accidents was the largest recorded since 1913, there being 42 fatal accidents in the year under review as against 34 in the previous year. Of these 21 were due to machinery in motion.

An unfortunate accident in the jack well of a mill on account of which two men lost their lives and another was only saved by the bravery of a mill operative was recorded. It is reported that a similar accident has never occurred before. The circumstances pointed to asphyxiation by hydrogen sulphide. An investigation into other wells was promptly made and the authorities of the mills were warned of the danger of similar accidents.

PROSECUTIONS

The number of prosecutions instituted by the full time Inspectors was 105 of which 68 were in Bombay, 34 in Ahmedabad and 3 in Sind. Convictions were secured in 101 cases and fines ranging from Rs. 15 to Rs. 100 were imposed in 100 cases. In addition to these, one prosecution was made by a Mukhtiarkar in Sind, a conviction was secured and a fine of Rs. 20 was imposed.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATION

The report states that the question of housing the mill hands has received much attention in recent years from Government and employers. The Development Directorate chawls have affected the position of the ordinary mill hand in this respect but it is difficult to estimate its extent at the present stage. A few factories in the Bombay Suburban area have provided housing accommodation for their workpeople. A Woollen Mill at Thana has built 128 rooms in 16 units.

WELFARE WORK

Considerable progress is reported in regard to welfare work in mills. Factories are now beginning to provide machines, open well-equipped hospitals, provide maternity relief, and maintain schools and crèches and organise provident funds. In many cases the managers and assistants showed a keen interest in regard to welfare work in their mills and Government Inspectors also suggest improvement wherever possible. It is reported that at least one dispensary in a factory and the employment of a full instead of a part time compounder in a second was due to the personal interest taken by an Inspector. Both in Ahmedabad and Sholapur crèches were established for the children of the operatives and most mills in Ahmedabad have either set apart a room or maintain crèches. Section 19A of the Indian Factories Act which is reproduced below is reported to have been useful in this connexion.

"19A. Power to prohibit presence of children in factories.—Where in the opinion of the Inspector, the presence in any factory or any part thereof of children, who, by reason of their age, cannot, under the provisions of this Act, be lawfully employed therein, involves danger to, or injury to the health of, such children, he may serve on the manager of such factory an order in writing prohibiting the admission of such children to the factory or part thereof."

UNEMPLOYED SEAMEN

SITUATION IN CALCUTTA

At the recent session of the Bengal Legislative Council the Honourable Mr. J. Donald stated that it had been estimated by the Shipping Master that the numbers of unemployed seamen, as far as Calcutta was concerned, were: Saloon crews 1,000; engine room crews 3,000; and deck crews 2,000.



TRADE UNIONS IN THE BOMBAY PRESIDENCY

Quarter ending September 1923—a large decrease in membership

The previous review of Trade Unions in the Presidency was published in the June issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The latest information available for the third quarter of the present year is summarised on pages 45–47 of this issue and shows in Table I on pages 45 and 46 that both the number of Unions and the membership have decreased during the quarter under review. The information is collected through the Secretaries of the Unions as well as through district officers in the Presidency including Sind. Table I shows that at the moment there are nominally 8 Unions with a membership of 23,913 in Bombay City and Island, 7 Unions with a membership of 10,549 in Ahmedabad, and 4 Unions with a membership of 7,184 in the rest of the Presidency. This gives a total for the Presidency of 19 Unions with 41,646 members, as compared with 21 Unions and a membership of 51,276 in the previous quarter. These numbers as in previous reviews include only those Unions known to be actually in existence.

THE DECREASE IN MEMBERSHIP

The decrease in the number of Unions is due to the exclusion of two Unions in Ahmedabad, viz., the Sizing Union and the Folders' Union. These two Unions were under the control of the Labour Union in Ahmedabad but they are now no longer in existence. There was a decrease of 500 members in the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union and a decrease of 384 members in the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, both of which are in Bombay. In Ahmedabad the following decreases in membership have taken place:—The Weavers' Union has decreased from 4,000 to 778 members; the Winders' Union from 1,050 to 178; the Throstle Union from 5,500 to 4,500; the Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union from 4,000 to 1,340; and the Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union from 750 to 68 members. The remaining Unions

in the Presidency with one exception record no changes in membership. The decrease in the membership of the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union is due to the exclusion from the books of the Union of members who no longer took any interest in the Union, while the decrease of membership in the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union is mainly due to the closing of a branch of the Union at Bina. The large decreases in the Unions in Ahmedabad are due almost entirely to the recent general strike in this centre.

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

Summary table showing the membership of the Unions

Quarter ended	Membership at end of quarter.	Percentage decrease (–) or increase (+) on previous quarter.
June 1922	57,914	.....
September 1922	52,776	– 8·87
December 1922	51,472	– 2·47
March 1923	48,669	– 5·45
June 1923	51,276	+ 5·08
September 1923	41,646	– 18·77

As will be seen from the above table this decrease of 18·77 per cent. in membership is more than twice as much as the largest decrease previously recorded since the data has been collected by the Labour Office. It may be said that this decrease of 9,630 members is due almost entirely to the effects of the general strike in 56 out of 61 cotton mills in Ahmedabad, referred to above, which took place on 1st April of this year.

THE BOMBAY UNIONS

The important Bombay Unions are the following :—

- (1) The Indian Seamen's Union.
- (2) The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union.



- (3) The B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union.
 (4) G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union.

The Indian Seamen's Union has difficulty in collecting subscriptions from its members owing to the continued unemployment among its members. Table II on page 47 shows that the monthly expenditure exceeds the income. This Union does not now appear to be financially so strong as it was a year ago. Its reserve funds have also been depleted. Recently the Board of the Union, of which Mr. J. Baptista was President, has resigned and a new Board consisting entirely of members of the Union has been appointed. Since the resignation of the old Board the work of the employment bureau for seamen, which was conducted by the Union for the benefit of its members, has been suspended. Members, instead of securing ships through the Union, are approaching the authorities direct.

The G.I.P. Railway Staff Union is the most important Railway Union. Several changes in its various Branches have taken place during the quarter under review. The total membership of the Branches is now as follows :—

Station.	Number of members.
Wadi Bunder (Bombay)	434
Audit Deptt. (Bombay)	542
Kalyan	500
Bhusawal	672
Lonavla	150
Poona	150
Magmad	738
Shahabad	150
Bhopal	222
Dhond	129
Ahmednagar	126
Itarsi	150
Jhansi	50
Total	4,113

As stated in the last review, this Union is considering a scheme for amalgamation with the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union, thereby bringing the two Bombay Unions of G.I.P. Railway employees under a common management. It is stated, however, that this scheme has not yet been finally settled. The Union now publishes a fortnightly paper entitled the *G.I.P. Union Herald*. This has taken the place of the *G.I.P. Staff Union Monthly*,

hitherto published by the Union. The Union has also commenced to publish a fortnightly paper in *Hindi* for the benefit of the *Hindi*-speaking members at the Jhansi Branch of the Union. Of the questions at present being considered by the Union is that concerning the compulsory medical inspection of all employees of the G.I.P. Railway, regarding which the Company has recently issued instructions. The name of the Audit Department Branch of the Union is to be changed, shortly, to Administrative Office Branch to enable employees in other Departments at Victoria Terminus to be eligible for membership.

The other two important Unions in Bombay, Nos. 3 and 4 above, are both under the Central Labour Board. The membership of these unions is shown in Table I on page 45 to be 2,000 each. This number, however, does not represent the number of regular dues-paying members in each union. It is merely the number of members shown on the books of the Unions. There are only about 700 paying members in each Union. As already stated, the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union is considering amalgamation with the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union. The Secretary states that the members of his Union are not in favour of contributing two-thirds of the total income of the Union to the main Union in the event of amalgamation.

The remaining unions in Bombay are not at the moment very active. They are mostly engaged in consolidating themselves and urging their members to support the Unions. There are still no Unions of cotton mill operatives in Bombay.

THE AHMEDABAD UNIONS

Since the last review was published, the unions of cotton workers in Ahmedabad have found their numbers seriously depleted. At the time of the general strike in Ahmedabad there were approximately 16,000 members of the Unions of cotton workers in this centre. This number represented about one-third of the total number of operatives. Now, however, the membership has decreased to less than 7,000 or about one-seventh of the total workers employed. Not only has the



membership of these Unions decreased by 9,236 or 57 per cent. during the present quarter, but two Unions, as already stated, have ceased altogether to exist. Before the strike took place, the trade unions in Ahmedabad were well organised, had considerable reserve funds and were by far the best Unions in the Presidency. At the moment, however, it appears that only one Union, *viz.*, the Throstle Union which has a membership of 4,500 and a monthly income of about Rs. 1,125 is of any importance. There have been no changes in the office-bearers of the Unions in this centre. The other two Unions of non-textile workers do not appear very active. The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Union, Ahmedabad, has a considerable membership (3,485) but the other Union, the Post and Railway Mail Service Association, is not a strong Union.

THE REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

During the quarter under review only one change has taken place in the Unions in the rest of the Presidency. This is an increase in membership of 500 in the Karachi Branch of the N. W. R. Union. This was stated to be due to the increased interest taken in the Union by the employees of the Railway. The Sukkur Branch of the N.-W. Railway Union has a paid Secretary. The number of members is stated to be 3,574 and the income Rs. 180 per month. It appears, therefore, that the number of dues-paying members must be much smaller than the stated membership. The Union states that the only satisfactory method for collecting subscriptions from members is through the pay bills. The Company, however, will not allow subscriptions to be collected in this manner and hence the income of the Union is small. The Karachi Branch of this Union appears to be in a somewhat similar position as regards funds. Neither of the remaining two Unions in the rest of the Presidency appears to be very active or well supported by its members.

ACCOUNTS OF THE UNIONS

Table II on page 47 shows the approximate monthly income and expenditure of the Unions. It will be seen that the Indian Seamen's Union has the largest income and expenditure of the unions in Bombay.

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In Ahmedabad, the Throstle Union has a considerable monthly income and this union appears to be the strongest, financially, in that centre. In the rest of the Presidency, unions not financially in a strong position and the Press Workers' Union at Poona appears to have hardly any income at all. Detailed accounts have been received in the Labour Office for the following Unions :—The Indian Seamen's Union, the B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union, the G.I.P. Railwaymen's Union and the Bombay Presidency Postmen's Union. These will be published in a subsequent issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

ORGANISATION OF THE UNIONS

In Bombay, the only active federation of labour unions is the Bombay Central Labour Board which has its office at 123, Esplanade Road. The General Secretary of the Board is Mr. S. H. Jhubwalla. The Central Labour Board is making arrangements for the holding of a Provincial Conference of Trade Unions to be held at Parel on the 29th and 30th September. Representatives of the Trade Unions in the Presidency are to be invited to attend this Conference. It is understood, however, that the Labour Union in Ahmedabad has declined the invitation to take part in the Conference. The Board is also to arrange a Postal Conference, to be held in Bombay on 7th October, of representatives of Postal workers in the Presidency. The General Secretary of the Central Labour Board, Mr. S. H. Jhubwalla, has recently been appointed President of the Reception Committee for an all India Postal Conference to be held in December in Madras.

The All-India Trade Union Congress of which Mr. D. Chaman Lal is General Secretary is still inactive in Bombay.

RECOGNITION OF THE UNIONS

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

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

In Ahmedabad all the Unions of cotton mill workers are virtually recognised. The Labour



Office has no information regarding the recognition of the remaining Unions in the Presidency.

QUASI LABOUR UNIONS

The following Unions are not included in the list of Trade Unions as they are more in the nature of associations than Trade Unions in a strict sense of the meaning:—

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

Of these associations, the first is the largest. It publishes a weekly paper entitled the *Railway Times* which is circulated among its members throughout India and Burma. The Bombay Presidency Postal Association publishes a printed *General Letter* monthly which contains reports and other information from its Branches which are situated at important stations in the Presidency. The Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha (Workers' Welfare Union) has recently been fairly active in connexion with the recent decision of the Bombay Millowners' Association to pay no bonus for the present year. A reference to the resolutions passed at a recent meeting of this Union will be found on page 30 of this issue.

CONCLUSION

The outstanding features of the Trade Union situation during the quarter ended September 1923 have been (1) a decrease of 9,630 members (or 18·77 per cent.) chiefly among the Unions of cotton mill operatives in Ahmedabad, (2) the closing down of two important Unions in Ahmedabad, viz., the Sizing Union and the Folders' Union and (3) the continued complete absence of Unions of cotton mill workers in Bombay.

TRADE UNION POLICY

CRAFT OR INDUSTRIAL BASIS

Early next year the Government of India hope to be in a position to introduce Trade Union Legislation.* Local Governments and Administrations were addressed in September 1921 on this subject. Their replies have now been received and are under examination.

In these circumstances it will be convenient to review very briefly some points of trade union policy that have recently been under discussion in England regarding craft versus industrial unions. The proposals of the Government of India do not raise this question as the proposals for India are concerned mainly with the registration and protection of trade unions (whether craft or industrial).†

Like other human organisations, trade unions have their faults and limitations. They have internal sources of weakness as English trade unionism has shown in the recent dockers' strike where a serious attempt was made by a group of workers to throw over their leaders and to disown a wages agreement made in their names. On English railways there has been a dispute between three parties—the companies, the national Union of Railwaymen and the Amalgamated Engineering Union in respect of wages and the status of Engineering craftsmen and labourers in railway workshops. Mr. P. J. Pybus, Managing Director of the English Electric Company, Ltd., in two articles in the *London Times* believes that "These disputes are of vital importance not only to trade unionism, but to the whole future of British industry. He sees a conflict pending between the craft and the industrial bases of union organisations and this raises questions closely connected with the conflict of remuneration. All this, he believes, merits the attention of those in industry, but also of "the far wider public which is dependent directly or indirectly on its prosperity".

There are two main types of Unions—the craft union and the industrial union. The craft unions, broadly speaking, are composed of skilled men just like those in Ahmedabad at the present time. These craft unions include for example skilled workers and run from side to side horizontally along the whole field. Industrial unions, on the other hand, have as their qualification of membership employment in the same industry. These self-contained unions cross vertically, so to say, the craft unions. Neither of these two main classes is complete in itself. The "N.U.R."

* See *Labour Gazette*, July, page 30.

† Vide *Labour Gazette*, October 1921, page 19.

(Continued on page 29.)



(the National Union of Railwaymen) does not include all railway workers. It is from its anxiety to rope in all that the controversy arose with the "A.E.U." (the Amalgamated Engineering Union). The "A.E.U." in turn does not represent the whole of the Engineering trade. In many of the crafts such as the carpenters and iron founders there is more than one union. Mr. Pybus is of opinion that "the spasmodic rivalry between the two schools of trade union opinion must sooner or later develop into a pitched battle" and cause a great set-back to British industry. He thinks that it is in relation to wages that the most serious objections to the industrial unions arise and in foreign markets industrial unionism may spell danger and even disaster to national industry. On the other hand craft unions have in the long run been one of the most stable factors in industrial life. He would strengthen the craft unions by the negative virtue—abstention from pinpricks and extend the principle of payment by results. Mutual confidence is the only sound basis of good relations between employers and workers in industry.

Sir Lynden Macassey takes an opposite view. He believes that the craft union has done more to impede the introduction of labour saving appliances than any other factor, and he points out that it is the industrial type of trade union that has assisted their introduction in the United States. Under the 'craft' system the skilled men's unions opposed time and labour saving appliances as it means less work for their union. Under the industrial union the same opposition is not offered as there is no weakening of the union. In the States payment by results is accordingly accepted by the Unions as there is no such conflict between ability to produce and the union membership.

The *Times* in commenting on the question said "we believe—not piece-work, but payment by results—is, in fact, the real solution of the problem which industrialists and trade unions are called upon to solve. Everyone knows something of the success with which the system has been exploited at Detroit by Mr. Henry Ford. 'We do not have piece-work', he writes in the story of his life and work. 'Some of the men are paid by the

day and some are paid by the hour, but in practically every case there is a required standard output below which a man is not expected to fall.' There is no charity about the Ford System. A man is paid extra, on a scientifically devised scale, for what he does or produces over and above that standard, because he is worth it."

In the Bombay Presidency trade unionism is still in its infancy. The best unions are, on the whole those craft unions in Ahmedabad. The industrial unions, such as the Railway Unions, are also increasing their membership, but do not possess the aims of trade unionism to the degree the Ahmedabad Unions do—better conditions of work and higher wages. Comparisons, moreover, are odious. The industrial development of western countries is under different conditions. There is in this country the terrible blight of illiteracy with all its attendant evils. The trade union movement is now accepted as indispensable to collective bargaining which stabilises the cost of labour and insures fair treatment for many who alone are unable to obtain it. Thus it is no longer regarded as a nuisance even by shortsighted employers of labour who at one time regarded it as a bugbear.

ACCIDENTS AND PROSECUTIONS

STATISTICS FOR AUGUST 1923

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 34 and 35 of this issue, contain details of the accidents reported during the month of August in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During August, in Bombay City and Island there were in all 170 factory accidents of which one was fatal, 9 were serious and the remainder 160 minor accidents. Of the total number of accidents 49 or 28·8 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 121 or 71·2 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 64·1 per cent. in workshops, 31·8 per cent. in textile mills, and 4·1 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad there were six accidents, all in cotton mills. All of these were minor accidents due to machinery in motion.

In Karachi, there were five accidents, four in workshops and one in a flour mill, none of which was due to machinery in motion. Of these, one was serious and four minor accidents.

In the other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 32, of which 12 were in textile mills, 20 in workshops. Fourteen accidents were due to machinery in motion and eighteen to other causes. There were one fatal, five serious and twenty-six minor accidents.

Prosecutions

There were no prosecutions under the Factories Act during the month of August.

Welfare of Mill Hands

Under the auspices of the Kamgar Hitwadhak Sabha of Bombay, a meeting of Bombay mill-hands was held on Thursday the 30th August. The President referred to the importance of Trade Unions in bringing to a successful end the disputes between the employers and their employees. Many resolutions concerning the welfare of the mill workers were passed at the meeting among which were the following:—

(1) That this meeting of the mill workers considers the notice of the Millowners' Association about discontinuing the payment of bonus this year as inadequate and that it requests their employers as well as the Millowners' Association to reconsider their decision and pay their bonus in consideration of the excessive profits earned by them during the previous years.

(2) That this meeting expresses its disapprobation of the action of Government in omitting this year also to select a member from the Mahratta backward communities to represent Indian labour at the forthcoming International Labour Conference.

(3) This meeting of mill workers urges upon the Government of Bombay the necessity of nominating a labour representative on the Bombay Legislative Council from the backward classes and not from the capitalists.

THE INDUSTRIAL VALUE OF CRIMINAL TRIBES

BY

O. H. B. STARTE, I.C.S.,

Criminal Tribes Settlement Officer, Bijapur

Criminal Tribes are not ordinarily regarded as an asset. Destined as they are by their birth to a life of preying upon their fellow countrymen, they are feared and shunned by all. But for all that they have many likeable characteristics. They are resourceful and clanish, and some of the tribes are very intelligent.

Since 1909 various experiments have been made throughout India to search out the best way of helping them to a new and better vision of citizenship. Where the tribes have hitherto been wanderers from district to district with no permanent residence, the most successful means of assisting them has been found to be to gather them into Colonies in the neighbourhood of industrial centres. Hitherto, most have been employed in Cotton Weaving and Spinning Mills. Others have been trained as masons and carpenters. In Belgaum and North Kanara districts they have been employed in the forests cutting trees or working in the saw mills. Having in most instances no hereditary trade except that of crime they have no special prejudices for or against any other particular profession. Hence it is possible to train the younger generation to any kind of labour in which suitable openings can be found. Of course not much can be done with the older generation. They can only work as unskilled labourers in the mills or on such works as breaking roads, metal or on earthworks. But much can be done for the younger generation, and it is towards them that the greatest attention has been directed.

Fourteen settlements have been established in the Bombay Presidency. The total population in the settlements is 12,000. Care is taken to preserve the family life and thus the whole families only are accepted. In each of the settlements a school has been established and education has been made compulsory both for boys and girls. At present there are 2,300 children attending these schools. As it is hoped that the boys will become skilled artisans in the future, in each of the larger schools

a manual training class has been started where in elementary wood and tin work is being taught as a training to the hand and eye. Drawing is also emphasised in the curricula of these schools. With the co-operation of the Sholapur Spinning and Weaving Mill and the Laxmi and Vishnu Mills, the Manual Training Class of the Sholapur Settlement is being expanded and co-ordinated with the mill work, in which the great majority of the children will find their future employment.

The results of settlement work have so far been very encouraging. Of course there have been setbacks. Traditions of centuries are not broken down in a few months. Still it cannot be denied that progress is being made or that the younger generation is of a different type to its forefathers. The Settlement work is being expanded as funds permit.

It is generally admitted that India's prosperity requires trained artisans. If therefore the Criminal Tribes are transformed from thieves and coiners into useful citizens trained in trade where there is at present a scarcity of skilled workmen, may they not indeed become a valuable asset to India?

QUESTIONS IN THE LEGISLATURE

BIHAR AND ORISSA LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
Accident at Golmuri Works at Jamshedpur

24. Lala Baij Nath asked: (a) Are the Government aware that an accident occurred at the Golmuri Works of the Tin Plate Company of India, Limited, at Jamshedpur on the 11th May 1923, at about 1.45 p.m.?

(b) Will the Government be pleased to state the number of persons, if any, killed and injured as a result of the said accident?

(c) Have the Government any information about the cause of the accident?

25. (a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the owners or managers of factories are required to report such accidents and, if so, to what authority?

(b) Was such a report submitted by the agent or manager of the Tin Plate Works?

(c) If not, will the Government be pleased to state if they contemplate taking any action in the matter?

26. (a) Is it a fact that the agent of the Tin Plate Company resented investigation by the

local thana officer and refused to give him material information?

(b) Has any investigation been made as to the nature and cause of the accident, by or on behalf of the Government, by any other officer? If so, will the Government be pleased to publish the result of such investigation for public information?

(c) Is it a fact (i) that the construction of the wall that collapsed was defective; (ii) that the mortar used was weak; (iii) that the masons noticed a big crack on the wall and refused to go up; (iv) that the unfortunate victims of the accident were forced to mount the scaffold by the contractor's works supervisors; (v) that the company's supervising engineers were not on the spot when the accident happened?

Mr. J. R. Dain replied: 24. (a) Yes.

(b) Nine persons were killed outright and four subsequently died of their injuries.

(c) Government have before them the opinion of the Chief Inspector of Factories as well as that of an officer of the Public Works Department as to the cause of the accident.

25. (a) Government are advised that the Indian Factories Act (XXXVIII of 1911) is not applicable to the present case, and that there is no other provision of the law under which a report of such an accident to any public authority is specifically prescribed.

(b) Does not arise, but the accident was reported promptly to the police by an officer of the company.

(c) An enquiry under the provisions of section 176 of the Criminal Procedure Code has been ordered.

26. (a) The answer is in the negative.

(b) and (c) The Honourable Member is referred to the reply to clause (c) of question No. 25.

COST OF LIVING IN THE STRAITS SETTLEMENTS

The statistical office of the Straits Settlements, Singapore, has recently been in communication with the Labour Office on the question of the construction of a cost of living index. It is proposed to initiate a cost of living index in the Straits Settlements on the lines of the index published monthly by the Labour Office.



TECHNICAL TRAINING FOR APPRENTICES IN GOVERNMENT FACTORIES

The Director General of Ordnance in India has recently issued a note explaining Government's programme of education and training which is now being followed in Government factories. A summary of the note is as follows:—

Government ordnance factories are at present eight in number:—A metal and steel factory and a rifle factory at Ishapore, near Barrackpore to the north of Calcutta; ammunition factories at Dum Dum, near Calcutta, and at Kirkee, near Poona; a gun carriage factory at Jubbulpore; a harness and saddlery factory at Cawnpore; and a cordite factory at Aruvankadu, near Coonoor in the Nilgris. The ammunition factory at Dum Dum is about to be closed.

These factories cover a wide range of industries and trades, and in them, therefore, the Government have an excellent series of establishments in which it is possible to organise good technical training of a thoroughly practical nature, coupled with theoretical instruction, and the boys learn to work under factory conditions which they cannot do in a technical college.

The most advanced form of training and education that the ordnance factories attempt is that of apprentices. Somewhat different methods are followed at each of the factories according to local facilities for theoretical instruction, housing, recruits obtainable, etc. The course usually lasts five years and the apprentice must have received a good education.

At Ishapur the apprentices are nearly all Hindus and the standard for admission is Intermediate Arts or Science, though some B.A.'s and B.Sc.'s have been taken. At Cossipore also, the apprentices are nearly all Hindus. At Jubbulpore and Kirkee, they are principally, though not entirely, Europeans or Anglo-Indians. At the Cordite factory 14 are Europeans or Anglo-Indians and 18 are Indians. At Cawnpore 3 are Europeans or Anglo-Indians and 9 are Indians.

In every case there are considerable waiting lists and applications come from all over the country. The age limit has not yet been fixed, but 19 is looked upon as the desired maximum.

The lads have to sign an agreement before being taken on and are given a certificate on completion of the course showing what they have done. On completion of their course they are free to leave the ordnance factories and to seek employment elsewhere if they like. On the other hand, if they wish to stay on, employment is offered them in the factories. Beginning in a supervisory capacity they can rise to the position of chargemen, assistant foremen, and foremen, the last of all carrying a salary of Rs. 500 to Rs. 650.

There is no bar to any apprentice rising to the position, provided he is qualified by technical knowledge, efficiency and character.

THE APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The scheme for apprentice training in ordnance factories aims at training 120 at the Metal and Steel Factory, the Rifle and the Gun and Steel Factory at Cossipore combined, 50 at Jubbulpore, 40 at Cawnpore, 40 at Kirkee and 40 at the Cordite Factory. Approximately two-thirds of these numbers have already been reached. Europeans, Anglo-Indians and Indians are all accepted, and the training is such that they should eventually be able to rise to the rank of foreman, though the apprentices are free to leave the ordnance factories and seek employment elsewhere if they prefer to do so. Besides the training of apprentices, the authorities are also following an educational scheme, providing primary and high vernacular education to children living in the lines and boys employed in the factories.

THE LANCASHIRE COTTON INDUSTRY

Sir Charles Macara writing* on the 30th July to the *Times* on the situation of cotton industry in Great Britain, said that the cotton industry is faced with a decision the result of which will be extremely important to the industrial well-being of the whole country. For over two and a half years the cotton trade has been losing money. The fact that the majority of the raw material has to be brought from the richest country in the world (the United States) and the majority of the finished articles are intended for the poorest people of the world (India, China, Turkey, etc.) will make plain the peculiar difficulties which, since the war ended, have wrought such havoc with the industry. The Federation of Master Cotton Spinners proposed, as a last resort, a policy of fixed prices, but they neither introduced nor advocated the setting up of any machinery whereby these fixed prices should be adhered to. The scheme of basic prices has been abandoned and now, in the words of the Federation, nothing remains for the trade but to drift to ruin.

THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

The writer explains that the Provincial Emergency of which he is President, have, however, an alternative programme to meet the

* Vide *London Times* dated 31st July 1923.



situation. They propose that an Advisory Council composed of representatives of the spinners, manufacturers and operatives organisations should be set up. Employers and employees would be equally represented on the Council. Every month the normal production of the trade which, in the general interest of the trade should be turned out, would be determined. Employers working a longer number of hours than the proportion fixed by the Council would pay a levy, and both employers and employees working a less number of hours than the proportion would be entitled to a contribution from the funds of the Council. Selling prices would be fixed and the whole scheme would be run on the lines of the Cotton Central Board, which so successfully regulated the industry during the last years of the war. In conclusion the writer adds that "in spite of the difficulties which beset the trade, I am convinced that, given the ability to adapt their organisation to the changed needs of the times, the cotton industry can soon figure on the assets side of the national balance sheet".

THE 12-HOUR DAY IN THE UNITED STATES

THE STEEL INDUSTRY

The United Kingdom *Labour Gazette* for August, published by the Ministry of Labour, contains interesting information regarding the 12-hour day based on reports in the *New York Times*. At the annual meeting of the American Iron and Steel Institute, held in New York on 25th May last, an interim report of the Committee appointed in 1922 by the United States Steel Corporation was adopted unanimously. The report states that the abolition of the 12-hour day would increase the cost of production on an average by about 15 per cent. and would necessitate the employment of 60,000 additional workers. The Committee was not prepared to advocate the abandonment of the 12-hour day owing to the increasing demand for steel products and the scarcity of labour. The report, however, adds that if, through a modification of the immigration laws, labour becomes plentiful and if the purchasing public would not object to the increase in prices of steel products consequent

upon the increase in the cost of production and if the industry approve, the Committee would be entirely in favour of the abolition of the 12-hour day. The Committee was confident that the 12-hour day was less fatiguing and less injurious than the 8-hour day to the workmen who, as a rule, prefer the longer hours because of the higher wages earned.

BUILDING MATERIALS

INCREASE IN COST IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

A recent issue of the *London Times* contains striking data, published by the courtesy of the *Builder*, of the prices in the United Kingdom of the principal materials used in the building of houses in August 1914 and in two recent months. The following table shows the figures:—

Material.	Aug., 1914.	Jan., 1923.	July 27, 1923.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
Bricks, per 1,000:—			
Best stocks	1 16 6	4 2 0	4 2 0
Flettons	1 14 0	3 1 0	2 13 3
Glazed	13 0 0	22 0 0	22 0 0
Thames ballast (per yard)	5 9	13 6	10 6
Thames sand (per yard)	7 3	16 6	15 6
Shingle (½ in.) (per yard)	....	14 0	14 0
Portland cement (per ton)	1 17 0	3 3 0	3 3 6
Ground blue lias lime	1 0 0	2 18 6	2 13 6
Grey stone lime	1 8 0	2 16 6	2 10 9
Bath stone (per ft. cube)	1 7½	2 11	2 10
Portland stone	2 4½	4 7	4 4½
Good sound building timber (per standard):—			
4 in. × 11 in.	16 10 0	34 0 0	34 0 0
3 in. × 7 in.	13 0 0	22 10 0	25 0 0
3 in. × 11 in.	15 0 0	32 10 0	34 0 0
2 in. × 11 in.	....	32 10 0	34 0 0
2½ in. × 7 in.	....	22 10 0	24 10 0
3 in. × 4 in.	....	21 0 0	24 0 0
Slates—per 1,000 of 1,200:—			
24 in. × 12 in.	....	41 17 0	37 12 6
22 in. × 12 in.	....	38 0 6	34 0 0
R. S. Joists, per ton	9 10 0	13 0 0	13 10 0
Iron:—			
Common bars, per ton	9 0 0	12 10 0	14 0 0
Mild steel bars, per ton	9 5 0	12 0 0	13 10 0
Steel bars	9 5 0	12 0 0	13 10 0
Cut nails	11 10 0	21 10 0	21 10 0
Sheet lead	22 15 0	35 10 0	34 0 0
Glass:—			
15 oz. sheet, per ft.	2	2½	3½
21 oz. sheet, per ft.	3	4½	5
26 oz. sheet, per ft.	3½	5½	6
Raw linseed oil, per gallon	2 4	3 7	3 8
Turpentine, per gallon	2 6	8 9	6 11
Ground English white lead, per ton	30 5 0	55 5 0	55 10 0
White lead paint, per ton	....	77 10 0	77 0 0
Red lead	28 10 0	39 0 0	42 0 0

Accidents in Factories during August 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 August 1923.	August 1923.	
	January to August 1923.	August 1923.											
I. Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills ..	262	27	107	24	4	1	32	4	333	46	369	51	
Woolen Mills ..	7	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	9	2	9	2	
Others ..	6	1	5	1	..	..	1	..	10	2	11	2	
Total ..	275	29	114	26	4	1	33	4	352	50	389	55	
II. Workshops—													
Engineering ..	15	1	97	10	1	..	3	..	108	11	112	11	
Railway ..	91	11	540	86	2	..	23	4	606	93	631	97	
Mint ..	..	..	4	..	..	..	..	..	4	..	4	..	
Others ..	14	1	13	..	..	..	7	..	20	1	27	1	
Total ..	120	13	654	96	3	..	33	4	734	105	770	109	
III. Miscellaneous—													
Chemical Works ..	..	..	6	..	..	..	1	..	5	..	6	..	
Flour Mills ..	2	..	2	1	..	..	1	1	3	..	4	1	
Printing Presses ..	6	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	6	1	7	1	
Others ..	9	2	17	1	..	..	6	1	20	2	26	3	
Total ..	17	3	25	2	..	..	9	2	34	3	37	5	
Total, All Factories ..	412	45	793	124	7	1	75	10	1,120	158	1,196	169	

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 August 1923.	August 1923.	
	January to August 1923.	August 1923.											
Textile Mills—													
Cotton ..	35	6	6	..	1	..	17	..	23	6	41	6	
Total ..	35	6	6	..	1	..	17	..	23	6	41	6	

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

Accidents in Factories during August 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 August 1923.	August 1923.	
	January to August 1923.	August 1923.											
I. Workshop—													
Railway and Port Trust.	5	..	30	4	7	..	28	4	35	4	
Total ..	5	..	30	4	7	..	28	4	35	4	
II. Miscellaneous													
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	
Total, All Factories ..	5	..	31	5	8	1	28	4	36	5	

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 August 1923.	August 1923.	
	January to August 1923.	August 1923.											
I. Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills ..	31	10	15	..	2	..	12	1	32	9	46	10	
Cotton Press ..	3	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	4	..	
Others ..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1	
Total ..	34	10	17	1	3	..	12	1	36	10	51	11	
II. Workshops—													
Railway ..	19	1	110	16	..	..	4	2	125	15	129	17	
Ammunition Works ..	3	2	4	1	1	..	2	2	4	1	7	3	
Others ..	3	..	12	..	2	..	1	..	12	..	15	..	
Total ..	25	3	126	17	3	..	7	4	141	16	151	20	
III. Miscellaneous—													
Gin Factory ..	4	1	2	..	1	1	3	..	2	..	6	1	
Paint Works ..	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Others ..	2	..	1	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	3	..	
Total ..	7	1	3	..	3	1	3	..	4	..	10	1	
Total, All Factories ..	66	14	146	18	9	1	22	5	181	26	212	32	

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals— Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	6 3 1	5 7 7	5 13 4
	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	9 2 0	7 0 0	6 8 0
	Do.	Candy	45 0 0	100 0 0	67 8 0	50 0 0
	Do.	Khandwa Seoni	40 0 0	82 8 0	46 8 0	45 0 0
Wheat	Jubbulpore	Md.	3 2 6	4 0 4	4 3 9	3 12 11
	Rangoon	"	3 4 6	4 7 0	3 4 6	3 1 1
Jowari	—	"	3 4 6	5 11 5	4 13 11	4 8 10
Barley	Ghati	"	4 3 9	5 11 5	3 9 7	3 6 2
Bajri	—	"	5 10 5	7 3 5	5 4 8	5 1 3
Pulses— Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	"	9 3 0	23 4 0	25 0 0	21 12 0
	Cawnpore	"	10 3 0	23 14 0	23 0 0	22 8 0
Turdal	—	"	7 14 3	15 3 10	11 9 0	11 9 0
Sugar— Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 3	18 12 5	29 14 11	34 4 7
	Do.	Md.	45 11 5	88 9 2	88 9 2	88 9 2
Raw (Gul)	Java white	"	1 7 6	2 11 0	3 4 0	3 4 0
Other food— Turmeric	Rajapuri	"				
	Deshi	"				
Ghee	Bombay (black)	"				
Salt	—	"				

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

Cereals— Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	100	132	116	120
Wheat	Delhi No. 1	100	163	125	116
Do.	Khandwa Seoni	100	222	150	133
Do.	Jubbulpore	100	206	116	113
Jowari	Rangoon	100	1.8	134	121
Barley	—	100	135	100	93
Bajri	Ghati	100	174	148	139
Average—Cereals		100	166	127	120
Pulses— Gram	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	100	135	85	80
	Cawnpore	100	128	94	90
Average Pulses		100	132	90	85
Sugar— Sugar	Mauritius No. 1	100	253	272	237
	Do.	100	234	226	221
	Raw (Gul)	100	193	147	147
Average—Sugar		100	227	215	202
Other food— Turmeric	Rajapuri	100	337	537	593
	Deshi	100	194	194	194
	Bombay (black)	100	183	221	221
Average—Other food		100	238	317	343
Average—All food		100	188	178	176

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.	
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	
Oilseeds— Linseed	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	13 6 0	13 7 0	13 2 0	
	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	10 4 0	9 7 0	9 12 0	
	Rapeseed	Do.	10 14 0	14 12 0	13 1 0	13 0 0	
	Poppyseed	White	11 4 0	15 8 0	15 6 0	15 0 0	
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw	Good	Candy	251 0 0	515 0 0	510 0 0	475 0 0	
	Broach	Fully good	222 0 0	450 0 0	....	....
Oomra	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	....	....	....
Dharwar	Machine ginned	"	205 0 0	....	....	....
Khandesh	Do.	"	198 0 0	365 0 0	455 0 0	455 0 0	
Bengal	—	"					
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist	40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 9 0	1 10 6	1 10 0	
	Grey shirtings	Fari 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	13 12 0	12 12 0	12 14 0
	White mulls	6,600	"	4 3 0	11 8 0	8 4 0	8 4 0
	Shirtings	Liepman's 1,500	"	10 6 0	26 8 0	24 8 0	24 0 0
	Long cloth	Local made 36"×37½ yds...	Lb.	0 9 6	1 10 3	1 4 0	1 3 9
	Chudders	54"×6 yds.	"	0 9 6	1 6 0	1 3 0	1 2 9

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

Oilseeds— Linseed	Bold	100	150	151	147
	Cawnpore (brown)	100	128	118	122
	Do.	100	136	120	119
	White	100	138	137	133
Average—Oilseeds		100	138	132	131
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw	Good	100	205	203	189
	Fully good	100	203	....	....
	Saw-ginned	100	....	....	....
	Machine ginned	100	....	....	....
	Do.	100	184	230	230
Average—Cotton—raw		100	197	217	210
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist	40S	100	196	208	204
	Grey shirtings	100	232	215	217
	White mulls	100	75	197	197
	Shirtings	100	55	236	233
	Long cloth	100	76	210	208
	Chudders	100	53	200	197
Average—Cotton manufactures		100	248	211	209
Average—Textiles—Cotton		100	231	212	209

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods) continued

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk	Canton No. 5	Pucca seer	5 4 0	5 8 0	5 8 0	5 8 0
Do.	Nankin	..	17 12 0	30 8 0	30 8 0	30 8 0
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow	Tanned	Lb.	1 2 6	1 13 4	1 12 11	1 13 4
Do. Buffalo	Do.	..	1 1 3	0 14 7	0 15 8	0 11 8
Skins, Goat	Do.	..	1 4 0	2 2 6	2 2 2	2 5 6
Metals— Copper braziers	..	Cwt.	60 8 0	78 0 0	77 0 0	77 0 0
Iron bars	..	..	4 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
Steel hoops	..	..	7 12 0	15 0 0	14 0 0	14 0 0
Galvanized sheets	..	..	9 0 0	15 12 0	18 0 0	16 4 0
Tin plates	..	Box	8 12 0	19 0 0	17 12 0	17 12 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	27 0 0	8 0 0	8 0 0
Kerosene	Elephant brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 10 6	7 8 0	7 8 0
Do.	Chester brand	Case	5 2 0	10 3 0	10 0 6	10 0 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Other textiles— Silk	Canton No. 5	..	100	105	105	105
Do.	Nankin	..	100	172	172	172
Average—Other textiles	..	..	100	139	139	139
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow	Tanned	..	100	159	156	159
Do. Buffalo	Do.	..	100	85	91	68
Skins, Goat	Do.	..	100	172	171	187
Average—Hides and Skins	..	..	100	139	139	138
Metals— Copper braziers	..	..	100	129	127	127
Iron bars	..	..	100	200	200	200
Steel hoops	..	..	100	194	181	181
Galvanized sheets	..	..	100	175	200	181
Tin plates	..	..	100	217	203	203
Average—Metals	..	..	100	183	182	178
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal	Bengal	..	100	183	54	54
Kerosene	Elephant brand	..	100	175	171	171
Do.	Chester brand	..	100	199	196	196
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	..	..	100	186	140	140
Total—Food	..	..	100	188	178	176
Total—Non-food	..	..	100	184	170	168
General Average	..	..	100	186	173	171

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals— Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	59 0 0	49 0 0	45 0 0
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt.	..	31 8 0	46 0 0	33 4 0	34 8 0
.. red	5% barley, 3% dirt.	..	31 4 0	45 8 0	32 8 0	33 12 0
.. white	92% red, 2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt.	..	32 8 0	47 6 0	34 4 0	35 8 0
.. red	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt.	..	32 4 0	46 14 0	33 8 0	34 12 0
Jowari	Export Quality	..	25 8 0	28 0 0	22 0 0	23 0 0
Barley	3% dirt	..	26 8 0	32 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
Pulses— Gram	1% dirt	..	29 8 0	39 0 0	24 12 0	25 0 0
Sugar— Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	23 1 0	21 4 0	20 14 0
Do.	.. brown	..	8 1 6	21 14 0	....	....
Other food— Salt	Bengal Maund.	..	2 2 0	1 10 3	2 14 6	2 14 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals— Rice	Larkana No. 3	..	100	151	126	115
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt	..	100	146	106	110
.. red	30% red, 5% barley, 3% dirt	..	100	146	104	108
.. white	92% red, 2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt	..	100	146	105	109
.. red	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt	..	100	121	104	108
Jowari	Export Quality	..	100	110	86	90
Barley	3% dirt	..	100	145	94	94
Averages—Cereals	..	..	100	138	104	105
Pulses— Gram	1% dirt	..	100	132	84	85
Sugar— Sugar	Java white	..	100	253	233	229
..	.. brown	..	100	270	....	....
Average—Sugar	..	..	100	262	233	229
Other food—Salt	..	..	100	77	137	137

Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
Oilseeds— Cotton seed Rapeseed Gingelly	3% admixture Black, 9% admixture	Maund ..	2 11 3	4 0 0	3 8 0	3 10 0
		Candy ..	51 0 0	62 0 0	55 8 0	59 0 0
		.. ..	62 0 0	88 0 0	84 0 0	84 0 0
Textiles— Jute bags—	B. Twills	100 bags ..	38 4 0	48 12 0	47 8 0	45 0 0
Textile—Cotton— (a) Cotton, raw (b) Cotton manufactures— Drills Shirting Yarns	Sind Pepperill Liepmann's 40s. Grey (Plough)	Maund ..	20 4 0	38 0 0	51 2 0	49 10 0
		Piece ..	10 3 6	22 4 0	24 0 0	25 0 0
		.. ..	10 2 0	26 0 0	25 0 0	25 0 0
		Lb. ..	0 12 2	....	....	....
	
Other Textiles— Wool	Kandahar	Maund ..	28 0 0	22 8 0	37 0 0	36 0 0

Expressed as percentage of July 1914

Price in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds— Cotton seed Rapeseed Gingelly	3% admixture Black, 9% admixture	100	148	129	134
		100	122	109	116
		100	142	135	135
Average—Oilseeds .. ..	....	100	137	124	128
Textiles— Jute bags	Twills	100	127	124	118
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton, raw (b) Cotton manufactures— Drills Shirting Yarns	Sind Pepperill Liepmann's 40s. Grey (Plough)	100	188	252	245
		100	218	235	245
		100	257	247	247
		100	....	....	....
Average—Cotton manufactures .. ..	....	100	238	241	246
Average—Textiles—Cotton .. ..	....	100	221	245	246
Other Textiles—Wool .. ..	....	100	80	132	129

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	August 1922.	July 1923.	August 1923.
			Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.	Rs. s. p.
Hides— Hides dry	Sind Punjab	Maund ..	21 4 0	12 0 0	11 0 0	12 0 0
		.. ..	21 4 0	12 0 0	11 0 0	12 0 0
Metals— Copper Braziers Steel Bars Plates .. ..	....	Cwt. ..	60 8 0	79 0 0	78 8 0	79 0 0
		.. ..	3 14 0	7 8 0	7 0 0	7 2 0
		.. ..	4 6 0	8 12 0	7 6 0	7 8 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene	1st Class Bengal Chester Brand Elephant	Ton ..	15 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0
		Case ..	5 2 0	10 1 0	9 14 6	9 14 6
		2 Tins ..	4 7 0	7 8 6	7 6 0	7 6 0
	

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Hides— Hides dry	Sind Punjab	100	56	52	56
		100	56	52	56
Average—Hides .. ..	....	100	56	52	56
Metals— Copper Braziers Steel Bars Plates .. ..	....	100	131	130	131
		100	194	181	184
		100	200	169	171
Average—Metals .. ..	....	100	175	160	162
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Kerosene	1st Class Bengal Chester Brand Elephant	100	219	219	219
		100	196	193	193
		100	170	166	166
		100	....	....	....
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles .. ..	....	100	195	193	193
Total—Food .. ..	....	100	154	118	119
Total—Non-food .. ..	....	100	155	158	159
General Average .. ..	....	100	156	142	143



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

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Total non-food.	General average.
1920														
August ..	163	155	456	184	225	173	132	306	183	133	257	209	212	217
1921														
August ..	216	166	229	181	205	160	137	267	138	160	242	210	202	203
September ..	212	169	230	174	202	150	217	265	138	180	240	206	211	207
October ..	192	164	207	180	189	130	169	273	138	182	209	202	199	195
November ..	196	175	203	190	193	129	170	263	138	163	204	198	192	193
December ..	188	180	200	185	189	136	198	259	138	136	200	198	191	190
1922														
January ..	182	175	210	190	188	132	166	258	139	167	199	196	190	190
February ..	179	168	203	211	189	136	156	244	139	148	192	208	185	186
March ..	177	166	224	241	198	140	174	251	139	168	192	196	189	192
April ..	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	254	139	137	187	190	185	188
May ..	180	160	218	220	193	149	190	250	139	139	186	192	187	189
June ..	169	129	220	231	187	152	202	256	139	136	191	192	191	190
July ..	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	139	142	177	188	188	188
August ..	166	132	227	238	188	138	197	248	139	139	183	186	184	186
September ..	163	127	212	241	185	135	191	229	139	142	182	181	179	181
October ..	145	119	210	249	178	138	165	226	139	112	182	182	172	174
November ..	137	111	213	260	176	133	173	224	139	146	185	188	177	176
December ..	129	105	216	266	170	135	185	220	139	122	186	182	174	173
1923														
January ..	125	102	202	305	173	130	200	227	139	165	194	148	179	177
February ..	125	95	210	268	167	132	210	225	139	132	195	146	175	172
March ..	127	93	242	296	179	139	213	227	139	134	187	145	176	177
April ..	128	92	242	269	174	134	204	217	139	167	185	144	176	175
May ..	124	88	248	284	176	131	205	217	139	161	185	145	175	175
June ..	128	91	234	302	179	134	211	212	139	144	186	142	173	175
July ..	127	90	215	317	178	132	217	211	139	139	182	140	170	173
August ..	120	85	202	343	176	131	210	209	139	138	178	140	168	171

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, July and August 1923
The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

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



Retail prices of Articles of food in July and August 1923

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
		July 1923.	July 1923.	July 1923.	July 1923.	July 1923.	August 1923.	August 1923.	August 1923.	August 1923.	August 1923.				
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—											
Rice	Maund	6 15 7	6 14 1	8 0 0	7 12 3	8 14 3	6 12 6	6 12 4	8 0 0	7 12 3	8 14 3
Wheat	"	7 0 9	4 12 5	6 2 6	6 6 5	6 5 5	7 0 9	4 13 0	6 10 8	6 2 10	6 5 5
Jowari	"	4 14 11	3 10 2	3 12 11	3 13 5	4 1 4	5 4 6	3 10 2	3 13 4	3 12 9	4 1 4
Bajri	"	5 13 1	4 3 4	5 6 9	4 12 0	5 6 2	5 13 1	4 0 0	6 2 6	5 0 2	5 8 0
Pulses—											
Gram	"	4 14 9	3 15 7	5 11 5	4 3 5	4 1 4	4 14 9	3 9 10	5 11 5	4 3 5	4 1 4
Turdal	"	6 15 7	5 13 11	5 11 5	5 15 6	7 6 3	6 15 7	6 2 6	5 11 5	6 1 0	7 14 5
Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined)	"	22 6 0	17 6 3	22 13 9	26 10 8	19 14 0	18 11 5	16 1 3	19 12 1	22 13 9	18 11 5
Jagri (gul)	"	14 4 7	10 7 10	13 5 4	10 0 0	10 8 5	14 4 7	10 0 0	12 12 10	10 0 0	10 8 5
Tea	Lb.	0 13 10	0 10 4	0 15 7	0 12 4	0 13 3	0 13 10	0 11 1	0 15 11	0 12 4	0 12 5
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 5 7	4 3 4
Beef	Seer	0 8 2	0 9 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 8 2	0 9 6	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton	"	0 14 4	0 10 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 14 10	0 11 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 0
Milk	Maund	17 9 4	7 9 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	14 8 9	17 9 4	7 12 11	10 0 0	13 5 4	14 8 9
Ghee	"	86 7 9	72 11 8	91 6 10	71 1 9	84 3 4	94 1 11	76 3 1	91 6 10	76 3 1	84 3 4
Potatoes	"	9 5 3	9 11 2	8 10 5	11 6 10	7 2 10	10 2 6	10 3 1	10 0 0	13 5 4	10 8 5
Onions	"	5 7 1	2 10 0	4 12 5	3 10 2	4 10 4	6 14 10	3 2 5	5 0 0	3 12 11	5 12 1
Cocconut oil	"	30 7 7	26 3 8	32 0 0	26 10 8	29 5 8	28 9 1	26 0 3	32 0 0	26 10 8	29 5 8

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

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

Cereals—											
Rice	125	103	130	147	154	121	102	130	147	154	
Wheat	126	114	131	124	118	126	114	142	120	118	
Jowari	113	100	100	134	119	121	100	101	132	119	
Bajri	135	100	115	135	131	135	95	131	142	134	
Average—cereals	125	104	119	135	131	126	103	126	135	131	
Pulses—											
Gram	114	104	143	98	84	114	95	143	98	84	
Turdal	119	88	93	102	112	119	92	93	104	120	
Average—pulses	117	96	118	100	98	117	94	118	101	102	
Other articles of food—											
Sugar (refined)	294	239	254	267	212	246	221	220	229	200	
Jagri (gul)	167	151	150	129	150	167	144	144	129	150	
Tea	178	150	200	120	162	178	161	205	120	177	
Salt	199	234	221	187	224	199	234	221	196	224	
Beef	158	180	100	240	141	158	190	100	240	141	
Mutton	215	167	200	167	183	222	183	200	167	183	
Milk	191	172	200	183	145	191	176	200	183	163	
Ghee	170	170	206	127	163	185	179	206	185	145	
Potatoes	208	179	227	286	213	227	188	263	333	312	
Onions	351	144	239	145	232	446	173	250	152	287	
Cocconut oil	120	107	160	100	105	113	106	160	100	105	
Average—other articles of food	205	172	196	177	175	211	178	197	180	190	
Average—all food articles (unweighted)	175	147	169	158	156	180	150	171	160	166	



Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

Country.	ASIA AND OCEANIA				AFRICA		EUROPE				France.	Italy. (a)
	India (Bombay)	Japan.	Australia.	New Zealand.	Egypt (Cairo).	South Africa.	United Kingdom.					
No. of articles.	43	56	92	140	24	188	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	45	..
1913 Average ..	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	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	153	226	..	..	..	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
922 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	156	159	362	580
1923 January ..	177	184	171	171	141	130	153	161	157	160	387	575
.. February ..	172	192	169	173	137	..	155	163	158	162	422	582
.. March ..	177	196	171	174	136	..	156	163	160	164	424	587
.. April ..	175	196	174	174	133	126	158	165	161	165	415	588
.. May ..	175	199	178	..	134	..	156	164	160	163	407	580
.. June ..	175	198	..	..	128	..	150	160	159	159	409	568
.. July ..	173	192	..	..	..	..	147	155	157	156	407	..
.. August ..	171	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Country.	EUROPE—continued.							NORTH AMERICA.			
	Switzer- land.	Belgium.	Germany. (d)	Nether- lands (d)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Canada.	United States of America.		
No. of articles.	71	209	77	..	93	47	33	272	(5)	(6)	(7)
1913 Average ..	100	100	100	100	(e)	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914 ..	100	100	105	105	100	116	..	100	..	98	..
1915 ..	..	..	142	145	(f) 159	145	138	109	..	101	..
1916 ..	..	..	153	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 March ..	163	350	5,433	161	240	164	178	166	126	142	147
.. April ..	161	344	6,355	162	236	165	177	166	125	143	149
.. May ..	160	348	6,458	165	231	164	179	167	127	148	158
.. June ..	161	356	7,030	167	230	164	180	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	178	164	131	155	165
.. September ..	163	364	27,419	153	225	158	176	163	131	153	164
.. October ..	169	385	56,600	156	221	155	180	162	136	154	165
.. November ..	170	408	115,100	158	221	154	182	164	145	156	164
.. December ..	175	407	147,480	158	220	155	181	165	150	156	164
1923 January ..	178	434	278,500	159	220	156	192	165	149	156	166
.. February ..	181	474	558,470	158	224	158	199	166	149	157	166
.. March ..	186	482	488,800	164	229	162	200	167	151	159	169
.. April ..	187	480	521,200	163	231	159	204	168	151	159	169
.. May ..	181	474	817,000	..	233	158	202	169	..	156	167
.. June ..	180	484	1,938,500	..	230	160	207	167	..	153	164
.. July ..	..	..	7,478,788	..	235	157	207	166	..	151	..

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

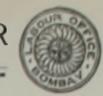


Table I—Principal Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Date of formation.	Number of members.	Name and address of	
				President or Chairman.	Secretary.
1. Bombay City	1. The Indian Seamen's Union.	April 1921	10,000	L. A. Salazar, Frere Road, Bombay.	Not yet appointed.
	2. The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union.	July 1920	2,000	Rai Saheb Chandrika Prasad of Ajmer.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
				Vice-President—F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	
	3. The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union (Carriage and Wagon Departments).	May 1919	2,000	Rai Saheb Chandrika Prasad of Ajmer.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
				Vice-President—F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union.	March 1920	3,500	F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	5. The Clerks' Union	April 1918	950	B. M. Anandrao, B.A., Malabar Lumbering Company, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay.	1. Anant Padmanabh, Patel and Mukerjee, 53, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay. 2. S. Bhawani Rao, Chelabhai Building, Chaupati, Bombay.
				Vice-President—Nanala Parbhuram, Bombay.	
Ahmedabad	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers) Union.	April 1918	1,000	F. J. Ginwalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	7. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union.	May 1921	4,113	Motilal J. Mehta, Sub-Assistant Auditor, Audit Office, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.	1. Swami Mwaitanand, C. I. P. Railway Staff Union Office, Dadar, Bombay. 2. Narayan C. Kale, Operative Branch, C. T. S.'s Office, Bombay.
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union	July 1922	350	Not elected	S. H. Jhabwalla, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
				Total Members, Bombay City	23,913
Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union.	February 1920	778	Anusuya Sarabhai, Sewa Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad. Assistant Secretary.—Khandubhai Kasanbhai Desai, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	2. The Winders' Union.	June 1920	178	Do.	Do.

(Continued on page 46)



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

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Date of formation.	Number of members.	Name and address of	
				President or Chairman.	Secretary.
2. Ahmedabad— <i>cont'd.</i>	3. The Throstle Union.	February 1920 ..	4,500	Anusuya Sarabhai, Sewa Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	August 1920 ..	1,340	Do.	Assistant Secretary—Khandobhai Kasanbhai Desai, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	5. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	September 1920 ..	68	Do.	Do.
	6. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.	February 1919 ..	200	V. J. Patel, Khamasa, Ahmedabad.	M. V. Kothari, Raipur, Ahmedabad.
	7. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Association.	February 1920 ..	3,485	Do.	M. V. Kothari, Raipur, Ahmedabad. Assistant Secretary—B. N. Sandil, Dolatkhana Sarangpur, Ahmedabad.
	Total Members, Ahmedabad ..		10,549		
	3. Sukkur	N. W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	September 1920 ..	3,574	Shahzada Misri, Carriage and Wagon Shop, Sukkur.	Tirlokinath Kaul, Station Road (Gharibabad), Sukkur.
4. Karachi	N. W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	1920 ..	3,000	Thawar Dass, Head Claims Clerk, Tholeproduce Yard, Karachi.	Kanti Parkash, Bunder Road, Vishbandass Nihal Chand Building, Karachi.
5. Sholapur	The Barai Light Railway Employees' Union.	March 1921 ..	500	G. G. Bhadbhade, Kurduwadi.	G. T. Malgi, Kurduwadi.
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union	February 1921 ..	110	John Mathews, Foreman, Scottish Mission Press, Poona Cantonment.	1. G. T. Sakpal, 879, Shukrawar Peth, Poona City. 2. N. B. Purohit, Gourishankar Press, Poona City.
	Total, rest of Presidency ..		7,184		
	Total Members, Presidency ..		41,646		



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

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Income per month.	Sum paid per member per month.	Expenditure
				per month.
		Rs.		Rs.
1. Bombay City	1. The Indian Seamen's Union ..	958	Rs. 6 (per year)	1,582
	2. The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union.	312	From 1 to 8 annas according to pay ..	115
	3. The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union ..	339	From 1 to 8 annas according to pay ..	128
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union ..	250	As. 4 for those earning Rs. 50 and under per month; As. 8 for those earning above Rs. 50.	60
	5. The Clerks' Union ..	200	As. 4 ..	75
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (Including Packers') Union.	200	As. 8 ..	80
	7. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union ..	500	One day's pay per year ..	450
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.	157	As. 8 ..	15
Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union ..	194	As. 8 ..	175
	2. The Winders' Union ..	22	As. 2 ..	12
	3. The Throstle Union ..	1,125	As. 4 per labourer; As. 2 per doffer; Anna 1 per half day worker (doffer).	500
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	335	As. 4 ..	226
	5. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	30	As. 12 per oilman; Re. 1 per driver or fireman.	14
	6. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.	Not reported..	Re. 1 per year for workers earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 2 per year for those earning above Rs. 50.	Not reported.
	7. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employee's Association.	682	Rs. 2 per year for workers earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 3 for those earning Rs. 50 to 100; Rs. 4 for those earning Rs. 100 and upwards.	300
3. Sukkur	The N. W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	389	Subscription at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of monthly pay from all members.	180
4. Karachi	The N. W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	600	Do. ..	200
5. Sholapur	The Barai Light Railway Employees' Union.	About 40 ..	An amount equal to one day's pay as drawn by a member on the 1st of January of each year.	From Rs. 30 to Rs. 40.
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union ..	4	As. 2 to As. 3 ..	About 2.

SEPT., 1923

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

Count or Number.	Month of July.			Four months ended July.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	6,942	6,597	6,081	25,676	25,419	23,572
Nos. 11 to 20	21,283	18,923	17,464	80,464	78,172	68,565
Nos. 21 to 30	14,386	14,029	13,655	54,231	55,765	44,194
Nos. 31 to 40	1,098	1,210	1,194	4,638	4,956	3,370
Above 40	207	172	208	659	714	692
Waste, etc.	104	10	12	143	44	51
Total	44,020	40,941	38,614	165,811	165,070	140,444

Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of July.			Four months ended July.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	6,263	5,994	5,532	23,416	23,317	21,867
Nos. 11 to 20	15,520	13,048	11,718	58,368	54,838	52,031
Nos. 21 to 30	8,543	8,647	8,462	33,279	33,727	31,355
Nos. 31 to 40	531	576	623	2,165	2,126	2,023
Above 40	94	91	113	351	405	380
Waste, etc.	95	2	2	115	8	12
Total	31,046	28,358	26,450	117,694	114,421	107,668

Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of July.			Four months ended July.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	278	130	138	749	467	216
Nos. 11 to 20	2,819	2,919	3,194	10,284	11,453	6,032
Nos. 21 to 30	4,312	4,035	3,942	15,341	16,324	7,462
Nos. 31 to 40	457	533	417	2,046	2,359	864
Above 40	87	54	73	209	220	163
Waste, etc. .. ..	....	....	1	1	....	1
Total	7,953	7,671	7,765	28,630	30,823	14,738

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

Description.	Month of July.			Four months ended July.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders Pounds	1,177	1,394	1,517	5,158	4,535	4,147
Dhotis	5,497	6,271	5,413	27,315	26,641	17,218
Drills and jeans	932	689	883	3,495	2,694	3,308
Cambrics and lawns	93	38	15	359	302	87
Printers	243	412	279	1,268	1,806	1,094
Shirtings and long cloth	6,895	7,684	7,506	34,765	32,922	26,547
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,188	823	833	5,825	3,767	3,697
Tent cloth	100	95	85	367	336	270
Other sorts	764	1,351	1,976	3,593	5,313	6,627
Total	16,889	18,757	18,507	82,145	78,316	62,995
Coloured piece-goods	6,788	6,617	7,379	27,897	23,950	26,421
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	163	409	232	651	756	581
Hosiery	15	13	17	59	48	52
Miscellaneous	77	61	101	316	319	320
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	3	6	7	22	33	66
Grand Total	23,935	25,863	26,243	111,090	103,422	90,435

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of July.			Four months ended July.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders Pounds	769	752	882	3,090	2,446	2,759
Dhotis	1,854	1,882	1,923	8,365	7,993	6,755
Drills and jeans	906	652	841	3,273	2,551	3,117
Cambrics and lawns	74	22	7	284	175	53
Printers	11	70	4	36	178	38
Shirtings and long cloth	5,284	5,456	5,668	25,154	23,956	20,877
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	1,036	657	658	4,847	3,081	3,205
Tent cloth	77	78	56	289	294	212
Other sorts	437	905	1,321	1,894	3,666	4,770
Total	10,448	10,474	11,360	47,232	44,340	41,786



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

Description.	Month of July.			Four months ended July.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	5,824	5,622	6,061	23,586	19,745	21,847
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	157	399	219	622	727	542
Hosiery ..	9	9	10	34	35	28
Miscellaneous ..	76	60	96	315	316	311
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	2	5	6	21	31	63
Grand Total ..	16,516	16,569	17,752	71,810	65,194	64,577

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of July.			Four months ended July.		
	1921.	1922.	1923.	1921.	1922.	1923.
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chudders Pounds ..	295	480	507	1,655	1,701	1,134
Dhotis ..	2,716	3,399	2,632	14,726	14,561	6,666
Drills and jeans ..	5	21	25	144	89	94
Cambrics and lawns ..	11	7	6	49	89	17
Printers ..	164	209	204	949	1,075	569
Shirts and long cloth ..	952	1,756	1,409	6,928	6,891	3,772
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	128	152	155	900	601	437
Tent cloth ..	.....	3	22	10	5	35
Other sorts ..	176	223	387	929	784	893
Total ..	4,447	6,250	5,347	26,290	25,796	13,617
Coloured piece-goods						
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods ..	344	359	675	1,762	1,720	2,115
Hosiery ..	2	1	1	6	3	2
Miscellaneous ..	6	4	7	25	13	22
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	.....	1	5	.....	3	12
Grand Total ..	4,799	6,616	6,035	28,083	27,536	15,763



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in August 1923

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved.		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trade.</i>						
1. The Saraswati Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Broach.	708	....	2 July ..	8 August ..	Against a general reduction in wages by 15½ per cent. from the 1st of July 1923.	Compromised, the terms being a reduction in wages of 12½ per cent. instead of the proposed reduction of 15½ per cent.
2. The Broach Fine Counts Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Broach.	620	....	10 July ..	18 August ..	Against a general reduction in wages by 15½ per cent.	Compromised, the terms being a reduction in wages of 12½ per cent. instead of the proposed reduction of 15½ per cent.
3. The Hathising Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Ahmedabad.	75	....	28 July ..	3 August ..	Against the Manager's order to stop gathering in large numbers near a certain hotel.	Work resumed unconditionally.
4. The Bombay United Mill, Charni Road, Girgaum, Bombay.	45	....	1 August ..	4 August ..	(1) Against a warning by the management to improve output, followed by (2) demand for higher wages.	Work resumed unconditionally.
5. The New Islam Mills, Suparibaug, Parel, Bombay.	177	....	1 August ..	2 August ..	Against reduction in the rates of payment for certain kinds of cloth.	An increase granted, of half a pie over the reduced rates, and work resumed.
6. The Planet Mill, Fergusson Road, Parel, Bombay.	60	....	2 August ..	6 August ..	Demand for higher rates of wages.	Work resumed unconditionally.
7. The Gordhan Spinning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Naroda Road, Ahmedabad.	25	....	8 August ..	10 August ..	Demand for being allowed to have a jobber of their own community.	Work resumed unconditionally.
8. The Crescent Mill, Fergusson Road, Bombay.	230	....	18 August ..	19 August ..	Demand for higher wages to make up the deficit caused by the discontinuance of Sunday allowances.	Work resumed unconditionally.
9. The Century Mill, Elphinstone Road, Bombay.	1,274	....	25 August ..	28 August ..	(1) Against the ill-treatment of the weavers by the Assistant Weaving Master; and (2) demand for his removal.	Work resumed unconditionally.
10. The New Maneckchowk Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Dariapur, Ahmedabad.	297	....	28 August ..	30 August ..	Against a reduction by two pies in the rates per sheet of cloth produced.	Demands of the strikers granted, and work resumed.
11. The Ahmedabad Ginning and Manufacturing Co., Ltd., outside Sarangapur, Ahmedabad.	800	....	29 August ..	....	Against a reduction by two pies in the rates paid per pair of dhotars produced.	No settlement reported.
12. The Century Mill, Elphinstone Road, Bombay.	1,274	....	30 August ..	....	Demand for the removal of the Assistant Weaving Master for his alleged ill-treatment of the weavers.	No settlement reported.



Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of workpeople involved		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Engineering.</i>						
13. Messrs. J. C. Gammon & Co., Ltd., Contractors for the Bombay Development Directorate's Concrete Chawls, DeLisle Road, Bombay.	110	....	14 August ..	16 August ..	Demand for higher wages.	Some strikers resumed work unconditionally, the rest being replaced by new hands.
14. The Carriage and Wagon Department, N. W. Railway, Kotri.	91	....	21 August ..	23 August ..	Against the alleged high-handedness of the Head Train Examiner.	Strikers discharged and new men engaged in their places.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
15. The G Ward Toddy Drawers, Dadar, Bombay.	334	....	29 August ..	....	Demand for an increase in pay from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50 exclusive of the daily allowance of two annas.	No settlement reported.

CURRENT NOTES FROM ABROAD

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

South Africa.—According to the South African Government Factory Report for 1921, reports from every area of the Union show that the number of juveniles employed in factories and workshops has appreciably decreased. The number of juveniles medically examined in 1921 was 870 as against 1,706 in 1920, while 155 children under 14 years of age received permission to work as against 319 in the previous year. The report states that owing to the fact that it is cheaper to engage new hands than to retain older hands by a rise in wages, there is great temptation to exploit child labour, since child workers are utterly unorganised and too ignorant to appeal against excessive hours or low wages. This is particularly true in the case of native and Asiatic labour where the parents are equally ignorant and resent any measures restricting the hours of their children which result in their bringing home less money.

Complaints are frequently made regarding the type of worker which offers for factory work, and yet, except in a few printing and engineering shops, no attempt is made to

encourage juveniles to complete their education and improve their status. Moreover, except in the boot-making trade, the opportunity for European apprentices is limited owing to the infiltration of coloured labour in printing, building and other trades due to the fact that such labour is cheaper and more efficient than that of white apprentices. The report recommends as a solution of these difficulties the establishment of a properly supervised system of apprenticeship and states that "the juvenile labour turn-over may be further diminished by a more careful selection in the first instance with regard to the physiological and physical fitness and vocational aptitude".

United States of America.—Under the chairmanship of Mr. Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of Labour, a campaign was launched at Chicago on 20th June to organise the 375,000 steel workers in United States, at present divided among 16 unions, into one strong, central organisation. According to the plan adopted at the Chicago Convention, the organising campaign will start in the three large steel centres: Chicago, Cleveland and Bethlehem.

The iron and steel industry has given its promise to the President to abolish the twelve-hour day at the earliest time practicable. To do so, according to the head of the United States Steel Corporation, involves two vital and fundamental conditions: first, an



additional labour supply of at least 60,000 men; and second, an increase of 15 per cent. in the cost of production of steel.

Japan.—On 22nd May 1923 an Imperial Order was issued containing administrative regulation for the application of the Act of 19th April 1922 concerning investigations for the collection of labour statistics. According to the order a census for the purpose of collecting labour statistics is to be taken on 10th October once every three years, beginning with 1923, under the supervision of the Minister of Home Affairs. The census will cover factories employing not less than 30 workers and mines (including alluvial works) employing not less than 50 workers. In the cotton and jute spinning industry only factories employing not less than 300 workers will be included and in the raw silk, silk spinning, ship-building, coach-building, paper, match and cement industries, only factories employing not less than 100 workers. In certain specified industries, chiefly those in which hand work predominates, and industries of a dangerous character, the inquiry will cover factories employing not less than 15 workers. The points dealt with by the inquiry will include hours of work, rest periods, wages, standard of education, etc.

Bulgaria.—The New Bulgarian Government has no intention of abolishing compulsory labour, but certain modifications will be made. The compulsory service of young persons will be enforced, but in future the contingents called up will be smaller and will be divided into larger groups. The compulsory labour of women will be abolished. The question of the temporary compulsory service of citizens up to 45 years of age, will be left to the discretion of the municipal councils.

Serb-Croat-Slovene Kingdom.—A Conference of representatives of Chambers of Labour from all parts of the country was held at Belgrade on 15th July. The Conference declared that the Act concerning protection of workers was only partially applied and decided to send a protest on the subject to the Minister of Social Welfare. With regard to the question of immigration of alien workers into the Kingdom, the majority of the representatives declared themselves in favour of State control and restrictions. The seamen's

strike which has been in progress for five weeks was, according to the unanimous opinion of the Conference, fully justified and it was decided that steps should be taken with the Minister of Social Welfare in favour of the strikers.

On the ground that the Minister of Transport had not submitted for the consideration of the Chambers of Labour, in accordance with the provisions of the Act concerning the Protection of Workers, the bill concerning railway employees, the Conference decided that Parliament be requested to postpone the consideration of this bill until the views of the Chambers of Labour had been heard. Finally, it was decided that a central secretariat of the Chambers of Labour be established at Belgrade and that uniform regulations for all the Chambers of Labour be drafted.

Czechoslovakia.—According to the report of the German Trade Union Federation of Czechoslovakia for 1922 the number of members at the end of the year was 285,376. The number at the end of 1920 was 403,210 and at the end of 1921, 364,555.

The loss of membership in 1922 was 22·86 per cent. in male members and 26·32 per cent. in female members.

The total membership is distributed among the different trades as follows:—

Building workers	17,298
Clothing workers	4,050
Miners	31,302
Chemical workers	14,035
Railwaymen	23,036
Gardeners	560
Hotel employees and domestic servants	10,550
Glass workers	1,806
Printers' Union	6,211
Commercial and transport workers	7,037
Wood workers	9,867
Pottery workers	9,052
Agricultural and forestry workers	2,911
Food and drink workers	30,081
Metal workers	4,475
Tobacco workers	71,313
Textile workers	8,564
Central Union of Non-manual workers in industry, Trade and Transport	5,200
Union of Non-manual workers in Mining and Smelting	4,911
Postal employees	7,766
Public officials	1,081
Musicians	870
Theatrical employees	870
Total	285,376

* In 1922 amalgamated with the Union of Food and Drink Workers.

The economic depression made severe demands on most of the affiliated unions under the heading of unemployment relief. As



SEPT., 1923

against 2,600,075 crowns expended in unemployment relief in 1921 the unions in 1922 paid out altogether 8,673,709 crowns. In spite of this, the total resources of the unions were only reduced by 1,923,910 crowns. As regards the co-operation with the Czechoslovak organisations it is to be noted that the two central organisations as well as individual unions have met for consultation on several occasions.

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CHARTS

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

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1922.

GNART No. 3.

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

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

NOTES

1. With the wet season, the whiter the chart, the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient, and Black areas excessive rains.
2. Excess: More than 120 per cent of the normal.
- Normal: 80-120 per cent of the normal.
- Fair: 40-79 per cent of the normal.
- Scanty: Less than 40 per cent of the normal.

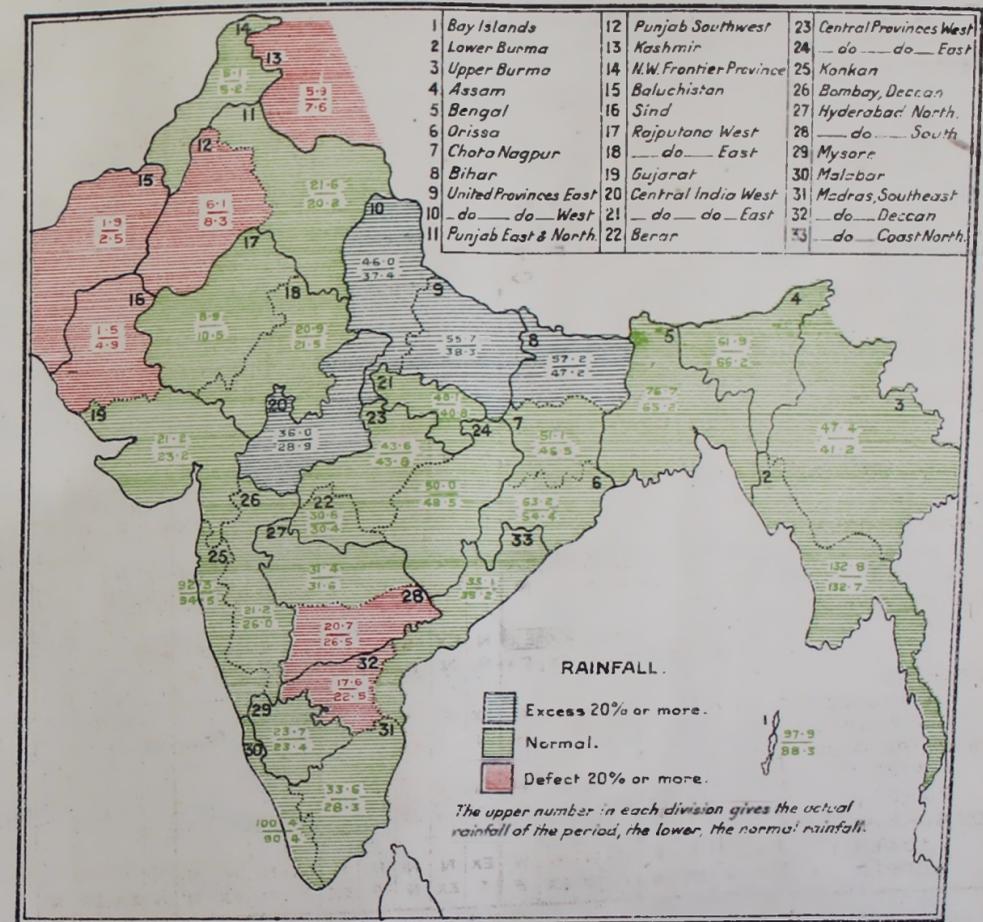
Normals for Divisions are means of Normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations. The Daily Weather Report gives the complete list of stations.

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.

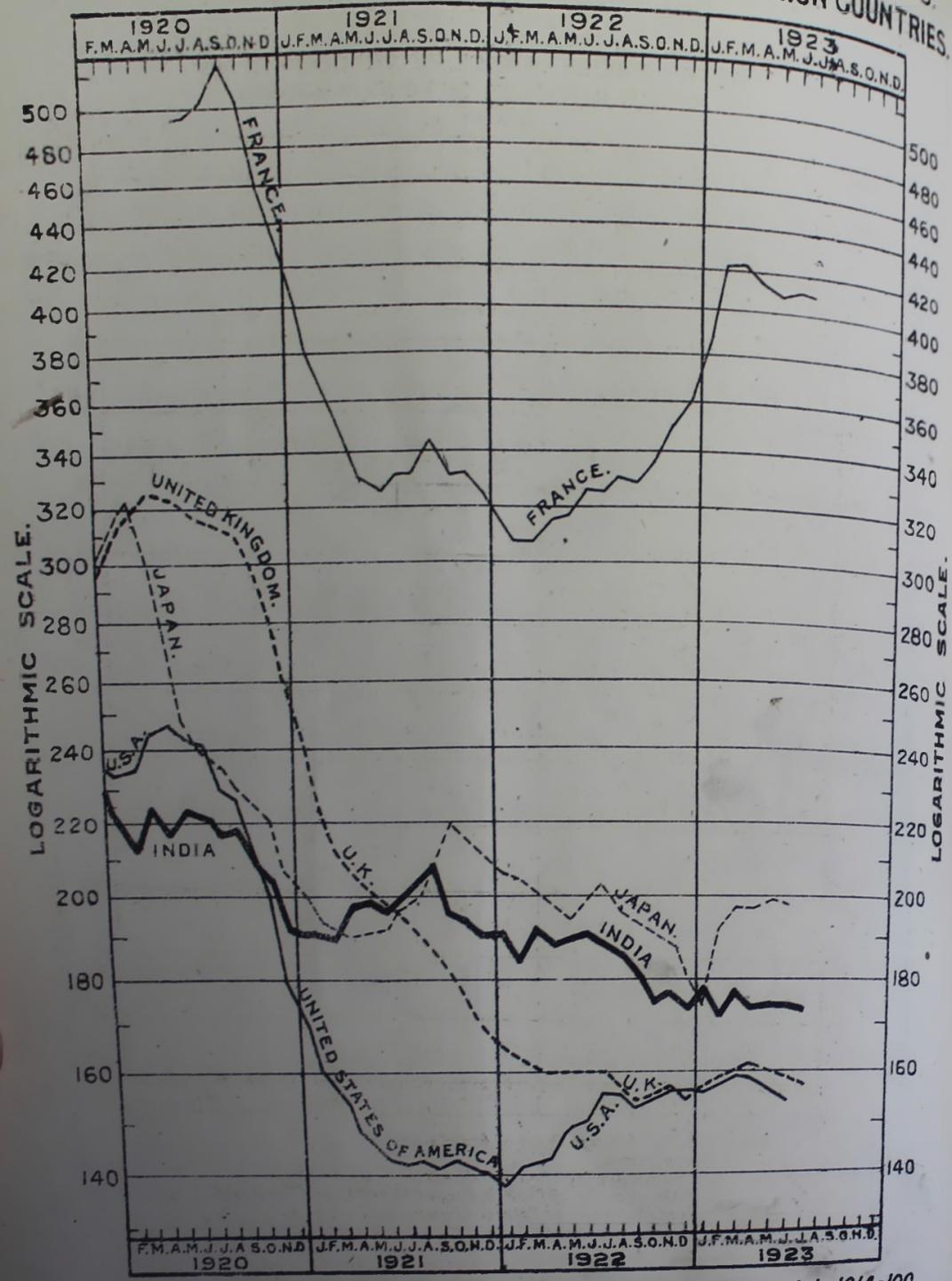
As the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the Indus above the fair irrigating level and the rainfall are shown. The date of the normal rise is in the first week of June and of the normal fall the last week of September.

CHART No. 4.

RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1922.



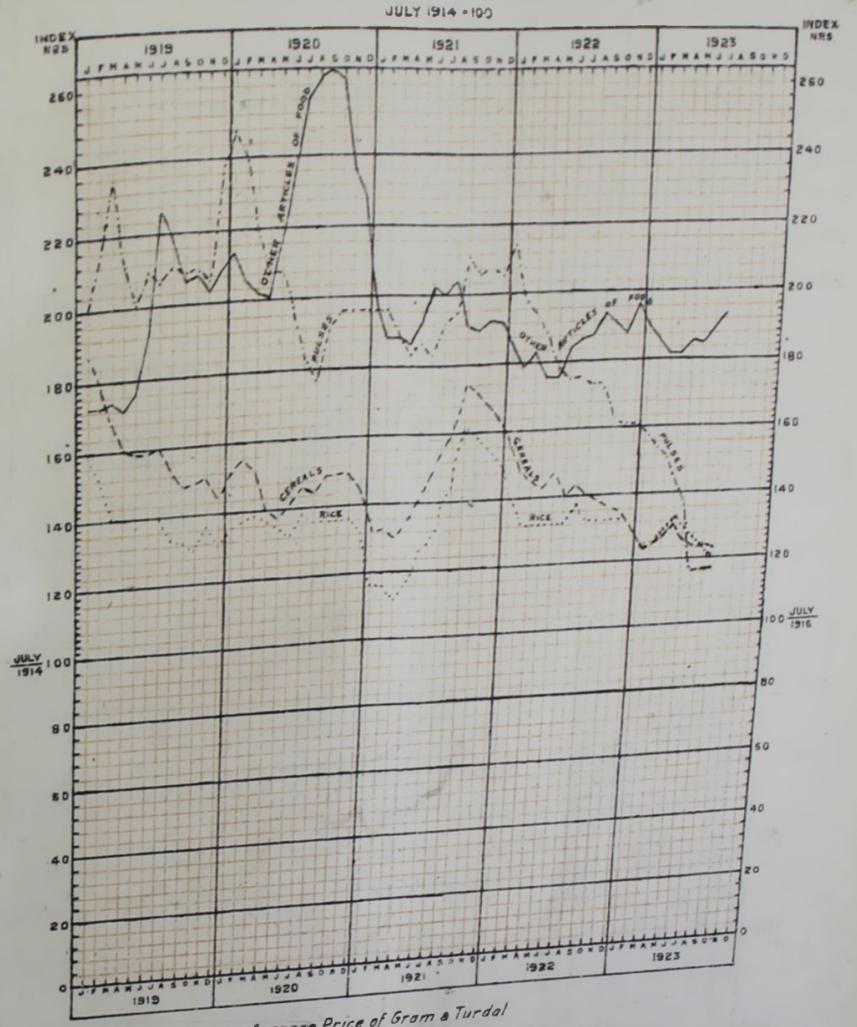
INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES. CHART No. 5.



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

Chart No. 6

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



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

CHART No 7.

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

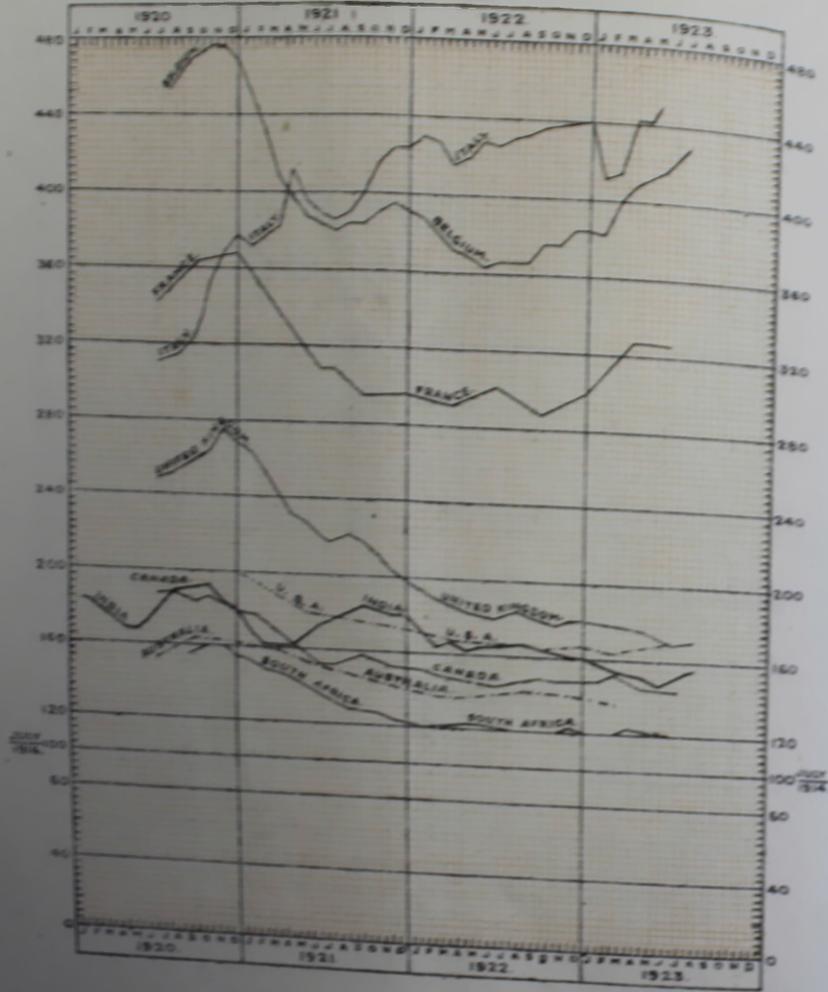
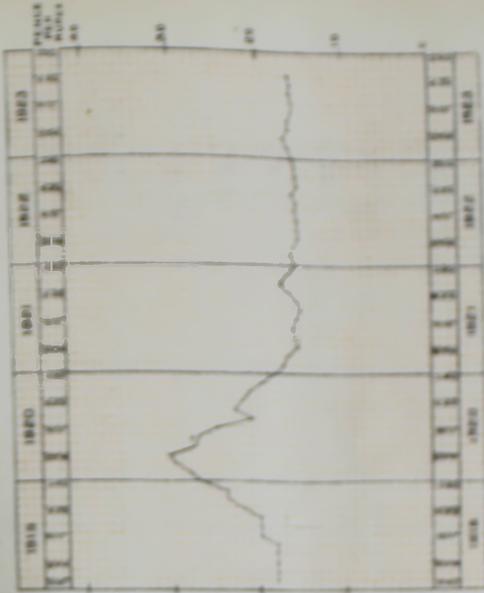


CHART No 8.

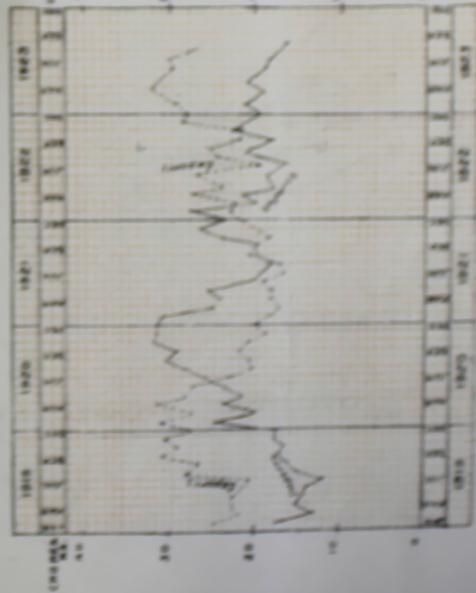
RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY.



Note: The rates for the rate of exchange are taken from the preceding chart. When the business of trade in gold and silver is not in operation, the rate of exchange is not shown. This is the case in the following months: July 1918, July 1919, July 1920, July 1921, July 1922, July 1923.

CHART No 9.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA.



Note: Each square represents 100 million of Rupees.

CHART N° 10

WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS

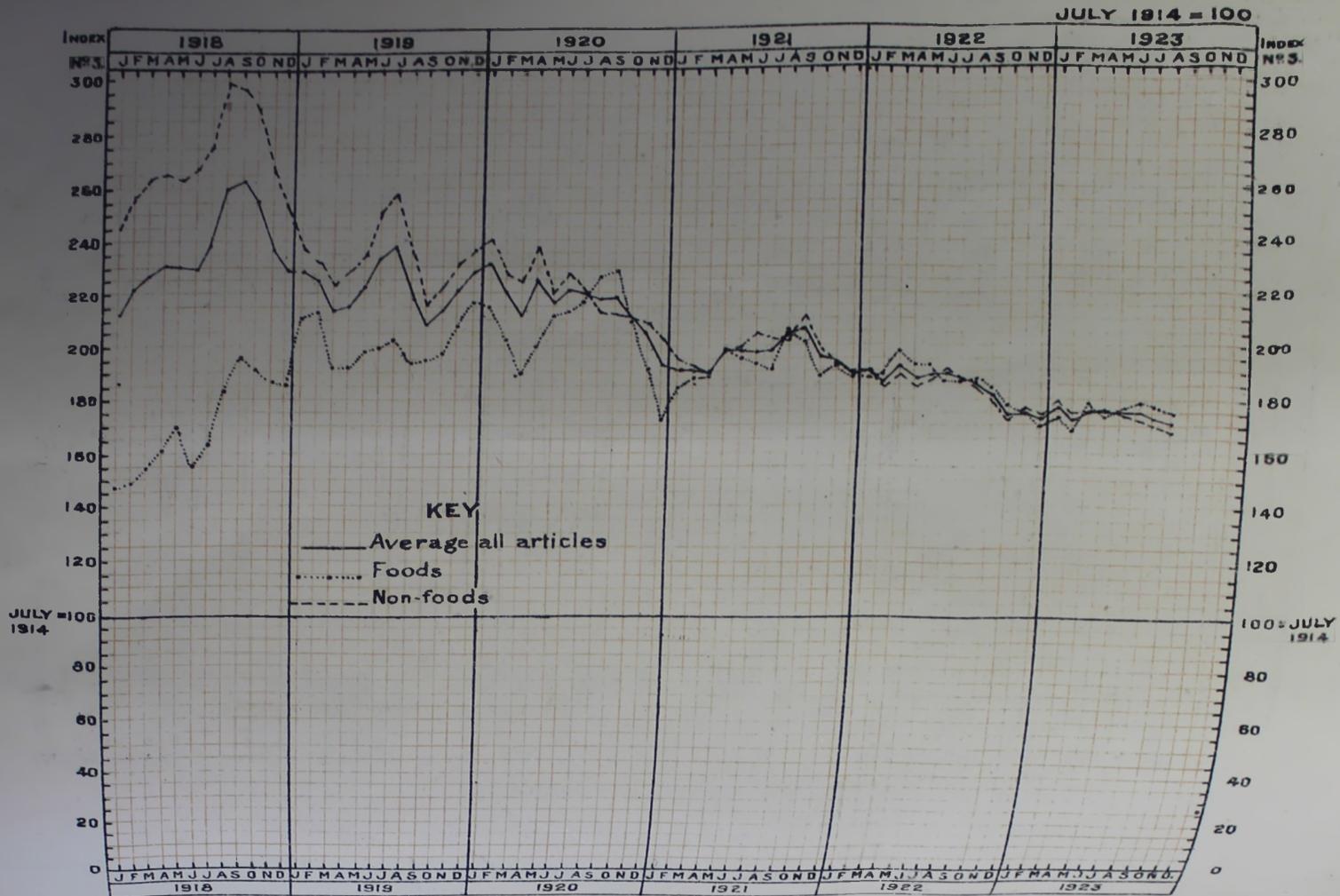


CHART N° 11

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED

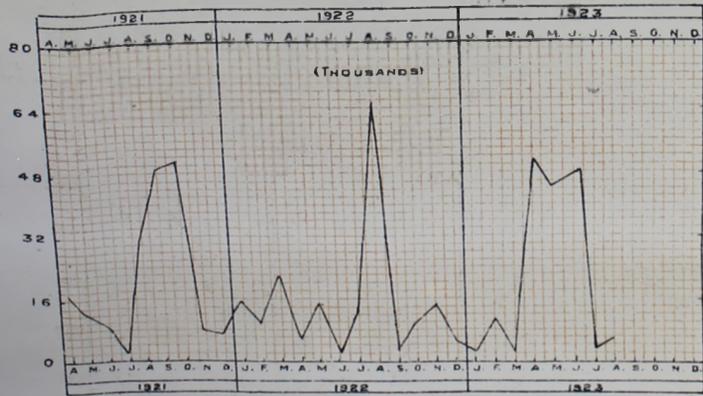
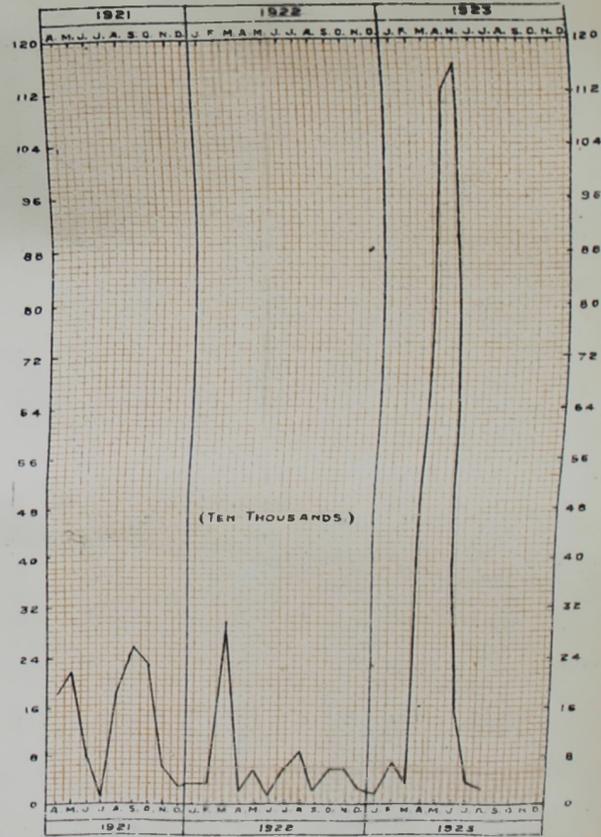


CHART N° 12



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