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**HARRY T. GORRIE,**

Manager for Bombay Presidency, Malabar Coast and Sind,

Canada Building, Hornby Road, BOMBAY.



The Month in Brief

EMPLOYMENT—THE COTTON INDUSTRY

**D**URING the month ended 12th February 1924, the supply of labour in the Presidency was generally plentiful.

For BOMBAY CITY AND ISLAND, detailed statistics regarding the supply of labour and absenteeism have not been received from a representative number of cotton mills in view of the general strike in this industry. Returns were received from nine mills showing absenteeism for the days these mills were working during the month under review. Based on such a small number of returns, however, the figures of absenteeism are not strictly comparable. The average absenteeism for these nine mills up to and including the 24th January, the last day before the strike became general, was 10·7 per cent. The figures of average absenteeism for the last six months are as follows:—

July-August	12·71 per cent.
August-September	12·53 "
September-October	14·53 "
October-November	15·31 "
November-December	11·09 "
December-January	10·6 "

In AHMEDABAD, the supply of labour was, as in the last month, reported to be equal to the demand during the month under review. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been received from representative mills in this centre. These reports showed an average absenteeism of 5·3 per cent. during the month as compared with 5·4 per cent. last month.

In SHOLAPUR, the supply of labour was adequate but absenteeism in the month under review recorded an increase. The average absenteeism was 14·5 per cent. in the present month as compared with 13·7 per cent. last month and 15·43 per cent. two months ago.

In BHOACH, the supply of labour was adequate in two of the reporting mills; in the remainder it was insufficient. Absenteeism showed a slight increase as compared with the preceding month, the figures being 7·7 per cent. in the present month as compared with 7·3 per cent. last month.

In SURAT, the supply of labour was normal in the month under review. Absenteeism, however, remained

on the same level with last month, the figures being 11·7 per cent. in the present month as compared with 11·6 per cent. in the preceding month.

THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

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 an improvement, the figures being 10·9 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 13·53 per cent. last month and 15·16 per cent. two months ago.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism was 5·25 per cent. as compared with 5 per cent. in the preceding month as well as two months ago. On the construction of *chauls* (tenements) at Naigsum and DeLisle Road, absenteeism remained on the same level (3 per cent.) as in the previous month. On the construction of *chauls* at Worli, absenteeism showed a decrease to 8 per cent. as compared with 9 per cent. last month. The supply of unskilled labour employed for loading, removing, storing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was plentiful. The percentage of absenteeism was 17·3 in the month under review, the same as in the preceding month, as compared with 18·05 two months ago. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply of labour was greater than the demand but a slight increase in absenteeism was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism was 9·69 as compared with 8·4 last month and 11·59 two months ago.

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, recorded a slight improvement, the figure being 10·5 per cent. as compared with 10·8 per cent. in the preceding month.

THE COST OF LIVING

In January 1924, the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, rose by nearly one per cent. as compared with 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 158 for all articles and 154 for food articles only. There was a rise of more than 1 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 18 per cent. below the high water mark (October 1920). The rise in the percentage during January was mainly due to increases in the prices of gram, sugar and clothing.

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. A further reference to the cost of living index will be found on page 7.

#### THE WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

In January 1924, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay remained stationary at a level of 188. A decline of 3 per cent. in the food index was compensated by a rise of more than 2 per cent. in the non-food index. The number of articles included in the index number is now 44. The fluctuations in the prices of foods, non-foods and all articles will be seen in the following table:—

	Increase per cent. over July 1914				
	September 1923	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924
Foods ..	82	85	89	94	88
Non-foods ..	78	79	85	85	89
All articles ..	79	81	86	88	88

#### SECURITIES INDEX NUMBER

In January 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities was 146 showing a fall of more than 5 per cent. as compared with the previous month. Industrial Securities registered a fall of nearly 6 per cent. owing to a fall of 9 per cent. in cotton mill shares and 4 per cent. in Miscellaneous Companies. Government and Corporation Securities, Railway Companies and Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies remained stationary during the month. Railway Companies have now reached the level of that of July 1914. Detailed information will be found on page 11 of this issue.

#### COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

Cotton mill production in December and in the nine months ended December 1923, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two previous years, is shown in the two tables below. The salient feature is that, during December, production of yarn in Bombay declined while in Ahmedabad there was a small improvement as compared with the two preceding years. In regard to woven goods, the production both in Bombay and in Ahmedabad, remained on the level of the last year.

#### (1) Month of December

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	December			December		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	34	33	28	17	17	17
Ahmedabad ..	6	7	8	6	7	7
Other centres ..	5	6	6	4	3	4
Total, Presidency ..	45	46	42	27	27	28

#### (2) Nine months ending December

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Nine months ended December			Nine months ended December		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
Bombay Island ..	263	265	241	159	152	164
Ahmedabad ..	63	68	53	62	60	55
Other centres ..	45	45	41	27	24	26
Total, Presidency ..	371	378	335	248	236	245

The Bombay Millowners' Association quotations at the end of January and December 1923 and January 1924 are as follows:—

	Net rate per lb. in annas		
	January 1923	December 1923	January 1924
Longcloth ..	23½	22	23½
T. Cloths ..	21½	20½	21½
Chudders ..	20½	20	20½

#### INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were 7 industrial disputes in progress during January 1924, as compared with 9 in the preceding month. All the disputes began in the month, and the number of workpeople involved was 157,821 as compared with 12,415 in the preceding month and 3,288 in January 1923. The aggregate duration of all disputes during January 1924 was about 565,238 working days as compared with 120,903 in December 1923 and 14,908 in January 1923.

#### The Committee of Enquiry

The complete closing of the mills of Bombay, 81 in number, of which 75 are cotton mills, 2 woollen mills, 2 silk mills and 2 dye-works has taken place owing to the decision of the Millowners' Association in July 1923



that no bonus would be paid for the year 1923. A detailed account of the strike will be found on page 14 of this issue.

His Excellency the Governor at the opening of the Legislative Council on Monday the 18th February referred to this dispute in the following terms:—

"The industrial trouble in Bombay City has been a source of grave concern to my Government, and I cannot too strongly urge the need for early settlement of the misunderstandings and disagreements between owners and workmen. The present dispute between the millowners and their employees, like former ones, is difficult of settlement mainly owing to the lack of organisation among the mill-hands. As the present strike continues and so many thousands of men are out of work, Government feel it is not possible to abstain longer from intervention, and propose to set up a Special Committee of Enquiry to enquire into the merits of the dispute regarding bonus, and to report to Government for the information of the public. The millowners have already consented to this proposal, and I trust that the employees, through any available channels, will likewise indicate their assent."

#### THE OUTLOOK

The statistics of foreign trade, the rise of wholesale prices and the cost of living and trade indications will be found elsewhere in the Month in Brief. There has been a definite increase from the depression of the earlier part of 1923 and, all things considered, the worst has passed. The possible exception at the moment is the cotton mill industry where the high price of cotton owing to the shortage of American crop for three successive years has upset the industry. Money at the moment in Bombay is extremely scarce and the Imperial Bank raised its bank rate to 9 per cent. on the 14th February.

In Great Britain, there has been definite progress, although the cotton industry has not yet returned to normal and short-time is still in vogue. About September 1923 the first definite signs of recovery from the depression which followed the boom took place.

#### LABOUR LEGISLATION

##### (i) Industrial Disputes

At the opening of the Legislative Council on the 18th February, His Excellency the Governor foreshadowed impending labour legislation in the following words:—

"It would appear that in view of the present and past experience in similar disputes, it is necessary for Government to provide some machinery which has for its object, by investigation of the causes of industrial disputes such as this, the prevention of interruption of work which has so disastrous an effect on the welfare of the City and of the Community, or which will at any rate bring such dispute to an

earlier conclusion. Government have accordingly considered an early introduction of legislation which will, it is hoped, effect this purpose."

##### (ii) Trade Unions

In reply to a question as to whether the Government of India propose to introduce legislation for the registration and protection of trade unions, asked by Mr. V. J. Patel in the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee in charge of Industries and Labour said that the Government of India have the question under consideration but it is impossible to say yet when legislation is likely to be introduced.

##### (iii) Minimum Wage

Replying to a question asked by Mr. Chaman Lal in the Legislative Assembly, as to the intention of the Government of India in regard to the introduction of a minimum wage for key industries, the Hon'ble Mr. A. C. Chatterjee said that no such legislation is contemplated.

##### (iv) Apprentices Act

The Government of India have decided not to repeal the Apprentices Act (Act XIX of 1850). The Government of India in a letter addressed to Local Governments indicated that it was believed that, in respect of service both at sea and on land, this Act had become a dead letter. The Government of Bombay replied that, so far as the Bombay Presidency was concerned, the Act had not become a dead letter, and that it was used for the apprenticeship of seamen and for the purposes of reformatory institutions.

#### WORKMEN'S COMPENSATION

The Government of Bombay propose to appoint one whole-time Commissioner for Bombay, Bombay Suburban District, Ahmedabad and Sholapur under Section 20 of the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 which comes into force with effect from 1st July next. The pay of this officer will be Rs. 1,000-100-1,200 per mensem, plus a travelling allowance of Rs. 200 per mensem. A provision of Rs. 4,500 will be made for staff and contingencies and Rs. 3,000 for non-recurring expenditure. This provision is for nine months and the appointment is proposed to be temporary in the first instance until actual experience regarding the working of the Act is gained. The appointment is, however, subject to the approval of the Legislative Council. For other districts in the Presidency, including Sind, it is proposed to appoint one of the judicial officers of the district *ex-officio* Commissioner under the Act.

#### THE BALANCE OF TRADE

During January 1924, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to

Rs. 92 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1923 was a favourable balance of Rs. 94 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below :-

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

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

**India**

		In lakhs of rupees				
		August 1923	September 1923	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923
Exports (specie and diamonds)		22.6	21.4	25.5	27.0	26.9
Imports do.		16.9	17.2	20.0	21.0	22.0
Balance of Trade in merchandise		+ 5.6	+ 4.2	+ 4.5	+ 4.5	+ 4.9
Balance of transactions in current account		- 1.0	- 1.0	- 4.2	- 3.5	- 5.1
Balance of trade including merchandise		+ 4.6	+ 3.2	+ 0.3	+ 1.0	- 0.2

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 26th February exchange on London was 1.1 d. 4/10.

There was a fall of 361 crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in January 1924 as compared with the preceding month. In Calcutta the Bank clearings decreased by Rs. 16 crores, while the clearings in Karachi and Rangoon increased by Rs. 2 crores and 4 crores respectively. The figures for the last three months are as follows :-

**Bombay**

		In lakhs of rupees				
		August 1923	September 1923	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923
Exports (specie and diamonds)		4.3	3.5	4.4	5.0	5.0
Imports do.		6.9	6.6	8.7	8.8	8.5
Balance of Trade in merchandise		- 2.6	- 3.1	- 4.3	- 3.8	- 3.5
Balance of transactions in current account		- 1.7	- 1.6	- 1.1	- 1.0	- 1.0
Balance of trade including merchandise		- 4.3	- 4.7	- 5.4	- 4.8	- 4.5

**In crores of rupees\***

	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924
Bombay	79	417	56
Karachi	4	5	5
Calcutta	69	86	64
Rangoon	10	7	11
Total (four ports)	162	515	136

\* 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs.

The percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India at the close of the month of January 1924 was 56.79 as against 59.39 in December and 66.08 in November 1923.

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

**Karachi**

		In lakhs of rupees				
		August 1923	September 1923	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923
Exports (specie and diamonds)		1.6	1.6	1.6	2.3	2.6
Imports do.		2.8	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.2
Balance of Trade in merchandise		- 1.2	- 1.0	- 0.4	+ 0.4	+ 1.4
Balance of transactions in current account		1	1	1	1	1
Balance of trade including merchandise		- 0.2	- 0.0	- 1.5	+ 1.5	+ 2.8

February 1923	Rs. 1,216	August 1923	Rs. 1,067
March	1,125	September	995
April	1,195	October	985
May	1,215	November	991
June	1,042	December	1,005
July	1,123	January 1924	924

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

# The Cost of Living Index for January 1924

## A rise of one point

**All articles** ... 58 per cent.  
**Food only** ... 54 per cent.

In January 1924 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 157 in December 1923 and 158 in January 1924. The general index is 18 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 4 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922 and 3 per cent. above the twelve-monthly average of 1923.

The upward tendency in the general trend of the cost of living index which became evident in November 1923 continued in January 1924. In comparison with the previous month, there was a rise of 2 points in the general level of retail prices of food articles. The important changes during the month were a rise of 6 points in gram, 16 points in sugar, 8 points in potatoes and a drop of 7 points in jowari and bajri. There was an increase of 5 points in the clothing group.

**All items: Average percentage increase over July 1914**

	Per cent.							
	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924	1924
January	54	82	45	69	75	56	58	58
February	54	76	81	62	65	55	58	58
March	56	72	77	60	65	54	58	58
April	47	68	75	67	65	59	58	58
May	48	74	81	73	69	51	58	58
June	49	86	91	77	65	59	58	58
July	53	71	81	81	64	54	58	58
August	65	72	92	85	65	54	58	58
September	75	74	82	83	62	52	58	58
October	75	73	86	82	60	59	58	58
November	83	74	81	79	61	57	58	58
December	83	74	81	79	61	57	58	58
Twelve months average	54	75	82	71	64	54	58	58

The articles included in the index are cereals, pulses, other articles of food, fuel and lighting, clothing and household. 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 December 1923 and January 1924 as compared with that for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer on page 8.

Articles	Food only			Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in January 1924 over July 1914
	July 1914	December 1923	January 1924	
Rice	100	125	136	+ 1
Wheat	100	126	126	—
Jowari	100	131	124	- 7
Bajri	100	132	125	- 7
Gram	100	114	120	+ 6
Yardli	100	119	119	—
Sugar (refined)	100	206	202	+ 16
Sugar (raw)	100	167	167	—
Tea	100	195	200	+ 5
Salt	100	199	199	—
Beef	100	150	150	—
Mutton	100	215	215	—
Milk	100	191	191	—
Ghee	100	185	191	+ 6
Potatoes	100	176	194	+ 8
Onions	100	460	460	—
Coconut oil	100	125	125	—
All food articles (weighted average)	100	152	154	+ 2

NOTE.—A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the index number is published in the Labour Gazette for September 1923.

### Wholesale Prices in Bombay

In January 1924, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay remained at the same level as the previous month. The price of food articles fell by more than 3 per cent., while that of non-food articles rose by 2 per cent. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have risen by 4 per cent., the rise from the twelve-monthly average of 1923 being nearly 4 per cent. The general index has fallen by 29 per cent. from the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918. Long period fluctuations will be found in Chart 10 of this issue. It is of interest to compare the movement of these wholesale prices with those in Chart 5.

The present index number is based on carefully collected market prices and is indirectly weighted. Food articles number 15 and non-food 29. 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.

(Continued on page 10.)



## BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

A

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores).	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	December 1923.	January 1924.	July 1914.	December 1923.	January 1924.
Cereals—								
Rice .. .. .	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	7.495	7.620	Rs. 391.58	524.65	532.40
Wheat .. .. .	"	21	5.594	7.047	7.047	117.47	147.99	140.99
Jowari .. .. .	"	11	4.354	5.682	5.385	47.89	62.50	59.24
Bajri .. .. .	"	6	4.313	5.693	5.385	25.88	34.16	32.31
Total and Average—Cereals	—	—	100	132	133	582.82	769.30	772.94
Pulses—								
Gram .. .. .	Maund	10	4.302	4.922	5.172	43.02	49.22	51.72
Turdal .. .. .	"	3	5.844	6.974	6.974	17.53	20.92	20.92
Total and Average—Pulses	—	—	100	116	120	60.55	70.14	72.64
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined) .. .. .	Maund	2	7.620	20.255	21.474	15.24	40.51	42.95
Sugar (raw) .. .. .	"	7	8.557	14.287	14.287	59.90	100.01	100.01
Tea .. .. .	"	1	40.000	78.047	80.000	1.00	1.95	2.00
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	0.896	13.76	29.57	29.57
Milk .. .. .	Maund	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Ghee .. .. .	"	11	50.792	94.120	96.969	76.19	141.18	145.45
Potatoes .. .. .	"	11	4.479	7.880	8.250	49.27	86.68	90.75
Onions .. .. .	"	3	1.552	7.141	7.141	4.66	21.42	21.42
Coconut Oil .. .. .	"	1	25.396	32.651	32.651	12.70	16.33	16.33
Total and Average—Other food articles	—	—	100	189	192	381.18	719.26	730.99
Total and Average—All food articles	—	—	100	152	154	1,024.55	1,558.70	1,575.67
Fuel and lighting—								
Kerosene oil .. .. .	Case	5	4.375	6.969	6.969	21.88	34.85	34.85
Firewood .. .. .	Maund	48	0.792	1.281	1.281	38.02	61.49	61.49
Coal .. .. .	"	1	0.542	0.906	0.906	0.54	0.91	0.91
Total and Average—Fuel and lighting	—	—	100	161	161	60.44	97.25	97.25
Clothing—								
Chadders .. .. .	Lb.	27	0.594	1.250	1.266	16.04	33.75	34.18
Shirts .. .. .	"	25	0.641	1.453	1.490	16.03	36.33	37.25
T. Cloth .. .. .	"	36	0.583	1.281	1.313	20.99	46.12	47.27
Total and Average—Clothing	—	—	100	219	224	53.06	116.20	118.79
House-rent .. .. .	Per month	10	11.302	18.700	18.700	113.02	187.00	187.00
Grand Total and General Average	—	—	166	187	188	1,251.07	1,969.15	1,978.02

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 January 1924 at January price levels was Rs. 1,978.02, i.e., an increase of 58 per cent. (Rs. 1,251.07 = 100).



## BOMBAY COST OF LIVING INDEX

B

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on expenditure in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight x Index Number.	
		December 1923.	January 1924.	December 1923.	January 1924.
.. .. .	31.4	135	138	4,239.0	4,331.2
.. .. .	9.4	126	128	1,183.4	1,202.4
.. .. .	1.8	131	134	235.8	241.7
.. .. .	2.1	132	135	278.1	283.7
Total and Average Index No.	46.7	133	135	6,386.4	6,559.0
.. .. .	3.1	134	138	415.4	427.8
.. .. .	1.3	139	139	184.2	184.2
Total and Average Index No.	6.4	135	138	600.1	612.7
.. .. .	1.7	136	137	229.2	232.4
.. .. .	4.8	137	142	657.6	681.6
.. .. .	0.1	138	140	13.5	14.0
.. .. .	0.9	139	139	125.1	125.1
.. .. .	0.7	138	138	96.6	96.6
.. .. .	1.1	135	135	149.3	149.3
.. .. .	10.3	131	131	1,367.3	1,367.3
.. .. .	6.1	135	138	823.5	840.1
.. .. .	4.0	136	144	544.0	576.0
.. .. .	0.4	140	140	56.0	56.0
.. .. .	1.0	139	139	139.0	139.0
Total and Average Index No.	30.6	139	142	5,779.3	5,827.6
Fuel and lighting—					
Kerosene oil .. .. .	1.8	139	139	249.2	249.2
Firewood .. .. .	3.0	142	142	426.0	426.0
Coal .. .. .	0.1	143	143	14.7	14.7
Total and Average Index No.	4.9	141	141	789.9	789.9
Clothing—					
Chadders .. .. .	1.3	138	138	227.0	227.0
Shirts .. .. .	1.3	137	137	225.1	225.1
T. Cloth .. .. .	1.7	138	138	234.0	234.0
Total and Average Index No.	4.3	138	138	686.1	686.1
House-rent .. .. .	9.1	140	140	1,260.5	1,260.5
Grand total of weights	100				
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)	....	137	138	15,758.2	15,834.2



The net result of movements in the groups in Bombay is as follows:—

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay\*

Table showing Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay with columns for Groups, No. of items, Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent. in January 1924 as compared with the preceding month (December 1923), and the corresponding month of last year (January 1923).

\*Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 30-32

The subjoined table compares January 1924 prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year:—

100 = average of 1923

Table comparing January 1924 prices with those of the preceding months and of the corresponding month of last year, with columns for Groups, Jan. 1923, April 1923, July 1923, Oct. 1923, Dec. 1923, and Jan. 1924.

The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay stands above the average of 1923.

The stationary position shown by the general wholesale index during January may be taken as a typical example where fluctuations have occurred within the smaller price groups without altering the general index. A decline of 3 per cent. in the food index due to a fall of 9 per cent. in 'Other Food' was counterbalanced by a rise of more than 2 per cent. in the non-food index owing to a rise of 8 per cent. in 'Hides and Skins' and 3 per cent. in 'Cotton Manufactures.'

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

The Construction of the Index

Table showing the construction of the index with columns for No., Articles, Total Num- bers, July 1914, January 1924, and Average.

The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices:—

Annual wholesale prices July 1914 = 100.

Table showing annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices with columns for Food, Non-food, and All articles.



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 December 1923 and January 1924 (Bombay prices = 100). It will be seen that the average retail price levels in all the centres are below the level of Bombay in December 1923 and January 1924.

Bombay prices in December 1923 = 100

Table comparing retail food prices in Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, and Poona for December 1923, with Bombay prices = 100.

Bombay prices in January 1924 = 100

Table comparing retail food prices in Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, and Poona for January 1924, with Bombay prices = 100.

Bombay prices in January 1924 = 100—contd.

Continuation of the comparative retail prices table for January 1924, with Bombay prices = 100.

On page 34 will be found statistics of food prices in December 1923 and January 1924 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 shop-keepers patronised by the labouring classes.

Securities Index Number

A FALL OF 8 POINTS

In January 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities taken in the Labour Office Securities Index Number was 146 as compared with 154 in the previous month, thus showing a fall of more than 5 per cent. Government and Corporation (fixed interest) Securities, Railway Companies and Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies remained stationary. The noticeable feature during the month was an appreciable fall in the quotations of Cotton Mill shares. The group index number for these has fallen by 19 points as compared with December 1923. Miscellaneous Companies registered a fall of nearly 4 per cent. As a result of the fall in Cottons and Miscellaneous the index number of 93 Industrial Securities showed a fall of nearly 6 per cent. It is interesting to note that Fixed Interest Securities remain at a relatively stable position whilst Industrial Securities show a decidedly downward tendency.



A full explanation of the scope and method of compilation of the securities index is published in the *Labour Gazette* for December 1923. The construction of the index is shown in the following table:—

## The Construction of the Index

No.	—	—	July 1914.		January 1924.	
			Total numbers.	Average.	Total numbers.	Average.
1	Government and Corporation Securities	7 Index Nos.	700	499	71	
2	Banks	6 .. ..	600	813	136	
3	Railway Companies	10 .. ..	1,000	999	100	
4	Cotton Mills	42 .. ..	4,200	8,250	196	
5	Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies	8 .. ..	800	978	122	
6	Cement and Manganese Companies	5 .. ..	500	641	128	
7	Electric Undertakings	2 .. ..	200	252	126	
8	Miscellaneous Companies	22 .. ..	2,200	2,412	110	
9	Industrial Securities	95* .. ..	9,500	14,345	151	
10	General average	102* .. ..	10,200	14,844	146	

\* Ordinary and Deferred shares are taken as one in counting the number of securities.

The following table shows the annual movement for the important groups for July in each year and the monthly movement from July 1923:—

—	Fixed interest Securities.	Industrial Securities.	Cotton Mill shares.*	General average (100 Securities).
1914 July .. ..	100	100	100	100
1915 .. ..	96	101	97	100
1916 .. ..	87	130	114	127
1917 .. ..	75	158	138	151
1918 .. ..	74	194	212	184
1919 .. ..	77	216	216	206
1920 .. ..	65	313	438	296
1921 .. ..	65	311	450	295
1922 .. ..	63	267	406	253
1923 .. ..	72	176	229	169
.. August .. ..	73	168	216	161
.. September ..	73	166	225	159
.. October .. ..	72	163	213	157
.. November ..	71	163	216	156
.. December ..	71	160	215	154
1924 January ..	71	151	196	146

\* Also included in the previous column "Industrial Securities."

## Prices in Java

According to the bulletin No. 3 of the 'Monthly Statistics of wholesale and retail prices in the Netherlands Indies' published by the Labour Office, Batavia, the

general wholesale index of 51 articles taken into account in Batavia was 197 during November 1923 as compared with 194 in October. The cost of living index of a normal family was 181 in December showing a rise of one point as compared with the previous month. The method of compilation of the index numbers is described on page 16 of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1924.

## Hours of Work in Industry

The International Labour Office has just issued two reports on hours of labour in industry in Italy and Switzerland. These reports form part of a series dealing with the present position of legislation and collective agreements relating to hours of work in the various industrial countries of the world.

## ITALY

In Italy, hours of work in industry and commerce are at present governed by the Legislative Decree of 15th March 1923 and the Administrative Regulations of September 1923. The Decree provides that the normal maximum actual hours of work may not exceed 8 per day or 48 per week. The term "actual work" means, for purposes of the Decree, any work requiring assiduous and continuous attention and consequently excludes occupations which, owing to their nature or to special circumstances, require only intermittent work, or mere attendance or care-taking. The 8-hour day or the 48-hour week may, however, be exceeded—

(a) when technical or seasonal conditions necessitate it, provided that the period of extension does not exceed that of greatest pressure of work in seasonal industries and three months in industries working all the year round;

(b) in the case of work subject to technical or seasonal requirements, by means of an agreement concluded between the parties concerned and previously approved by the chief district inspector of industry and labour; or

(c) if the parties agree, by the addition of a period of overtime to the normal working day not exceeding two hours a day and 12 hours a week, or an equivalent number of hours on an average taken over a specified period. Such overtime is, in all cases, to be reckoned separately and paid for at a rate not less than 10 per cent. above that for ordinary work.

## SWITZERLAND

In Switzerland, the 48-hour week was established by the Federal Act of 27th June 1919 on hours of work in factories. This period is the maximum prescribed by the Act for undertakings working in a single shift. In certain cases, however, the Act provides for modifications of the period. For instance, when working hours on Saturday are less than 8 and the weekly hours of work would be less than 48, the remainder of the 48 hours may be made up on the other working days.



## Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in January .. .. . 7

Workpeople involved .. 157,821

On page 42 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during January 1924, 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 January 1924.

## I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade.	Number of disputes in progress in January 1924.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in January 1924.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in January 1924.*
	Started before 1st January.	Started in January.	Total.		
Textile .. ..	..	7	7	156,496	561,263
Engineering ..	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous ..	..	(a)	(a)	1,325	3,975
Total, January 1924 ..	..	7	7	157,821	565,238
Total, December 1923 ..	..	9	9	12,415	120,903

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

(a) Included in the general strike.

There were 7 industrial disputes in January 1924, five of which occurred in cotton mills and one in a woollen mill. The remaining one is a general strike affecting 72 cotton mills, two silk mills, two woollen mills and two dye-works. The number of workpeople affected was 157,821 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 565,238 which is a large increase on the December 1923 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

## II.—Industrial Disputes—Results September 1923 to January 1924

	September 1923.	October 1923.	November 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
Number of strikes and lock-outs	8	8	7	9	7
Disputes in progress at beginning	3	..	..	..	..
Fresh disputes begun	5	8	7	9	7

## II.—Industrial Disputes—Results—contd.

	September 1923.	October 1923.	November 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
Disputes ended ..	8	8	7	9	6
Disputes in progress at end ..	..	..	..	..	1
Number of workpeople involved	9,112	9,481	487	12,415	157,821
Aggregate duration in working days	55,934	36,178	712	120,903	565,238
Demands—					
Pay ..	4	6	1	6	3
Bonus ..	..	..	1	..	1
Personal ..	3	2	3	1	2
Leave and hours ..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	1	..	2	2	1
Results—					
In favour of employees ..	..	..	2	1	..
Compromised ..	3	1	..	..	1
In favour of employers ..	5	7	5	8	5

The last summary table shows, among other things, the proportion of strikes settled in favour of the employers and 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
January 1923 ..	6	14,908	50	17	..	33
February 1923 ..	22	68,590	64	32	4	..
March 1923 ..	9	37,298	22	67	11	..
April 1923 ..	14	1,111,103	40	7	13	40
May 1923 ..	11	1,169,930	82	9	..	9
June 1923 ..	7	159,837	57	..	29	14
July 1923 ..	9	35,363	67	..	..	33
August 1923 ..	15	25,244	53	7	20	20
September 1923 ..	8	55,934	63	..	37	..
October 1923 ..	8	36,178	87	..	13	..
November 1923 ..	7	712	71	29	..	..
December 1923 ..	9	120,903	78	11	..	11
January 1924 ..	7	565,238	72	..	14	14
Totals or (cols. 4 to 7) Average ..	132	3,401,238	62	14	11	13



### A General Review of Disputes

During January 1924, there were seven industrial disputes in the Presidency as compared with nine in the preceding month. One of these disputes occurred in a woollen mill and the remaining six in the cotton mill industry. One of these six disputes was a general strike affecting 72 cotton mills, two silk mills, two woollen mills and two dye-works. Of the seven disputes three were due to the question of pay, one to the question of bonus and the remaining three to personal and other grievances. Five were settled in favour of the employers, one was compromised and one was in progress.

#### BOMBAY

In the City and Island of Bombay, there were, in January 1924, six industrial disputes three of which were of short duration. On the 3rd of January 833 spinners of the Emperor Edward Mill struck work against the discontinuance of the weekly allowance of annas 8 and 4 to adult and boy spinners respectively. The strike terminated on the 10th when the last batch of the strikers resumed work unconditionally. 64 operatives of the Ring Spinning and Carding Departments in the E. D. Sassoon Turkey Red Dye Works struck work on the 4th of January 1924, demanding the reinstatement of an operative whose services were dispensed with for absence without leave and insubordination. The strike terminated on the 7th, the strikers having resumed work unconditionally. On the 7th of January 300 operatives of the Dyeing Department in Madhowji Dharamsi Manufacturing Co.'s Mill stopped work against the orders that the Dyeing Department would work only 4 days a week instead of 5 as in the past two months. The strikers resumed work unconditionally on the 10th of January. About 100 operatives of the Carding Engine Department in the Premier Mills struck work on the 10th of January 1924 against the orders to clean the carding cylinders and doffers in the mill four times a day. The majority of the strikers resumed work unconditionally and the others were replaced by new hands. The strike ended on the 14th. On the 14th of January the weavers of the Indian Woollen Mills were informed that from the 15th they would be brought on to the rates given in other woollen mills which were considerably lower than in these mills. As a result of this, 240 weavers struck work on the 15th demanding the continuance of the old rates, and the mill had to be closed on account of the disorderly conduct of the strikers. The mill reopened on the 17th except for the Weaving Shed but the spinners numbering about 400 did not resume work through fear of the weaver strikers. On the 21st of January a notice was put up by the management showing the revised rates for the weavers, and stating that the weavers unwilling to resume work on the revised rates would be dismissed. About 750 operatives resumed work on the 22nd and the remainder on the 23rd when the strike terminated. The general strike in the textile industry on the question of bonus for the year 1923 commenced on the 17th of January 1924, when

the operatives of the Standard Mill struck work demanding payment of the bonus. The Crown Mills followed the lead and struck work on the 21st. The remaining mills in the City and Island joined the strike in rapid succession and on the 31st January only three mills, the Colaba Land and Mill, the Jehangir Wadia Mill and the Manockjee Petit Mill were left working. A detailed description of this strike will be found in the succeeding article.

#### AHMEDABAD

During January 1924, there was, in Ahmedabad, only one industrial dispute. On the 21st of January 1924, about 40 weavers of the Indian Spinning and Weaving Co. struck work against the dismissal of the Head Jobber. The strike terminated on the next day, the strikers having been replaced by new hands.

### Strike and Lock-Out in the Textile Industry

A general strike which subsequently developed into a lock-out took place in the textile industry in Bombay City and Island toward the end of January and has not yet (22nd February) come to an end. From the point of view of the number of workpeople affected and the number of mills involved, this strike is the largest experienced in this Presidency during the last five years. The reasons leading to this strike are briefly set out below:—

#### CAUSES

In July last the Bombay Millowners' Association decided that "owing to bad trade the Agents regret there will be no bonus declared at the end of the current year as resolved by the Millowners' Association". Notices to this effect were posted at all mills in Bombay. No immediate effect was created by the posting of these notices, but it was obvious that this decision was a cause of much disappointment to the operatives who had come to regard the payment of a bonus as a payment of deferred pay, as a bonus had been paid regularly to them during the previous 5 years. The bonus paid in previous years amounted to a month's pay for workers who had put in nine or more months' regular service during the year and to sums proportionately less for a service of less than 9 months but of three or more than three months. Time workers were paid according to their monthly wages, and piece-workers according to a *pro rata* scale based on their average earnings. The scales of bonus paid in January 1923 for the year 1922 were published in detail in the January 1923 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The *pro rata* scales of payment were clearly set out in that issue. The workers maintained that as the bonus had been regarded as deferred wages and as the no-bonus notice was not posted until the middle of the year of 1923, they should be entitled at least to a bonus for a half of the year 1923. Up to December 1923, however, no direct demands were put forward by the operatives. In the middle of this



month, however, a feeling was evident among the operatives that the question of the bonus should be decided. It was thought, therefore, that a general strike would take place about the 17th of December over this question. Several meetings of workers took place, and at these the operatives were advised not to go on strike over the bonus question, in view of the difficult times through which the industry was passing, and that it would merely be playing into the hands of the employers to declare a general strike. Mr. Baptista and other labour leaders and sympathisers were among those to persuade the operatives to refrain from going on strike. Their advice was generally accepted and no general strike took place. Five strikes did, however, occur on the 17th December in cotton mills in the City but the demand put forward in these was not that of bonus but of alleged reduced wages for November as compared with the wages paid for the previous month. These strikes were not of long duration, and on their termination the question of bonus appeared to have been dropped.

#### THE GENERAL STRIKE

During the first part of January 1924, all mills were working normally. After payment of wages for December, on January 17th, however, the movement for the bonus demand again came into prominence. On this date the operatives of the Standard Mill went on strike demanding the payment of a bonus for the year 1923. The operatives of the Crown Mill joined this strike on the 21st January. Even at this time the strike did not spread rapidly. On the 25th January, partly by inducement and partly by threats, the strikers from these two mills succeeded in bringing out the operatives of five other mills in the Parel District, who were quite ready to join the movement. Other mills followed in quick succession and the situation began to assume serious proportions. The operatives of nine other mills in the Parel District joined the strike on 26th January and those of three more mills at Parel and Foras Road, on 28th January. The Millowners' Association met and discussed the situation and decided to post notices at those mills which were already on strike. On 29th January the following notice was posted:—

"In conformity with the resolution passed by the Committee of the Millowners' Association it is hereby notified that this mill is closed till Monday, 4th February, and unless the operatives resume work unconditionally on the morning of that day, the mills will be closed down for a further fortnight and will reopen only on Monday, 18th February. In no circumstances will a bonus be paid nor strike pay given."

Twenty-two more mills were kept closed having put up notices of closure in pursuance of the resolution passed by the Committee of the Millowners' Association, and the operatives of 29 other mills struck work on the 29th. Seven more cotton mills joined the strike on the 30th and the operatives of the Emperor Edward and Manockjee Petit Mills came out on 31st January and 1st February respectively.

By the 1st of this month, therefore, the operatives of all the mills in the City with the exception of those in

two mills, *viz.*, the Colaba Land and Mill and the Jehangir Wadia Mill joined the strike. These two mills joined the strike on the 15th February. This brought the textile industry to a complete standstill, and, in addition to all the cotton mills affected two silk mills, two woollen mills and two dye-works. The total number of cotton mills affected was 75 and the total mills of all descriptions, 81. The number of workers involved in these mills was a shade over 163,000. The strike originated in the Parel District and spread to Dadar, Byculla, Sewree, Tardeo and Mazgaon, in fact to all the mill areas proper of the City.

#### PROGRESS

A mass meeting of about 10,000 mill hands was held on 31st January 1924 in the compound of the Damodar Thackersey Hall under the presidency of Mr. Joseph Baptista, at which the following resolutions were passed:—

"This meeting of the mill hands in Bombay declares that the demand for bonus for the year 1923 is just and fair and requests His Excellency the Governor to immediately appoint a Board of Arbitration on which the workers will have equal representation with the millowners."

This meeting also urges upon all the workers in mills who are on strike to resume work as soon as such Arbitration Board is appointed. This meeting also asks all strikers to behave peacefully during the strike period.

This meeting appoints a Committee consisting of the following gentlemen to take the necessary steps in the settlement of the strike:—

Messrs. Joseph Baptista (President), N. M. Joshi, F. J. Ginwalla, Kanti Dwarakadas and S. H. Jhabwalla and one representative from each mill as members and Mr. G. N. Sahaarabudhe as Secretary."

At a meeting attended by about 15,000 men held on the 3rd of February in Damodar Hall, Parel, Mr. Baptista spoke to them about an interview he had with His Excellency the Governor. He said His Excellency reminded him of what he had said to the deputation of the Provincial Trade Union Conference on 4th January 1924 about the policy of non-intervention. He was, however, satisfied that His Excellency was sympathetic and would be prepared to nominate a Committee if the Millowners' Association intimated their willingness to accept arbitration. He advised all the strikers to resume work on Monday, 4th February, as requested in the notice issued by the Bombay Millowners' Association. Mr. J. Baptista requested the Millowners' Association to agree to the appointment of Arbitration Committee consisting of two representatives of the workers and an equal number of employers. The Secretary of the Millowners' Association, however, informed Mr. Baptista that the Association unanimously resolved that the present case was no case for a reference to arbitration and explained the millowners' position in the following letter dated the 5th February to the press:—

"As some misunderstanding appears to have arisen with regard to the millowners' position in the present regrettable strike, I am directed to bring to the notice of the public the following facts:—

The strike commenced on 17th January in the Standard Mills when a proportion of the operatives in the Spinning Department quitted work without notice and made a demand for the payment of a bonus. This was followed by the operatives of the other departments leaving work without notice.

Later on attempt was made to intimidate the operatives of the Century and Textile Mills to cease work but was not immediately successful.



Subsequently the operatives of the Crown Mill became restive and struck work without notice. Then in succession other mills were visited by crowds of strikers, and one by one the whole of the mills had to close down.

The only point alleged to be in dispute, as far as the Millowners' Association is aware, is that of bonus. On this point the millowners clearly stated their position in the terms of settlement of the dispute which took place in 1920, when in reply to a demand for an annual bonus the following categorical reply was made and posted at all the mills: "This question is one of profits and good will and no undertaking can be given."

Owing to the depression in trade in 1923, foreseen by the members of the Association, the Committee in June 1923 decided that it would not be possible to pay any bonus for the year which had just closed, and a notice to that effect was posted by all mills on July 23rd, 1923."

Another meeting of the Millowners' Association took place on February 11th at which the position was again reviewed, and the question of a wage-cut in the present year was discussed. As a result of this meeting the following notice was posted at the mills on 12th February:—

"In accordance with the resolution adopted at a special general meeting of the Association held on 11th February 1924, it is hereby notified that the mills will be opened to receive workmen and ready to commence work on the 18th of February as already announced.

Wages earned and due for the period of work in the month of January will be paid two days after resumption of work.

A feeling seems to prevail in certain quarters that the millowners in addition to cancelling the bonus intend to reduce the scale of wages when workpeople come to claim their wages for January. This is entirely untrue and does not enter into the question of the present dispute, nor has it been considered in connexion therewith."

After the posting of this notice it was not anticipated that the strikers would resume work, as they were very firm in their demand for the payment of the bonus or at least a portion of the bonus. There was also a feeling among the strikers that the millowners intended to reduce wages at an early date. The notice of the 12th instant, however, indicated that the question of a wage-cut did not enter in the present dispute at all, although the Millowners' Association could not give an assurance that wages would not be reduced during the remainder of the present year. Considerable propaganda was conducted among the strikers, and numerous meetings of them were held. At these they were urged by several sympathisers to form themselves into regular and strong unions, thereby making their position stronger. No movement to this end was, however, noticeable.

On 18th February the following notice under the signature of Mr. S. D. Saklatvala, Chairman of the Millowners' Association, was posted at all the mills in the City:—

"At a special meeting of the Members of the Bombay Millowners' Association held on Sunday the 17th February 1924 the following resolution was unanimously adopted. In order to remove any misapprehension that may still exist in the minds of the operatives it is hereby notified that:—

1. There will be no reduction in the scale of wages unless timely notice is given to the workpeople.

It should be clearly understood in the event of it being necessary to work short time, wages will be paid for the number of days worked.

2. The Millowners are also prepared to submit the present claim for bonus from the workpeople to a Special Committee of Enquiry as suggested by Government provided that the terms of reference to the Committee have previously been submitted to and approved by the Association."

On 21st February His Excellency the Governor received a deputation of the Strike Settlement Committee and the Committee of the Millowners' Association.

His Excellency explained that he had decided to appoint a Committee of Enquiry to examine the question of profits and the grant of a bonus and that this Committee would commence work immediately. The personnel and the terms of reference to the Committee were announced on the 22nd instant. The terms of reference to the Committee and its work will be referred to in the next issue of this Journal.

## Industrial Disputes in India

### FOURTH QUARTER OF 1923

There were 41 industrial disputes in various industries in India during the quarter ended 31st December 1923. Of these 41 disputes, five ended wholly and three partly in favour of the employees, 29 in favour of the employers and 3 indefinitely. The remaining one in Bengal was in progress at the end of the quarter. The province chiefly affected was, as usual, Bombay with its 24 strikes involving a loss of 158,000 working days. Two of these 24 strikes ended wholly and two others partially in favour of the employees. In Bengal there were 11 strikes, three of which ended in favour of the employees and one indefinitely. The number of workpeople involved was 29,000 or 50 per cent. more than in Bombay and the number of working days lost was over 255,000.

## Conciliation and Arbitration

### INDIA AND ABROAD

In view of the general strike in the textile industry in Bombay City and Island at present in progress, the questions of industrial courts of enquiry and conciliation and arbitration in industrial disputes are of particular importance and interest. The Industrial Disputes Committee, which, it will be remembered, sat in Bombay under the able chairmanship of Sir Stanley Reed in 1921, recommended the establishment of a Court of Enquiry consisting of three representatives of employers and three representatives of employed presided over by an independent chairman, to examine the issues to an industrial dispute. The Committee in their unanimous report recommended that this Court of Enquiry should be set up either when a dispute exists or is apprehended. The full text of their report, together with the outlines of an Industrial Courts Act suitable for this Presidency, was published on pages 23-33 of the April 1922 issue of this Journal.

The principle of a Court of Enquiry is of undoubted advantage, more especially as its existence guards against the recurrence of a protracted dispute. His Excellency the Governor in opening the Legislative Council on the 19th February outlined Government's proposals in regard to the introduction of legislation for the investigation and prevention of industrial disputes. His Excellency's remarks are published on page 5 of this issue *in extenso*.



## THE LACK OF UNIONS

The chief difficulty in introducing such legislation in this Presidency lies in the widespread illiteracy among our working classes and the absence, at least in Bombay City and Island, of workers' organisations fully representative of the workers themselves. From the quarterly reviews of Trade Unions in this Presidency, published in this Journal, it will be seen that, at the moment, there does not exist one single labour union of cotton mill operatives in Bombay City and Island, which, in view of the large number of operatives employed in this industry, over 1,50,000, is not only conspicuous but is an immense drawback in times of industrial unrest. During the last big general strike in 1919 in the cotton mill industry of Bombay, a number of so-called Unions sprang into existence. These have often been termed "Strike Committees," as they came suddenly into existence when an immediate object was to be obtained, only to fade away as rapidly as they sprang up when the demands of the members were satisfied. With the absence of unions, one of the most essential features in conciliation, that of workers' representation, is non-existent.

## LEGISLATION ABROAD

In this connexion, it will be of interest to examine the schemes in vogue in certain countries for the early settlement of industrial disputes. In reply to an enquiry recently made by the Labour Office, the International Labour Office at Geneva has been good enough to forward a short outline of the existing legislation governing the machinery for conciliation and arbitration put into operation at the request of both parties to an industrial dispute. The information furnished is summarised below:

In all countries where the right of association exists, it is permissible for organisations of workers and employers to make private arrangements for referring questions in dispute to agreed organs of arbitration. In practice, a large number of such privately organised schemes for the adjustment of trade disputes exist in highly developed industrial countries. It has, however, been found that, where institutions of this kind are of old standing in the more highly organised trades, the establishment of official facilities for conciliation and arbitration are more desirable. Recourse may then be had to these official facilities where no adequate private machinery is available.

## PERMANENT MACHINERY AND FACILITIES

Apart from unofficial bodies, the existing legislation in these countries may be divided into two main groups as follows:—

- (1) permanent official machinery for the adjustment of trade disputes, *i.e.*, permanent courts or boards of conciliation, and
- (2) permanent official facilities for the setting up of machinery of conciliation or arbitration on any occasion, as desired by the parties, *i.e.*, some minister or other

official authorised to arrange for conciliation or arbitration on request.

It is difficult to make a clear distinction between laws providing for reference to such official machinery only on the request of both parties and those allowing action of some sort to be taken on the application of only one party. Laws establishing official machinery for conciliation and arbitration often provide for two stages in the proceedings, the first depending upon the good will of neither party or of only one of the parties, and the second depending upon the good will of both parties. In the first of these stages a settlement is often achieved by compulsory official intervention, or by application to some authority by only one of the parties, or by official investigation sometimes involving compulsory powers as regards the collection of information. In the second stage decisions are sometimes arrived at by formal arbitration, but these decisions may not eventually be legally binding. The following interesting details regarding the schemes at present existing in industrially developed countries indicate the scope of these laws:—

Examples of legislation providing governmental facilities for conciliation and arbitration (in which the consent of both parties is necessary, at least for certain purposes) may be found in the following countries:—

## EUROPE

**Great Britain.**—(1) The Conciliation Act, 1896 authorizes the Minister of Labour\* on the application of either party to a trade dispute, to appoint a conciliator or board of conciliation, or on the application of both parties to appoint an arbitrator.

(2) The Industrial Courts Act, 1919 establishes a standing Industrial Court to which trade disputes may be referred by the Minister of Labour with the consent of both parties.

**Netherlands.**—The Conciliation Act of 4th May 1923 provides for the appointment of State Conciliators in certain specified districts into which the country is divided. In case of a dispute, either party may apply to the conciliator to intervene. He may then investigate the matter, and endeavour to bring about an understanding, or he may refer it to a conciliation council. If these proceedings fail, there is a possibility of arbitration provided that both parties agree to this procedure and pledge themselves to accept the award.

**Sweden.**—The Act of 28th May 1920 (No. 245) provides for the appointment of official conciliators for special districts, who have the duty of intervening in trade disputes and endeavouring to bring about a settlement whether or not they are so requested by a party to the dispute. If conciliation fails, the conciliator may urge the parties to agree to arbitration, and a second Act of the same date (No. 248) empowers the King to appoint special arbitrators to act as occasion may arise where both parties so request. A third Act of the same date (No. 246) establishes a Central Arbitration Board, to which disputes arising out of existing collective agreements may be referred. Reference to this Court presupposes the tacit consent of both the parties, since the Board is precluded from dealing with matters arising out of collective agreements which expressly allow the parties to refuse arbitration, if either party wishes to take advantage of this right.

**Romania.**—The Act of 4th September 1920 provides for a system of conciliation under which the workers in any undertaking concerned in a dispute are bound to appoint representatives to negotiate with the employer in the presence of a representative of the Ministry of Labour (section 7 of the Act). If this fails, the authorities may mutually agree to refer the matter to an Arbitration Commission largely permanent in its composition (sections 15 and 17 of the Act).

**Poland.**—An Act dated 1st August 1919 (amended 11th March 1921) provides for the settlement of collective disputes in agriculture by a system of conciliation entered upon by the inspector of agricultural labour, either at the request of one party or on his own initiative. If this fails, the matter may be referred to arbitration boards appointed on each occasion, provided that both parties undertake to accept the award.

\* Originally the Board of Trade whose powers were transferred to the Ministry of Labour by the New Ministries and Secretaries Act, 1916.



Germany.—The German system (set up in 1918 and modified by an order of 1923 issued under the Emergency Powers Act of that year) differs fundamentally from all those noted above in its final stage. The first stage in the machinery for dealing with trade disputes is the usual one of intervention by an official conciliator. The conciliators are permanent officials of the Reich appointed for important economic areas. Permanent Adjustment Committees are also set up in suitable centres. The conciliators or committees intervene at the request of one party or on their own initiative, if voluntarily agreed organs of conciliation have failed to bring about a settlement. If the conciliation fails, the matter is referred to an Adjustment Council, consisting of the committee or the conciliator, with representative assessors added. This council draws up an award which normally needs the consent of both parties before it is operative. However, a further step is possible. If the award is considered just and reasonable, and a settlement essential on economic or social grounds, the conciliator or the Federal Minister of Labour may declare the award binding without the consent of the parties. This system has consequently an element of compulsory arbitration, and as such is not quite within the scope of this note.

NORTH AMERICA

Canada

Manitoba.—In Manitoba the Industrial Conditions Act, 1919, provides for the establishment of a joint council of industry which has power to investigate disputes, and at the request of the parties acts as a board of arbitration (section 19).

Nova Scotia.—(1) The Miners' Arbitration Act (Chapter 21 of the Revised Statutes of 1900) establishes a board of arbitration for the settlement of disputes in the coal mining industry. Disputes must be referred to the board by the Commissioner of Public Works and Mines, or the joint application of the employer and the majority of the employed (section 7).

(2) The Conciliation Act, 1903 (Statutes of 1903, Chapter 37) resembles the British Act of 1896 in authorising the provincial secretary to appoint a conciliator or a board of conciliation on the application of one of the parties to a dispute and to appoint an arbitrator on the application of both parties (section 2).

United States of America

A number of States in the United States provide machinery for the settlement of trade disputes on the application of both parties. Extracts from some of the laws on this subject are as below:—

Colorado.—Revised Statutes, 1908. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Section 3909 (as amended by Chapter 140, Acts of 1909). The Labor Commissioner shall endeavour to have said parties' consent in writing to submit their differences to a board of arbitration to be chosen from the citizens of the State.

Connecticut.—Arbitration of labor disputes. Section 4709. Whenever a grievance or dispute shall arise between an employer and his employees, the parties may submit the same directly to the State board of mediation and arbitration, and notify such board or its clerk in writing.

Idaho.—Constitution, Article 13—Arbitration of Labor Disputes. Section 7. The legislature may establish boards of arbitration, whose duty it shall be to hear and determine all differences and controversies between laborers and their employers which may be submitted to them in writing by all parties.

Indiana.—Annotated Statutes of 1894—Revision of 1901. Arbitration of Labor Disputes. Section 7050 I. An agreement to enter into arbitration under this Act shall be in writing and shall state the issue to be submitted and decided, and shall have the effect of an agreement by the parties to abide by and perform the award. (Labor Laws 1914.)

Acts of 1915. Chapter 118—Arbitration and Conciliation of Labor Disputes. Section 3. Whenever a controversy concerning wages, hours of labor or conditions of employment shall arise between an employer or employers, . . . either party to such controversy may apply to the Governor for the appointment of a board of mediation and conciliation. . . . The Governor may, in his discretion, appoint such board and the board when appointed shall, . . . use its best efforts by mediation and conciliation to bring them to an agreement; and if such efforts to bring about an amicable adjustment through mediation and conciliation shall be unsuccessful, the said board shall at once endeavour to induce the parties to submit their controversy to arbitration.

Maryland.—Public General Laws—Code of 1911. Article VII. Arbitration of labor disputes. Section 3. Whenever such subjects of dispute shall arise as aforesaid, it shall be lawful for either party to the same to demand and have an arbitration or reference thereto in manner following, that is to say—when

the party complaining and the party complained of shall come before, or agree, by any writing under their hands, to abide by the determination of any judge or justice of the peace, it shall and may be lawful for such judge or justice of the peace to hear and finally determine in a summary manner the matter in dispute between such parties; but if such parties shall not come before, or so agree to abide by the determination of such judge or justice of the peace, or but shall agree to submit their said cause of dispute to arbitrators, appointed under the provisions of this article, then it shall be lawful for any such judge or justice of the peace, and such judge or justice of the peace is hereby required, on complaint made before him, and proof that such agreement for arbitration had been entered into, to appoint arbitrators for settling the matter in dispute; and such judge or justice of the peace shall then and there propose not less than two nor more than four persons, one-half of whom shall be employers and the other half employees, acceptable to the parties to the dispute, respectively, who, together with said judge or justice of the peace, shall have full power finally to hear and determine such disputes.

Section 4.—In all cases of dispute as aforesaid, as in all other cases, if the parties mutually agree that the matter in dispute shall be arbitrated and determined in a mode different from the one hereby prescribed, such agreement shall be valid, and the award and determination thereon by either mode of arbitration shall be final and conclusive between the parties.

Article LXXXIX.—Arbitration of labor disputes.—Industrial Bureau. Section 6. In all such cases of dispute, as aforesaid, as in all other cases, if the parties mutually agree that the matter in dispute shall be arbitrated and determined in a mode different from the one hereby prescribed, such agreement shall be valid, and the award and determination shall be final and conclusive between the parties.

Massachusetts.—Acts of 1914, Chapter 681—Arbitration of labor disputes. Section 11. . . . When the State Board has knowledge that a strike or lock-out, which involves an employer and his present or former employees, is seriously threatened or has actually occurred, and such employer at that time is employing, or upon the occurrence of a strike or lock-out, was employing not less than twenty-five persons in the same general line of business in any city or town in the Commonwealth, the State Board shall, as soon as may be, communicate with such employer and employees and endeavour by mediation to obtain an amicable settlement, or endeavour to persuade them to submit the controversy to a local board of conciliation and arbitration or to the State Board.

Nebraska.—Revised Statutes, 1913—Arbitration of labor disputes. Section 3635. A grievance or dispute between an employer and his employees may be, by mutual agreement, submitted to the State board of mediation and investigation for their determination and settlement.

Nevada.—Revised Laws, 1912—Arbitration of labor disputes. Section 1920. Whenever such controversy shall arise between an employer and his employees which cannot be settled by mediation and conciliation in the manner provided in the preceding section, such controversy may, with the consent of the parties to the controversy, be submitted to the arbitration of a board of three persons.

New Jersey.—Compiled Statutes, 1910—Arbitration of labor disputes. Section 8. If a majority of the employees in any manufacturing establishment, or in any particular department thereof, shall give notice to their employer or employers in writing, signed by themselves, that they are dissatisfied with the terms or conditions on which they are employed, or with the wages they are receiving, or with any proposed reduction of their wages or proposed alteration of the terms or conditions on which they are employed, and that they propose to submit the matters complained of to arbitration, and shall name an arbitrator to represent them; and if such employer or employers cannot adjust such differences it shall be the duty of such employer or employers, if they choose to accept this method of compromise, to nominate and appoint, in writing, an arbitrator to represent him or them, and to give notice to said employees of such appointment.

Pennsylvania.—Acts of 1913. No. 267—Department of Labor and Industry. Section 18. If such settlement cannot be effected, the dispute may be arbitrated by a board. . . . A submission to the board shall be made in writing and the parties thereto shall agree to abide by the determination of the board.

Philippine Islands.—Acts of Philippine Legislature, 1908. Act No. 1868—Bureau of Labor. Section 2 (d). To secure the settlement of differences between employer and laborer and to avert strikes and lock-outs by inducing all parties to the controversy to submit their differences to arbitration.

Texas.—Revised Civil Statutes, 1911—Arbitration of labor disputes. Board of Arbitration. Article 71. Whenever any grievance or dispute of any nature growing out of the relation of employer and employees shall arise or exist between employer and employees, it shall be lawful, upon mutual consent of all parties, to submit all matters respecting such grievance or dispute in writing to a board of arbitrators to hear, adjudicate and determine the same.



Utah.—Compiled Laws, 1907—Arbitration of labor disputes. State board. Section 1326. Whenever it shall come to the knowledge of the said board that a strike or lock-out is seriously threatened in the State, involving any employer and his employees, if he is employing not less than ten persons, it shall be the duty of the said board to put itself into communication as soon as may be with such employer and employees, and endeavour by mediation to effect an amicable settlement. The said board shall also request each of the parties to forward to its Secretary an application for arbitration.

Section 1327.—As soon as practicable after receiving such applications, the board shall request each of the parties to the dispute to agree upon a written statement of facts relating to the controversy, and to submit the same to the board; Provided that, when such agreement and statement cannot be reached, each of said parties may separately submit to the board a written statement of grievances. Applications to the said board for arbitration on the part of employers must precede any lock-out, and on the part of the employees, any strike; Provided that, in case a lock-out or strike already exists, the board shall accord arbitration if the parties shall resume their relations with each other, as employer and employees. Said applications shall include a promise to abide by the decision of the board and shall be signed by the employer or employers, or his or their authorized agent, on the one side, and by a majority of his or their employees on the other.

Washington.—Codes and Statutes, 1910—Arbitration of labor disputes. Section 6599. It shall be the duty of the State Labor Commissioner upon application of any employer or employee having differences, as soon as practicable, to visit the location of such differences and to make a careful enquiry into the cause thereof, and to advise the respective parties, what, if anything, ought to be done or submitted to adjust said dispute and should the said parties then still fail to agree to a settlement through said Commissioner, then said Commissioner shall endeavour to have said parties' consent in writing to submit their differences to a board of arbitration.

SOUTH AMERICA

Colombia.—An example of legislation regulating conciliation and arbitration proceedings is to be found in Colombia in an Act which places the responsibility for putting the machinery into operation upon the parties concerned, and makes but little provision for official intervention. This Act (No. 21 of 1920, dated 4th October 1920) makes it compulsory to refer to conciliators disputes which cannot be settled by direct negotiations. A conciliator must be appointed by agreement between the parties on each occasion if the parties cannot agree upon one conciliator, two are appointed, one by each party. It appears from the wording of the Act that the proceedings so far are intended to be compulsory, but if the conciliation fails, the dispute can normally only be submitted to arbitration if the two parties so decide (Section 15). The two parties each appoint an arbitrator. These arbitrators then nominate a third. If they disagree, the citizen exercising "the principal political authority in the district" has to act as the third arbitrator.

The above particulars give some idea of existing legislation providing official facilities for arbitration in trade disputes where both parties desire arbitration. It must not be assumed, however, that previous acceptance of arbitration by both parties necessarily makes an award legally binding, whatever may be the moral obligations of the parties. This question raises the whole problem of the legal responsibilities of groups or organisations of workers or employers and the enforceability upon the whole group or upon each individual composing it of a contract entered into collectively by the group. In other words, in order fully to understand the legal effect of laws respecting industrial arbitration, we need to study the law of association of each country and the law relating to so-called "collective agreements." An examination of the mercantile texts dealing with the machinery of conciliation and arbitration would not suffice for any final pronouncement of this matter, and may indeed be misleading if we do not bear in mind the fact that arbitration even with the consent of both parties does not necessarily result in a legally enforceable award.

G. I. P. Railway Administrative Offices, Bombay

CLERICAL STAFF MEETING

The Clerks of the G. I. P. Railway Administrative Offices in Bombay held a meeting on 15th December 1923 under the auspices of the Audit Branch of the G.I.P. Railway Staff Union, with Mr. Ravalgaonkar of the Chief Auditor and Accountant's Office in the chair. In opening

the proceedings, the President made a few remarks on the progress made by the Union and impressed upon the audience, especially the younger staff, the necessity of making a rally to the Union. Chief among the resolutions passed at the meeting were those concerning the scale and prospects of pay, the revision of Leave Rules, the restoration of local allowance and the acceptance by the Company's medical officers of certificates granted by registered doctors.

Swami Adwaitanand, the Editor of the G. I. P. Union Herald, addressing the meeting traced the present growth of labour in the West and said that its entry into and subsequent hold over the political affairs of the country were chiefly owing to strong organisation. He urged the immediate formation of Trade Unions all over India in every industry on sound and peaceful lines as the only means of ameliorating the present condition of the industries. Only then would labour in India be counted upon in all matters of State as in other countries.

Bombay Presidency Postal and R. M. S. Association

The table below shows the financial situation of the Divisional Unions under the Bombay Presidency Postal and R. M. S. Association at the close of the quarter ended September 1923:—

Union	Opening Balance	Receipts during the quarter	Total Receipts	Payments during the quarter	Closing Balance
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Bombay	6,739	1,494	8,233	969	7,264
Bhavnagar	23	44	67	26	39
Baroda	43	930	973	145	828
Surat	1,118	186	1,304	108	1,196
Nasik	1,573	229	1,802	91	1,711
Ahmednagar	1,544	306	1,850	320	1,530
Satara	663	367	1,030	248	782
Belgaum	727	123	850	31	819
Dharwar	931	193	1,124	115	1,009
Ratnagiri	195	115	310	41	269

Statistics of Indian Cotton Mills, 1923

The following are the statistics of the number of cotton mills in India, the number of spindles and looms and the approximate quantity of cotton consumed during the year ended August 1923:—

Number of mills	..	333
.. .. spindles	..	7,927,938
.. .. looms	..	144,794
Quantity of cotton consumed	..	376,547 tons
		(or 2,151,698 bales of 392 lbs.)



## Accidents and Prosecutions

## STATISTICS FOR JANUARY 1924

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 37 and 38 of this issue, contain details of accidents reported during the month of January in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During January, in Bombay City and Island, there were in all 156 factory accidents of which three were serious and the remainder, 153, minor accidents. Of the total number of accidents 45 or 29 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 111 or 71 per cent. to other causes. As in previous months, by far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the proportion of accidents in different classes of factories being 74 per cent. in workshops, 23 per cent. in textile mills and 3 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad, there were in all 9 accidents all of which occurred in cotton mills. Of these 9, one was fatal, 5 serious and the remaining 3 were minor accidents. Eight of these accidents were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 1 to other causes.

In Karachi, there were in all four accidents two of which occurred in railway workshops, and two in Port Trust workshops. Three of these were minor accidents and one was serious. Of the four accidents one was due to machinery in motion and three to other causes.

In other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 28 of which 9 were in textile mills, 10 in workshops and 9 in other industries. Eighteen accidents were due to machinery in motion and 10 to other causes. Of these 28 accidents, 1 was fatal, 3 were serious and the rest minor.

## PROSECUTIONS

During January, there were no prosecutions in Bombay under the Indian Factories Act.

## Labour in Bengal and Assam

## FACTORY REPORT FOR 1922

The Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal and Assam for the year 1922 has recently been published. The total number of registered factories in the two provinces rose from 742 in 1921 to 1,070 in 1922. In Bengal, the majority of the factories were jute mills and presses, rice and oil mills and general engineering and tea factories. In Assam, tea was the main industry.

## OPERATIVES EMPLOYED

The table below shows the total average daily number of persons employed in the chief factories of the two provinces during the years 1921 and 1922:—

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	Number of persons employed.	
	1921	1922
<b>Bengal</b>		
Jute mills	281,363	316,870
Jute presses	24,311	27,811
Cotton mills	12,838	12,521
Rice mills	3,629	4,003
Oil mills	3,005	2,911
Tea factories	.....	9,679
General engineering	20,244	20,792
<b>Total, all factories</b>	<b>465,412</b>	<b>517,386</b>
Men	372,902	417,837
Women	56,224	61,121
Children	36,286	36,128
<b>Assam</b>		
Tea factories	.....	5,528
Saw mills	1,866	1,612
<b>Total, all factories</b>	<b>4,332</b>	<b>7,140</b>
Men	3,315	5,495
Women	608	2,085
Children	409	1,560

In 1922, there was an increase of 11.1 per cent. in the total number of persons employed in Bengal and of 120.2 per cent. in Assam over the 1921 figures. The number of women employees in Bengal increased by 12.3 per cent. and that in Assam by 242.9 per cent., while there was a small decrease in the number of children employed in Bengal. The increase in the women employees in Bengal was due to new jute mills and to the extensions to some of the existing mills as well as to the tea garden factories newly brought under the Act. In Assam, the increase was similarly due to tea factories.

Out of 50 complaints issued during the year against irregular employment of children, especially in jute mills, prosecution was resorted to in three cases which resulted in convictions and fines varying from Rs. 50 to Rs. 500. There was no marked shortage of labour felt in any industry except in some engineering works in which there had been a shortage of both skilled and unskilled labour for some years.

## WAGES

The rates of wages remained almost stationary during the last two years at about 50 per cent. over the pre-war rates. Some strikes which occurred during the year for increased wages, however, ended invariably without the grant of any increase. The average weekly wages, including bonuses, of the different classes of labour (skilled and unskilled) in 1922 were as under:—



Factory.	Average weekly wage.	
	Minimum.	Maximum.
<b>Textile Factories</b>		
Preparers	Rs. 2.12	Rs. 4.0
Shutters	2.10	3.9
Finer-workers	3.0	4.8
Mistries	1.14	2.7
Coolies	6.12	9.0
Non-textile Factories	4.2	7.8
Moulders	6.12	12.0
Turners	7.8	15.0
Fitters	8.4	15.0
Blacksmiths	5.4	9.12
Carpenters	3.6	4.8
Mothers	8.0	14.13
Turners	7.0	14.13
Fitters	6.4	12.8
Blacksmiths	6.12	11.19
Carpenters	6.0	12.2
Mothers	5.8	9.9
Coolies	3.0	4.8

## ACCIDENTS

Special attention was paid during the year to the introduction of safety starting controls and the provision of automatic safety guards designed to prevent accidents. The following table shows the number of persons injured in accidents during 1921 and 1922 and the percentage as compared with the total number of employees:—

	Number of persons injured.		Percentage.	
	1921	1922	1921	1922
Bengal	1,418	1,609	0.30	0.31
Assam	3	5	0.06	0.05
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,421</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>0.30</b>	<b>0.31</b>

The increase in accidents was due to the large increase in the number of factories. The percentage of injuries in each province was, however, practically the same as in the previous year. In Bengal, there were 60 fatal, 606 serious and 943 slight accidents in 1921 as against 60, 534 and 824 in 1922. The corresponding figures in Assam were 0, 2 and 3 in 1922 as against 1, 2 and 0 in 1921. The Report states that a large number of accidents classified as slight would not be reported as accidents at all in any other country than India as there is a tendency on the part of the Indian workman to obtain leave on the slightest excuse, especially if he can claim full pay. Of the accidents in 1922, 2 fatal, 13 serious and 18 slight accidents occurred to children under 12 years of age, 6 of those who met with serious accidents being under 3 years of age. The Report states that none of these accidents

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could have been guarded against except by prohibiting the entry of children into certain sections of the mills.

## SANITATION AND WATER SUPPLY

The Report states that 96 complaints were issued during the year in regard to insanitary hand service latrines in factories. The advisability of substituting septic tank installations for such latrines was impressed on several factories employing large numbers of operatives, and new or additional septic tank installations were actually erected during the year in 8 factories. The standard of lighting and ventilation was generally good except in printing presses in Calcutta. Certain cases of lead poisoning having been detected in printing presses, the Public Health Department was requested to arrange for the medical examination of the employees. The supply of drinking water was generally satisfactory. The installation of tube wells was extended, and 36 more such wells were installed during the year mostly in registered factories.

## GENERAL HEALTH AND HOUSING

The general health of the operatives during the year is said to have been fairly good but for several cases of malaria in a jute mill and a cotton mill and of mild cholera in two jute mills. The Report suggests the question of the establishment of a general hospital for the treatment of epidemics and accident cases being taken up by the managing agents of certain mills. In Bengal, 11 textile factories erected additional new coolie lines and 2 other jute mills were constructing similar lines close to factory premises. The Report says that the accommodation provided for the employees in the tea gardens was good and that the labour was apparently satisfied with the conditions.

## Welfare Work in Mills

## THE TATA GROUP OF MILLS

The following table gives the details of the diseases and the number of female operatives treated by the Lady Doctor at the mills controlled by Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd., during the month of December 1923:—

Disease.	Number of cases treated.
1. The Alimentary System (Stomatitis, Dyspepsia, Diarrhoea, Constipation, Dysentery and Intestinal Worms)	81
2. The Urinary System	2
3. Muscular and Articular Systems	16
4. The Nervous System (Headache and Neuralgia)	19
5. The Respiratory System (Bronchitis and Asthma)	71
6. The Blood, Lymphatic and ductless glands	19
7. Ear, Throat and Skin	49
8. Infectious nature (Malaria and Dengue)	47
9. Gynaecological and Syphilis	14
10. Injuries	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>269</b>

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**Labour Schools in Ahmedabad\***

In 1921 some millowners of Ahmedabad started a fund known as the Ahmedabad Mills' Tilak Swaraj Fund. The object of the Fund was to utilise the amount collected for the amelioration of the condition of the labouring classes either in the advancement of their education or otherwise. The management of the Fund was entrusted to a Committee of three members. A sum of Rs. 2,66,990 was actually collected from 42 mills by way of subscription, and a sum of Rs. 30,393 was promised by six other mills. Of the total collection, Rs. 1,00,000 has been invested in a 6 per cent. loan and Rs. 1,85,000 as a fixed deposit with a Bank. The Managing Committee in December 1922 unanimously resolved that, as long as the Fund lasted, they should pay the Labour Union, Ahmedabad, for the maintenance of schools for the labour class in Ahmedabad, such yearly grants as were decided upon annually by the Gujarat Provincial Congress Committee. The contributors to the Fund, finding that no demand for money had been made by the Congress Committee, held a meeting on 11th August 1923, in which they discussed the memorandum of the Fund Committee. A final arrangement was arrived at by which the Committee was to pay Rs. 1,250 per month to the Labour Union for the maintenance of schools for the children of the Ahmedabad labourers.

**International Social Insurance****A NEW SCHEME**

The importance of the development of legislation on an international basis with regard to social insurance is emphasised in an article by Professor K. Kwieczkowski in the November 1923 issue of the *International Labour Review*. The writer points out that, through the conclusion of conventions and international treaties, the sphere of labour legislation has become international, and it is becoming more and more easy to draw up protective legislation capable of being applied in any portion of the world. In the case of social insurance legislation, on the other hand, an international basis is lacking. The systems in operation in the various countries are frequently inadequate, and no endeavour is made towards international unification. The multiplicity of systems and the still rudimentary character of their organisation in a number of countries explain why no attempt has yet been made to unify social insurance on an international basis.

**Hours of Work  
THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY**

The Twentieth Session of the Governing Body of the International Labour Office was held at Geneva on 15th to 18th October 1923.

A long discussion took place on the question of the eight-hour day. The Governing Body considered the

\* Vide page 6 of the *Labour Gazette* for March 1922.

report of the Committee which it had appointed to make recommendations as to the means of furthering the ratification of the Eight Hours Convention.

This committee was appointed because a number of countries in which the eight-hour day is practically universal have found themselves unable, for various reasons, to ratify the draft convention adopted by the First Session of the Conference limiting the hours of work in industrial undertakings to eight in the day and forty-eight in the week. Among these countries is Great Britain which, in 1921, proposed a revision of the convention with a view to facilitating ratification by making certain modifications which, without affecting the principles of the convention, would give it greater elasticity.

The Committee recommended that it was desirable, before taking any decision with regard to the question of revision, to request the countries which desired to ratify but had been unable to do so, to indicate the precise nature of their difficulties, and the changes which they suggested. The Governing Body, however, after full discussion, decided to take no action on the matter, thus setting aside the proposal of the British Government.

**Workmen's Compensation in India**

On page 5 of this issue a reference has been made to the steps which the Government of Bombay propose to take with regard to the appointment of a Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation as provided for in Act VIII of 1923 which comes into force on the 1st of July of this year. Mr. A. G. Clow, Under Secretary in the Department of Industries and Labour of the Government of India, has published a small volume\* which is almost indispensable to millowners and others, as everyone knows Workmen's Compensation Legislation is far from being easy to master however carefully an Act is drafted. The Act passed by the Indian legislature has curtailed the opportunities for litigation to a minimum and this book clears up any difficulties likely to arise to those who will have to use the Act. In the course of six chapters Mr. Clow deals with employers, workmen, the conditions governing the compensation, scales of compensation, procedure and claims for compensation and subsequent proceedings. In addition, the complete Workmen's Compensation Act has been republished for ready reference. On page 87 there is a handy table which shows the amount of compensation payable for death, for permanent total disablement and for temporary disablement. Chapter 4 on the scales of compensation and Chapter 5 on the procedure and claims for compensation are of special value, the examples in the former being just those which are likely to cause the employer doubt in the calculation of compensation. The volume, in short, should prove invaluable to employers, insurance companies and others interested in Workmen's Compensation.

\* The Indian Workmen's Compensation Act (VIII of 1923). A. G. Clow, Allahabad Pioneer Press, 1923. Price Rs. 5.

**Workmen's Compensation in Great Britain**

According to the report of the Home Office on compensation and proceedings under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1906 and the Employers' Liability Act, 1880 during the year 1922, the aggregate number of persons employed on an average throughout the year in the seven industries, viz., mines, quarries, railways, factories, docks, constructional work and shipping, the number of accident cases and the amount of compensation paid during the years 1911, 1921 and 1922 were as follows:—

	1911	1921	1922
Aggregate number of workpeople coming within the provisions of the Act of 1906	7,305,977	7,315,866	7,205,609
Number of cases—			
Fatal	4,021	2,385	2,499
Non-fatal	419,031	283,361	390,423
Total	423,052	285,746	392,912
Payments for compensation—	£	£	£
Fatal cases	620,155	518,064	546,796
Non-fatal cases	2,436,249	4,991,331	5,949,399
Total	3,056,404	5,509,395	6,496,195

The average amount of compensation paid in fatal cases in 1922 was £220, as compared with £217 in 1921 and £154 in 1911.

The following table sets out the number of cases per thousand persons employed and the charge per person employed in each of the seven industries during the years 1920 to 1922:—

Industry.	Number of cases per thousand persons employed.			Charge per person employed.		
	1920	1921	1922	1920	1921	1922
Shipping	23	22	23	sh. d.	sh. d.	sh. d.
Factories	33	26	27	9 3	9 5	8 9
Docks	71	68	82	29 5	33 1	36 10
Mines	116	102	192	37 3	40 9	61 0
Quarries	61	59	63	19 0	20 9	22 10
Constructional work	42	43	52	13 5	15 6	18 11
Railways	33	29	30	11 8	11 4	11 3
Total	46	39	55	14 4	15 1	18 0

Thus, the charge per person employed in each of the industries, viz., mines, docks and constructional works rose progressively from 1919 onwards, while the figures remained fairly constant in the other industries.

On page 37 of the January 1924 issue of the *Labour Gazette*, a reference was made to the increased liabilities which would fall on employers under the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923. The weekly compensation to a workman under the Workmen's Compensation Acts, 1906 to 1923, is, when the average weekly earnings are £2-10s. or more, half of such average with a maximum of 30s. and, when they are £1-5s. or less, three-quarters of such average. A letter on the subject of commission issued by the Employers' Liability Assurance Corporation to all its agents states that the liability to pay compensation to workmen being imposed by Act of Parliament, employers are entitled to insurance on the most economical lines and that the accident insurance companies realise that, unless the liability under the new Act is to impose an unduly heavy burden upon employers, the cost of acquiring and managing the business must be materially reduced. The letter further states that, in these circumstances, it has become necessary to revise the scale of commission to agents on premiums for policies covering liability under the new Act, but that it is desired to lay emphasis upon the fact that of the future reduction in the margin between compensation payments and premium the proportion by which agents are affected is relatively small compared with that which must necessarily be borne by the offices.

**Depressed Classes, Bombay**

A meeting of the depressed classes was held in December last under the auspices of the Somawanshi Sudharak Mandali at Byculla, with Mr. J. Addyman, M.L.C., as President. The following resolutions which were passed unanimously are of interest:—

(1) This meeting requests the Government of Bombay to affix boards at courts and public dispensaries, schools, tanks, wells and waterways so as to enable the members of the depressed classes to take advantage of the resolution passed in the last Bombay Legislative Council on the motion of Mr. S. K. Bole.

(2) This meeting requests the Chairman, City Improvement Trust, to let two *chavals* constructed by the Trust at Love Lane, Byculla, to the members of the depressed classes under the auspices of the Somawanshi Nirashrit Sudharak Mandali and two shops for the sale of the necessaries of life.

(3) This meeting requests the Municipal Corporation of Bombay to make provision for a free primary Marathi day school and a night school, a free reading room and a dispensary for the use of the depressed classes who will be residing in the Improvement Trust *chavals* at Love Lane, Byculla, and a day school and a night school, at the Improvement Trust *chavals* at Clerk Road, Byculla.

(4) This meeting urges the Bombay Municipal Corporation to introduce free and compulsory primary education amongst the depressed classes as early as possible.



**Agriculture and Industries**

According to the Indian Census Report just published the population of the Indian Empire (i.e., including Indian or Native States) at the Census of 1921 was distributed as follows :—

	Per cent.	
Agriculture	71	(organised industries occupy 1 per cent. of the total population).
Industries	10	
Trade	6	
Transport	2	
Administration and protection	13	
Miscellaneous	9½	
Total	100	

This predominance of agriculture is further borne out by the fact that in India the urban population is only 10·2 per cent. of the total population as against 79 per cent. in England and 44 per cent. in France.

**Unemployment in Agriculture**

**THE CENSUS OF 1921**

Copies of the Census of India, Volume I (Parts I and 2), have been received in the Labour Office. They deal with the All-India Statistics. In this volume there is an interesting table in Part I, Chapter XII, p. 244, on occupations. This illustrates the average acreage under the plough per cultivator in India province by province. The acreage includes, of course, current fallows, and by cultivator is meant ordinary cultivators excluding dependents and farm servants. The group 'ordinary cultivators' is group 2 under head I-i (a) of the Census occupation tables.

Province.	Cultivated area per cultivator.
Bombay	12·15
North-Western Frontier Province	11·22
Punjab	9·18
Central Provinces and Berar	8·48
Burma	5·65
Madras	4·91
Bengal	3·12
Bihar and Orissa	3·09
Assam	2·96
United Provinces	2·51

It may be seen from these figures that in Bengal, Assam, Bihar and Orissa, and the United Provinces the cultivated area per worker is about 3 acres. This area cannot engage the cultivator throughout the year. Mr. Thompson, the Census Officer for Bengal says "the cultivator works fairly hard when he ploughs his land and puts down his crops, and again when he harvests them, but for most part of the year he has little or nothing to do."

In this connexion it is of interest to note that Mr. Calvert in his recently published book "Wealth and Welfare of the Punjab" estimates that the work done by the cultivator in the Punjab does not represent more than about 150 days full labour in 12 months. This insufficiency of work, Mr. Thompson thinks, is the root cause of the poverty of the cultivator. He further adds that the land system of the country is responsible for this. The holdings are so minutely divided that they do not provide sufficient work for cultivators throughout the year.

**Economic Survey of India**

On 4th February 1924\* the Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna moved the following resolution in the Council of State :—

"This Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that a Committee consisting of a majority of non-official Indians be appointed to make a full and detailed survey of the economic conditions of the people of India with special reference to the condition of the agricultural population with a view to finding out the average annual income per head of the population, particularly of the agricultural population, and to enquire into and report on the measures that should be adopted to reduce, as far as possible, the existing destitution and poverty in the country and to raise the average economic level of the masses of the people."

In the course of the debate, the mover instanced the results obtained for Bombay by the Labour Office of that Government in regard to family budgets. He also quoted the statement in the Montagu-Chelmsford Report "that the curve of wealth descends very steeply and that enormous masses of the population have little to spare for more than the necessaries of life."

The Honourable Col. Nawab Sir Umar Hayat Khan seconded the resolution and the Honourable Sardar Jogendra Singh supported it. The Honourable Lala Ram Saran Das, the Honourable Mr. G. S. Khaparde, the Honourable Lala Sukhbir Sinha and the Honourable Maulvi Abdul Karim also spoke in favour of the resolution.

The Honourable Sir Maneckjee Dadabhoj moved an alternative proposition that the local Governments should be consulted in regard to the desirability of undertaking such an enquiry and whether they would be willing to co-operate if such a Committee were appointed. He was in favour of a Committee of experts, financiers and persons well versed in the technicalities of the subject. The Honourable Sir Arthur Froom supported this amendment.

The Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma, on behalf of the Government of India, announced that Government thought it desirable to examine, through a Committee of experts, the distribution of the burden of taxation between the different classes of the population, the equitable and scientific basis of the present scheme of central, provincial and local taxation and the administrative machinery for the assessment and collection of taxes and to include in the scope of the enquiry consideration of land revenue so far as necessary for a comprehensive

\* Council of State Debates, Vol. IV, No. 3, Government Central Press, Delhi.



**Money Orders\***

The table below shows the number of inland money orders issued in India during the last ten years :—

Year.	Number.	Amount.	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) in	
			Number.	Amount.
		Rs.		
1913-14	29,940,631	51,18,35,732	+ 4·60	+ 8·00
1914-15	29,317,377	51,54,81,941	- 2·08	+ 0·71
1915-16	31,281,231	53,92,17,506	+ 6·70	+ 4·61
1916-17	32,331,652	57,54,48,259	+ 3·36	+ 6·72
1917-18	33,903,625	62,77,87,899	+ 4·86	+ 9·10
1918-19	34,881,624	69,93,62,433	+ 2·88	+ 11·40
1919-20	37,632,888	74,71,43,409	+ 7·89	+ 6·83
1920-21	37,226,484	85,73,96,210	- 1·08	+ 14·75
1921-22	33,328,207	78,41,66,052	- 10·47	- 8·54
1922-23	31,742,713	78,29,30,898	- 4·75	- 0·15

The decrease in both the number and value of money orders in 1922-23 is attributed to general trade depression. During 1922-23 the number of inland money orders issued in the Bombay Presidency was 3,640,605 amounting to Rs. 10,07,81,583 yielding as commission Rs. 12,22,037 out of a total commission of Rs. 1,00,45,077 for the whole of India.

**Joint Maritime Commission**

**INTERNATIONAL SEAMEN'S CODE**

The Third Session of the Joint Maritime Commission of the International Labour Organisation was held at the Ministry of Labour, London, in December 1923. The Commission examined the Report of the Director of the International Labour Office and the work done by the Office since the last session in regard to maritime affairs. The Commission drew attention to the importance of the work performed and the value of the information collected especially in respect of social insurance, statistics of shipwrecks and accidents and the protection of seamen against venereal diseases. It also appreciated the agreements reached between the International Labour Office and other international institutions studying various aspects of maritime problems. The Commission then discussed the proposals of the Office for the examination of a preliminary draft of an international seamen's code in regard to seamen's articles of agreement; but it will give its final opinion on the point only at its next session in September 1924. The Governing Body will decide whether, in view of this opinion, this item should be placed on the agenda of a future session of the International Labour Conference.

\* Annual Report of the Posts and Telegraphs of India, 1922-23, Government Central Press, Delhi.

survey of the existing conditions. He also stated that everything would be done in close co-operation with the provinces and that the Committee would institute such an enquiry into the economic condition of the people as it might deem necessary for the purposes of its report. The Honourable Sir Basil Blackett indicated that the Committee personnel would consist of four experts.

The Honourable Saiyid Raza Ali wanted the Committee to be appointed to be so constituted as to inspire public confidence and urged for the early publication of, and prompt action on, reports submitted by Committees and Commissions. The Honourable Sir Dinshaw Wacha commended the proposition of the Honourable Sir Narasimha Sarma for acceptance.

In replying to the debate Mr. Sethna remarked :— It has been suggested that investigations of the kind made in my proposal be undertaken by the different provinces. I am sure Honourable Members are aware and Members of the Government are aware that a similar undertaking is already in hand in the Presidency from which I hail. Mr. Findlay Shirras is at the present moment busy, I understand, with the preparation of a work on the lines of the book which has been prepared by Sir Josiah Stamp dealing with the taxable capacity of the people in the United Kingdom. Eventually the Honourable Mr. Phiroze C. Sethna accepted Sir Maneckjee Dadabhoj's amendment and the resolution as amended was carried.

The resolution as passed runs as follows :— "That this Council recommends to the Governor-General in Council that the Local Governments may be consulted with regard to the desirability of undertaking an inquiry into the general economic conditions of British India and whether they are prepared to support the proposal to appoint a Committee and to co-operate in its labours if appointed."

**Questions in the Legislative Assembly**

Mr. K. G. Lohokare asked : (a) Is it a fact that the several Labour Unions of India have protested against the nomination of Mr. Chowdhury, as their representative for the International Labour Conference?

(b) If so, will Government please state what consideration led to his nomination in spite of such protests?

(c) Do Government propose to consult the different Labour Organisations before making nominations in the future to avoid such instances?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied : (a) A few Unions have protested.

(b) The Government of India, in accordance with their usual practice, invited suggestions from representative labour associations. A large number of names were put forward, and from these the Government selected Mr. Roy Chowdhury as best fulfilling the requirements laid down for the selection of such delegates in Article 389 of the Treaty of Versailles.

(c) As already stated, the practice followed in the past has been to invite suggestions from representative labour associations before making nominations. No change is contemplated in this procedure.



Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Table with columns for Name of country, India (Bombay), United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Italy (Rome), Belgium, Norway, Switzerland, South Africa, France (Paris), Germany, U.S. of America. Rows list months from 1914 July to 1924 January.

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

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Table with columns for Name of country, India, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, United States of America, France, Italy, Belgium, Finland, Germany, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland. Rows list months from 1914 July to 1924 January.

(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.



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Table with columns for Article, Grade, Rate per, July 1914, January 1923, December 1923, January 1924. Lists various food items like Cereals, Pulses, Sugar, etc.

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Table showing percentage prices for various food items in July 1914. Columns include Article, Grade, and percentage values for July 1914, January 1923, December 1923, and January 1924.



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds— Linseed Rapeseed Poppyseed Gingelly	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	12 14 0	14 4 0	13 13 0
	Cawnpore (brown)	"	8 0 0	10 0 0	10 12 0	10 12 0
	Do.	"	10 14 0	13 4 0	13 12 0	13 6 0
	White	"	11 4 0	14 10 0	16 0 0	13 12 0
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Broach Oomra Dharwar Khandesh Bengal	Good	Candy	251 0 0	460 0 0	640 0 0	585 0 0
	Fully good	"	222 0 0	"	"	"
	Saw-ginned	"	230 0 0	"	"	"
	Machine-ginned	"	205 0 0	"	"	"
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White mulls Shirtings Long cloth Chudders	40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 8 0	1 13 6	1 13 0
	Fari 2,000	Piece	5 15 0	13 2 0	13 6 0	13 12 0
	6,600	"	4 3 0	10 0 0	9 4 0	9 4 0
	Liepmann's 1,500	"	10 6 0	25 12 0	26 12 0	28 4 0
Local made 36"×37½ yds.	Lb.	0 9 6	1 7 3	1 6 0	1 7 3	
54"×6 yds.	"	0 9 6	1 4 9	1 4 0	1 4 9	

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds— Linseed Rapeseed Poppyseed Gingelly	Bold	100	145	160	155
	Cawnpore (brown)	100	125	134	134
	Do.	100	122	126	123
	White	100	130	142	140
Average—Oilseeds	100	130	141	138	
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Broach Oomra Dharwar Khandesh Bengal	Good	100	207	288	264
	Fully good	100	"	"	"
	Saw-ginned	100	"	"	"
	Machine-ginned	100	193	283	275
Average—Cotton—raw	100	200	286	273	
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White mulls Shirtings Long cloth Chudders	40S	100	188	231	227
	Fari 2,000	100	221	225	232
	6,600	100	239	221	221
	Liepmann's 1,500	100	248	258	272
Local made 36"×37½ yds.	100	245	231	245	
54"×6 yds.	100	218	210	218	
Average—Cotton manufactures	100	227	229	236	
Average—Textiles—Cotton	100	220	243	248	



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk Do.	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	9 10 0	9 4 0	6 15 10
	Mathow Lari	"	2 15 1	5 12 0	5 12 0	6 11 6
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned	"	1 2 6	1 14 6	1 10 6	1 13 8
	Do.	"	1 1 3	1 0 7	1 1 10	1 0 1
	Do.	"	1 4 0	2 14 10	2 6 3	2 11 9
Metals— Copper braziers Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	—	Cwt.	60 8 0	75 8 0	71 8 0	73 8 0
	—	"	4 0 0	8 12 0	7 0 0	7 0 0
	—	"	7 12 0	15 8 0	12 4 0	11 12 0
	—	"	9 0 0	19 0 0	15 10 0	15 10 0
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Do. Kerosene Do.	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	27 2 0	24 10 0	23 10 0
	Imported	"	19 11 6	29 15 11	26 14 8	26 7 7
	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 10 6	6 15 6	6 15 6
	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	10 3 0	9 8 0	9 8 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Other textiles— Silk Do.	Manchow	100	187	179	136
	Mathow Lari	100	195	195	228
Average—Other textiles	100	191	187	182	
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned	100	165	143	160
	Do.	100	96	103	93
	Do.	100	234	191	219
Average—Hides and Skins	100	165	146	157	
Metals— Copper braziers Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	—	100	125	118	121
	—	100	219	175	175
	—	100	200	158	152
	—	100	211	174	174
Average—Metals	100	217	209	209	
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Do. Kerosene Do.	Bengal	100	184	167	160
	Imported	100	152	136	134
	Elephant Brand	100	175	159	159
	Chester Brand	100	199	185	185
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	100	178	162	160	
Total—Food Total—Non-food	—	100	173	194	188
	—	100	186	185	189
General Average	100	181	188	188	



## Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	52 0 0	49 0 0	48 8 0
Wheat, white	5% barley 3% dirt.	..	31 8 0	41 0 0	35 8 0	35 8 0
.. red	30% red. 5% barley 3% dirt.	..	31 4 0	40 8 0	34 12 0	34 12 0
.. white	92% red. 2% barley	..	32 8 0	42 4 0	36 8 0	36 8 0
.. red	14% dirt. 2% barley	..	32 4 0	41 12 0	35 12 0	35 12 0
Jowari	Export Quality	..	25 8 0	26 0 0	31 8 0	28 0 0
Barley	3% dirt	..	26 8 0	27 8 0	26 8 0	27 4 0
Pulses—						
Gram	1% dirt	..	29 8 0	31 0 0	28 0 0	27 8 0
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	19 11 0	25 15 0	26 0 0
Do.	.. brown	..	8 1 6	.....	.....	.....
Other food—						
Salt		Bengal Maund.	2 2 0	1 10 6	2 14 3	2 14 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—					
Rice	Larkana No. 3	100	133	126	124
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt	100	130	113	113
.. red	30% red. 5% barley, 3% dirt	100	130	111	111
.. white	92% red. 2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt	100	130	112	112
.. red	2% barley, 1 1/2% dirt	100	130	111	111
Jowari	Export Quality	100	102	124	106
Barley	3% dirt	100	104	100	103
Average—Cereals		100	123	114	111
Pulses—					
Gram	1% dirt	100	105	95	93
Sugar—					
Sugar	Java, white	100	216	284	285
..	.. brown	100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Sugar		100	216	284	285
Other food—Salt		100	78	136	137



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3% admixture	Maund	2 11 3	3 12 0	4 2 0	4 5 0
Rapeseed	Black, 9% admixture	Candy	51 0 0	59 0 0	64 8 0	69 4 0
Gingelly	..	..	62 0 0	78 0 0	.....	.....
Textiles—						
Jute bags	B. Twills	100 bags	38 4 0	52 12 0	53 8 0	53 8 0
Textile—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maund	20 4 0	42 12 0	.....	.....
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Piece	10 3 6	22 12 0	28 2 0	28 8 0
Shirtings	Liepmann's	..	10 2 0	24 8 0	27 0 0	27 0 0
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)	Lb.	0 12 2	.....	.....	.....
Other Textiles—						
Wool	Kandahar	Maund	28 0 0	38 0 0	40 0 0	39 0 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Price in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—					
Cotton seed	3% admixture	100	139	153	160
Rapeseed	Black, 9% admixture	100	116	126	136
Gingelly	..	100	126	.....	.....
Average—Oilseeds		100	127	140	148
Textiles—					
Jute bags	Twills	100	138	140	140
Textiles—Cotton—					
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	100	211	.....	.....
(b) Cotton manufactures—					
Drills	Pepperill	100	223	275	279
Shirtings	Liepmann's	100	242	267	267
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)	100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Cotton manufactures		100	232	271	273
Average—Textiles—Cotton		100	225	271	273
Other Textiles—Wool		100	136	143	139



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides— Hides dry	Sind Punjab	Maund	21 4 0	15 0 0	14 8 0	16 8 0
			21 4 0	15 0 0	14 8 0	16 8 0
Metals— Copper Braziers Steel Bars Plates	.....	Cwt.	60 8 0	76 0 0	73 12 0	73 0 0
			3 14 0	7 4 0	7 0 0	6 0 0
			4 6 0	8 8 0	7 14 0	7 8 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal	Ton	16 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	10 1 0	9 6 0	9 6 0
	Elephant	2 Tins	4 7 0	7 8 6	6 13 6	6 13 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	January 1923.	December 1923.	January 1924.
Hides— Hides dry	Sind Punjab	Maund	100	71	68	78
			100	71	68	78
Average—Hides			100	71	68	78
Metals— Copper Braziers Steel Bars Plates	.....	Cwt.	100	126	122	121
			100	187	181	155
			100	194	180	171
Average—Metals			100	169	161	149
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal	Ton	100	219	219	219
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case	100	196	183	183
	Elephant	2 Tins	100	170	154	154
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles			100	195	185	185
Total—Food			100	126	131	130
Total—Non-food			100	160	163	163
General Average			100	147	150	149



## Wholesale prices index numbers in Bombay by groups

Price in July 1914 = 100

Months.	Cereals.	Fabrics.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Total non-food.	General average.
<b>1923</b>														
January	158	160	306	140	185	130	120	274	190	140	233	199	195	195
<b>1922</b>														
January	182	175	210	190	180	132	166	236	167	167	199	196	194	192
February	179	168	205	211	189	136	156	244	167	166	192	205	189	189
March	177	166	224	241	190	140	174	251	180	166	192	195	195	195
April	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	251	190	157	187	190	189	190
May	180	160	216	220	193	149	190	250	191	139	186	189	191	191
June	169	129	220	251	167	152	202	256	192	136	191	194	195	192
July	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	192	142	177	189	192	190
August	166	132	227	228	188	150	197	248	191	139	183	185	188	188
September	163	127	212	241	185	135	191	229	191	142	182	187	183	184
October	145	119	210	249	176	136	165	226	192	112	183	180	176	177
November	137	111	213	280	176	133	179	224	192	146	195	182	180	179
December	129	105	216	286	170	135	186	220	192	127	186	181	178	175
<b>1923</b>														
January	125	102	202	305	173	130	205	227	191	165	194	178	180	181
February	125	95	210	268	167	132	210	225	191	132	195	174	182	177
March	127	93	242	296	179	139	213	227	195	134	187	176	183	182
April	128	92	242	269	174	134	204	217	195	167	195	176	184	180
May	124	88	248	284	176	131	205	217	195	161	185	172	182	180
June	128	91	234	302	179	134	211	212	195	144	186	166	180	180
July	127	90	215	317	178	132	217	211	196	139	182	169	178	178
August	120	85	202	343	176	131	210	209	195	138	178	168	176	176
September	124	85	209	354	182	136	211	215	196	149	177	162	178	179
October	122	85	214	368	185	133	211	217	192	133	178	169	179	181
November	125	93	228	365	189	138	205	225	187	161	174	158	185	186
December	125	91	243	375	194	141	206	229	187	146	167	162	185	180
<b>1924</b>														
January	127	92	244	340	188	138	223	236	182	157	166	160	189	188

NOTE.—The figure in heavy type indicates the highest peak reached.

## Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, December 1923 and January 1924

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	Equivalent in tolas.	July 1914.	December 1923.	January 1924.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in January 1924 over or below	
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	July 1914.	December 1923.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	216	5 10	8 1	8 3	+2 5	+0 2
Wheat	Punjab Pissi	"	212	5 10	7 6	7 6	+1 8	.....
Jowari	Sholapuri	"	208	4 3	5 11	5 7	+1 4	-0 4
Bajri	Ghati	"	200	4 7	5 8	5 5	+0 10	-0 3
Gram	Punjab red	"	208	4 4	5 1	5 5	+1 1	+0 4
Turdal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	7 1	7 1	+1 2	.....
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer by weight	28	1 1	2 10	3 0	+1 11	+0 2
Sugar (raw)	Sangli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	2 0	2 0	+0 10	.....
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	15 3	15 7	+7 9	+0 4
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	" Average for sheep and goat	"	39	3 0	7 0	7 0	+4 0	.....
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	.....
Ghee	Belgaum, Deshi	" by weight	28	7 1	13 2	13 7	+6 6	+0 5
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	"	28	0 8	1 1	1 2	+0 6	+0 1
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	1 0	1 0	+0 9	.....
Cocunut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 7	4 7	+1 0	.....



## Retail prices of Articles of food in December 1923 and January 1924

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
		December 1923.	January 1924.								
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.				
<b>Cereals—</b>											
Rice	Maund	7 7 11	6 10 8	8 14 3	7 9 4	9 8 10	7 9 11	6 10 8	8 14 3	7 12 3	9 8 10
Wheat	"	7 0 9	4 8 4	7 4 4	5 13 11	6 5 5	7 0 9	4 13 7	7 3 1	5 15 6	6 5 5
Jowari	"	5 10 11	3 10 2	3 12 11	4 8 9	4 7 5	5 6 2	3 12 11	3 12 11	4 5 5	4 9 4
Bajri	"	5 11 1	3 14 1	5 5 4	4 3 11	5 1 3	5 6 2	4 4 3	5 4 7	4 1 7	5 1 3
<b>Pulses—</b>											
Gram	"	4 14 9	3 11 11	5 11 5	3 13 10	4 1 4	5 2 9	3 15 2	5 11 5	3 15 2	4 1 4
Turdal	"	6 15 7	7 0 6	6 10 8	6 13 2	8 14 3	6 15 7	7 4 4	6 10 8	7 5 8	8 14 3
<b>Other articles of food—</b>											
Sugar (refined)	"	20 4 1	19 12 1	21 5 4	19 6 4	17 12 5	21 7 7	20 0 0	21 5 4	22 13 9	19 4 5
Jagri (gul)	"	14 4 7	10 10 8	14 8 9	11 10 2	10 8 5	14 4 7	10 5 2	13 5 4	13 5 4	10 8 5
Tea	Lb.	0 15 3	0 13 10	1 4 9	0 15 7	0 14 6	0 15 7	0 13 10	1 4 9	1 1 9	0 14 6
Salt	Maund	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	5 0 0	4 3 4	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	5 0 0	4 3 4
Beef	Seer	0 8 2	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 6 0	0 6 0	0 8 2	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 6 0	0 6 0
Mutton	"	0 14 4	0 12 0	1 0 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 14 4	0 12 0	1 0 0	0 10 0	0 11 0
Milk	Maund	17 9 4	10 0 0	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4	10 0 0	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 5 4
Chase	"	94 1 11	76 3 1	80 0 0	85 5 4	74 6 8	96 15 6	80 0 0	80 0 0	80 0 0	74 6 8
Potatoes	"	7 14 1	6 9 7	10 0 0	8 0 0	6 11 9	8 4 0	5 12 3	9 6 7	10 10 8	7 14 1
Onions	"	7 2 3	7 10 7	6 2 6	5 13 1	4 3 4	7 2 3	7 3 8	6 2 6	5 13 1	4 2 7
Coconut oil	"	32 10 5	30 3 0	35 8 11	33 10 11	28 1 1	32 10 5	30 3 0	35 8 11	33 10 11	28 1 1

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

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

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
		December 1923.	January 1924.								
<b>Cereals—</b>											
Rice	"	135	100	144	143	166	136	100	144	147	166
Wheat	"	126	107	154	114	118	126	115	153	116	118
Jowari	"	121	100	100	158	130	124	105	100	151	134
Bajri	"	132	92	113	121	124	125	101	112	117	124
Average—cereals	"	129	100	128	134	135	128	105	127	133	136
<b>Pulses—</b>											
Gram	"	114	98	143	90	84	120	104	143	92	84
Turdal	"	119	105	108	117	135	119	109	108	126	135
Average—pulses	"	117	102	126	104	110	120	107	126	109	110
<b>Other articles of food—</b>											
Sugar (refined)	"	266	272	237	194	190	282	275	237	229	206
Jagri (gul)	"	167	153	164	150	150	167	148	150	172	150
Tea	"	199	200	267	177	177	200	200	267	171	177
Salt	"	158	234	221	225	224	199	234	221	225	224
Beef	"	215	200	133	240	141	158	221	221	225	224
Mutton	"	191	200	267	167	183	215	200	133	240	141
Milk	"	185	225	200	183	133	191	200	267	167	183
Chase	"	460	179	263	200	210	460	210	263	210	210
Potatoes	"	176	122	180	152	144	191	187	180	142	144
Onions	"	460	421	308	233	210	460	106	247	267	235
Coconut oil	"	129	123	178	126	100	129	123	178	126	100
Average—other articles of food.	"	213	212	220	184	168	216	209	217	196	173
Average—all food articles (unweighted)	"	182	172	187	163	153	178	172	185	171	157



## Index Numbers of Wholesale Prices in India and Foreign Countries

Country.	India (Bombay) (b)	Japan.	China (Shanghai).	Australia.	New Zealand.	Egypt (Cairo).	South Africa.	United Kingdom.				France.	Italy. (a)
								(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)		
No. of articles.	43	56	151	92	140	24	188	45	44	150	60	45	107
1913 Average	100	100	100 (e)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	95	106	106	104	100	100	99	100	97	100	99	102
1915	97	97	147	123	102	107	127	123	123	127	123	123	140
1916	117	117	138	134	124	123	160	160	160	160	160	160	188
1917	148	148	153	151	169	141	206	204	204	206	204	204	262
1918	236	196	178	175	207	153	226	225	225	226	225	225	339
1919	222	239	189	178	226	165	242	235	235	242	235	235	356
1920	216	260	150	228	212	299	223	295	283	207	207	207	510
1921 December	193	210	149	155	189	170	157	162	168	162	162	162	326
1922 May	191	195	146	162	177	141	159	162	160	158	158	158	317
June	192	198	144	163	175	139	160	163	160	159	159	159	326
July	190	202	144	164	177	138	158	163	160	159	159	159	325
August	188	196	142	163	177	139	153	158	156	156	156	156	331
September	184	193	140	165	175	138	151	156	154	156	156	156	329
October	177	190	142	167	174	140	153	158	155	159	159	159	337
November	179	188	143	170	175	144	154	159	157	161	161	161	353
December	175	183	149	168	172	147	152	158	156	159	159	159	362
1923 January	181	184	153	171	171	141	153	161	157	160	160	160	387
February	177	192	158	169	173	137	155	163	158	162	162	162	422
March	182	196	159	171	174	136	156	163	160	164	164	164	424
April	180	196	158	174	174	133	158	165	161	165	165	165	415
May	180	199	158	178	176	134	156	164	160	163	163	163	401
June	180	198	155	187	177	128	150	160	159	159	159	159	409
July	178	192	155	189	176	123	147	155	157	156	156	156	407
August	176	196	153	184	175	120	147	156	155	157	157	157	413
September	179	196	157	180	177	123	150	160	158	160	160	160	424
October	181	196	156	179	176	129	150	160	158	161	161	161	420
November	186	196	157	180	177	123	156	169	161	168	168	168	446
December	188	196	158	180	177	123	157	170	164	169	169	169	577
1924 January	188	196	157	180	177	123	157	170	164	169	169	169	577

Country.	Switzerland.	Belgium.	Germany. (b)	Netherlands (b)	Norway.	Sweden.	Denmark.	Canada.	United States of America.		
									(5)	(6)	(7)
No. of articles.	71	209	77	48	93	47	33	272	96	325	88
1913 Average	100	100	100	100	(c)	100	100	100	100	100	100
1914	100	100	105	105	100	116	100	100	100	98	98
1915	116	116	142	145	(d) 159	145	138	109	109	101	101
1916	153	153	222	222	(d) 233	185	164	134	134	127	127
1917	179	179	286	286	341	244	228	175	175	177	177
1918	217	217	392	345	345	339	293	205	205	194	194
1919	415	415	297	322	322	330	294	216	216	206	206
1920	1,486	1,486	281	377	377	347	246	216	216	226	226
1921 December	176	369	3,487	165	269	172	188	170	170	140	140
1922 May	160	348	6,458	165	231	164	179	167	167	148	148
June	161	356	7,030	167	230	164	180	165	165	150	150
July	163	360	10,059	162	232	165	180	166	166	151	151
August	163	360	17,985	155	227	163	178	164	164	151	151
September	163	364	27,419	153	225	158	176	163	163	153	153
October	169	385	56,600	155	221						



LABOUR GAZETTE  
Securities Index

FEBRUARY, 1924

	Government and Corporation securities (fixed interest), (7)	Banks, (6)	Railway companies, (10)	Cotton mills, (42)	Cotton ginning and pressing companies, (8)	Cement and man- geries companies, (4)	Electric under- takings, (2)	Miscel- laneous companies, (21)	Industrial securities, (93)	General average, (100)
1914 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915 "	96	95	113	97	94	100	100	101	100	100
1916 "	87	112	112	114	102	98	90	100	100	100
1917 "	73	126	102	138	118	245	122	147	100	100
1918 "	74	126	97	212	131	404	128	190	100	100
1919 "	77	191	107	216	126	456	139	185	158	151
" September	71	189	107	227	133	627	237	210	194	151
" October	70	182	100	252	143	582	229	220	216	194
" November	70	183	98	282	141	572	228	224	232	206
" December	68	178	95	317	145	585	249	233	247	211
1920 January	66	185	95	389	145	632	241	241	247	221
" February	65	167	92	368	170	588	330	265	265	235
" March	63	168	91	415	170	594	295	244	304	252
" April	63	167	90	476	168	582	268	243	291	268
" May	63	171	89	403	167	536	304	245	311	275
" June	65	172	89	388	167	534	299	234	338	294
" July	65	174	91	438	168	505	263	222	301	319
" August	65	165	92	434	167	467	246	229	292	284
" September	64	163	91	417	166	440	227	224	313	276
" October	60	156	90	380	186	413	198	218	307	296
" November	59	153	89	383	183	400	198	208	277	281
" December	58	152	87	376	163	395	183	205	276	262
1921 January	61	162	88	388	163	448	190	200	270	261
" February	61	160	87	380	167	425	193	193	277	255
" March	62	153	88	340	163	416	193	196	273	262
" April	62	149	88	365	158	492	169	187	251	259
" May	63	150	89	375	159	481	179	186	266	238
" June	64	157	91	383	158	471	184	189	271	252
" July	65	162	92	450	158	529	212	192	275	296
" August	65	163	89	445	158	498	207	203	311	261
" September	65	161	88	462	158	508	194	197	306	295
" October	65	162	88	461	158	484	193	191	312	289
" November	66	163	86	448	158	473	186	182	308	295
" December	67	157	87	433	158	472	181	174	300	292
1922 January	66	158	85	409	157	438	164	167	278	276
" February	63	152	86	384	160	413	159	159	265	263
" March	63	152	85	391	160	407	157	161	267	251
" April	62	151	85	379	158	387	160	156	259	253
" May	64	156	88	381	158	433	169	160	265	246
" June	64	158	91	401	163	465	188	165	277	251
" July	63	157	94	406	163	413	175	163	267	264
" August	63	153	94	388	163	404	168	160	267	253
" September	64	150	92	373	163	385	160	157	257	253
" October	64	147	92	344	163	367	154	153	243	244
" November	65	147	92	298	163	363	144	147	221	231
" December	65	145	91	283	163	313	142	144	210	201
1923 January	65	144	91	292	163	310	149	150	216	206
" February	65	145	91	288	166	310	152	147	214	204
" March	67	145	92	255	142	264	140	141	193	185
" April	68	147	95	241	142	247	133	139	186	178
" May	71	147	100	235	142	256	133	136	183	176
" June	71	146	101	222	145	214	126	136	176	168
" July	72	145	102	229	147	196	136	126	176	169
" August	73	136	106	216	153	162	138	124	168	161
" September	73	140	106	225	133	171	133	121	166	159
" October	72	138	106	213	133	157	131	118	163	157
" November	71	137	104	216	122	131	135	119	163	156
" December	71	137	100	215	122	131	131	114	160	154
1924 January	71	136	100	196	122	128	126	110	151	146

NOTE.—The maxima for the different groups are indicated in heavier type. In the case of the fixed interest securities the lowest figure is in bold type.



LABOUR GAZETTE  
Accidents in Factories during January 1924  
1. Bombay City and Island

FEBRUARY, 1924

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 1924.	
I Textile Mills— Cotton Mills Woollen Mills Others	27	8	1	34	35	1	
Total	27	9	1	35	36		
II Workshops— Engineering Railway Mint Others	1	89	1	9	101	5	
Total	16	99	1	114	115		
III Miscellaneous— Chemical Works Flour Mills Printing Presses Others	1	3	1	3	4		
Total	2	3	1	4	5		
Total, All Factories	45	111	3	153	156		

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 1924.	
I Textile Mills— Cotton	8	1	1	5	9		
Total	8	1	1	5	9		
II Miscellaneous— Match Factory	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		
Total	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....		
Total, All Factories	8	1	1	5	9		

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

Accidents in Factories during January 1924—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 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	
I Workshops—							
Railway and Port Trust ..	1	3	....	1	3	4	
Engineering ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Total ..	1	3	....	1	3	4	
II Miscellaneous—							
Total ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Total, All Factories ..	1	3	....	1	3	4	

## 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 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	January 1924.	
I Textile Mills—							
Cotton Mills ..	8	1	....	2	7	9	
Others ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Total ..	8	1	....	2	7	9	
II Workshops—							
Railway ..	3	6	....	....	9	9	
Arms and Ammunition Works ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Others ..	....	1	....	....	1	1	
Total ..	3	7	....	....	10	10	
III Miscellaneous—							
Ginning and Pressing Factories ..	7	2	1	1	7	9(a)	
Paint Works ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Others ..	....	....	....	....	....	....	
Total ..	7	2	1	1	7	9	
Total, All Factories ..	18	10	1	3	24	28	

(a) In addition, there was one accident causing 12 deaths and 10 minor injuries, for which detailed information is not yet available.

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

Count or Number.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds ..	7,205	9,000	6,722	58,652	61,618	56,048
Nos. 11 to 20 ..	23,179	22,603	20,731	182,760	181,541	158,182
Nos. 21 to 30 ..	13,828	13,026	12,684	118,789	123,227	108,129
Nos. 31 to 40 ..	1,026	822	1,461	9,432	9,664	10,348
Above 40 ..	158	141	372	1,497	1,487	2,132
Waste, etc. ..	9	8	11	234	81	152
Total ..	45,405	45,600	41,981	371,364	377,618	334,991

## Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds ..	6,449	8,269	5,976	52,855	56,566	50,745
Nos. 11 to 20 ..	17,676	16,413	14,153	132,987	128,527	112,579
Nos. 21 to 30 ..	8,966	7,762	7,533	71,890	74,429	70,922
Nos. 31 to 40 ..	605	385	753	4,590	4,422	5,796
Above 40 ..	85	76	217	756	836	1,107
Waste, etc. ..	1	2	2	168	18	70
Total ..	33,782	32,907	28,634	263,246	264,833	241,219

## Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds ..	247	276	278	1,917	1,406	1,348
Nos. 11 to 20 ..	2,292	2,834	3,612	23,432	25,575	22,694
Nos. 21 to 30 ..	3,290	3,953	4,176	33,634	36,235	28,367
Nos. 31 to 40 ..	341	385	534	3,865	4,366	3,355
Above 40 ..	47	34	111	519	449	713
Waste, etc. ..	....	....	....	3	....	1
Total ..	6,217	7,482	8,711	63,370	68,031	53,478

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

Bombay Presidency

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chaddies	1,130	1,995	1,129	13,146	12,291	12,900
Dhoties	6,415	5,922	5,274	38,360	35,154	32,000
Dolls and jammies	695	592	805	7,122	5,106	49,360
Candories and lawns	44	31	47	670	5,681	48,200
Prints	415	385	439	3,270	3,279	3,200
Shirtings and long cloth	2,710	6,795	7,203	23,805	20,641	17,200
T. cloth, domestic, and shawtings	1,126	1,123	694	11,259	9,243	68,400
Tartan cloth	91	81	154	1,827	773	6,610
Other sorts	1,636	3,187	2,276	10,089	13,259	19,200
Total ..	19,462	19,561	19,691	128,978	121,664	128,200
Coloured piece-goods	7,084	7,686	8,277	66,626	61,662	71,611
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	175	202	180	1,497	1,775	1,200
Hosiery	109	18	17	160	139	180
Miscellaneous	199	129	122	854	921	800
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	22	20	23	61	80	120
Grand Total ..	26,875	27,618	27,715	248,226	236,296	244,811

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chaddies	603	792	623	8,347	6,684	8,880
Dhoties	2,295	1,919	1,619	17,956	16,081	15,150
Dolls and jammies	682	569	807	6,797	5,354	6,829
Candories and lawns	28	14	24	505	257	187
Prints	112	1	5	231	306	85
Shirtings and long cloth	4,829	4,365	4,995	50,315	49,281	52,225
T. cloth, domestic, and shawtings	900	952	862	9,182	7,668	7,204
Tartan cloth	72	92	62	860	662	479
Other sorts	923	2,119	1,821	5,521	10,660	13,200
Total ..	10,562	10,834	10,440	100,184	97,401	100,200

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

Bombay Island—continued

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods	5,908	6,460	6,867	50,512	50,000	50,700
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	140	195	176	1,420	1,710	1,420
Hosiery	32	19	12	42	48	60
Miscellaneous	10	16	19	81	91	110
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	18	23	23	51	80	110
Grand Total ..	16,861	17,612	17,240	159,386	152,201	164,300

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of December.			Nine months ended December.		
	1921	1922	1923	1921	1922	1923
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chaddies	381	420	268	3,617	4,493	3,810
Dhoties	3,113	2,807	3,035	31,299	26,371	26,610
Dolls and jammies	5	3	4	42	180	224
Candories and lawns	299	279	249	2,311	2,348	1,954
Prints	1,865	1,869	1,695	16,752	15,501	15,240
Shirtings and long cloth	186	184	131	1,940	1,420	1,440
T. cloth, domestic, and shawtings	2	2	59	21	31	157
Tartan cloth	331	756	699	2,410	2,303	3,739
Other sorts						
Total ..	6,223	6,348	6,279	58,773	55,881	48,136
Coloured piece-goods	287	525	817	3,720	3,912	6,062
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	1	2	1	18	8	5
Hosiery	7	7	5	43	10	21
Miscellaneous	4	4	9	—	—	—
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	4	1	1	2	10	6
Grand Total ..	6,522	6,897	7,122	62,991	59,900	54,646



## Principal Trade Disputes in progress in January 1924

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of work-people involved		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
1. The Emperor Edward Mill, Reay Road, Margao, Bombay.	833	....	3 January ..	10 January ..	Demand for the continuance of the weekly allowance of annas 8 and 4 to adult and boy spinners respectively.	Some resumed work unconditionally and others were replaced by new hands.
2. E. D. Sassoon Turkey Red Dye Works, Cadell Road, Dastar, Bombay.	64	....	4 January ..	7 January ..	Demand for the re-instatement for absence without leave and insubordination.	Work resumed unconditionally.
3. Madhaji Dharamji Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Foras Road, Bombay.	300	....	7 January ..	10 January ..	Demand for the discontinuance of short-time working.	Work resumed unconditionally.
4. The Premier Mills, Ferguson Road, Bombay.	100	....	10 January ..	14 January ..	Against the orders to clean the carding cylinders and doffers four times a day.	Some resumed work unconditionally and others were replaced by new hands.
5. The Indian Woollen Mills, Haines Road, Bombay.	240	610	15 January ..	23 January ..	Demand for the continuance of the old rates of pay.	Work resumed on revised rates.
6. The Indian Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., near Kankaria Railway Station, Ahmedabad.	40	....	21 January ..	22 January ..	Against the dismissal of a Head Jobber.	New hands engaged.
7. General Strike (Bombay City and Island)—						
(a) The Standard Mill, Parbhadevi Road, Lower Parel, Bombay.	2,557	....	17 January ..	....		
(b) The Crown Mills, Parbhadevi Road, Lower Parel, Bombay.	1,670	....	21 January ..	....		
(c) 5 Cotton Mills ..	12,025	....	25 January ..	....		
(d) 9 Cotton Mills ..	17,579	....	26 January ..	....		
(e) 3 Cotton Mills ..	8,923	....	28 January ..	....		
(f) 43 Cotton, 2 Silk and 2 Woollen Mills.	92,162	....	29 January ..	....	Demand for the payment of an annual bonus for the year 1923.	
(g) 7 Cotton Mills ..	16,807	....	30 January ..	....		
(h) The Emperor Edward Mill, Reay Road, Margao, Bombay.	2,586	....	31 January ..	....		
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
(i) 2 Dye-Works ..	1,325	....	29 January ..	....		



## Current Notes from Abroad

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

**United Kingdom.**—The following table shows the average percentage increase, as compared with July 1914, for all items included in the statistics of the cost of living of a working class family since January 1919:—

## Average Percentage increase since July 1914

All items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
January 1st .. .. .	120	125	165	92	78	77
February .. .. .	120	130	151	88	77	..
March .. .. .	115	130	141	86	76	..
April .. .. .	110	132	133	82	74	..
May .. .. .	105	141	128	81	70	..
June .. .. .	105	150	119	80	69	..
July .. .. .	105-110	152	119	84	69	..
August .. .. .	115	155	122	81	71	..
September .. .. .	115	161	120	79	73	..
October .. .. .	120	164	110	78	75	..
November .. .. .	125	176	103	80	75	..
December .. .. .	125	169	99	80	77	..

The following table shows the trade union percentage of unemployed month by month since the year 1913:—

## Trade Union Unemployment Percentages

	1913	1917	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923
End of—	Per cent.							
January ..	2.2	0.3	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7
February ..	2.0	0.3	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1
March ..	1.9	0.3	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3
April ..	1.7	0.3	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3
May ..	1.9	0.4	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3
June ..	1.9	0.4	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1
July ..	1.9	0.4	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	16.6	11.1
August ..	2.0	0.5	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4
September ..	2.3	1.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3
October ..	2.2	1.1	0.4	2.4	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9
November ..	2.0	1.1	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5
December ..	2.6	1.4	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7

\* Excluding coal miners.

The following statement showing the figures of membership of the various great groups of organisations in Great Britain is of interest:—

Group of organisations	1922		1923	
	No.	Member-ship.	No.	Member-ship.
Agriculture ..	1	70,000	1	30,000
Mining and quarrying ..	7	839,902	7	784,517
Metal, engineering and shipbuilding ..	42	847,274	42	706,231
Textile ..	26	544,502	26	417,958
Clothing ..	10	120,502	10	164,817
Woodworking and furnishing ..	8	89,298	7	73,443
Paper, printing, &c. ..	12	168,477	13	159,206
Building, decorating, &c. ..	11	396,641	10	335,685
Railway service ..	3	854,724	3	447,374
Other transport ..	9	407,570	8	405,650
Commerce and finance ..	7	193,000	7	168,650
Public administration ..	9	152,692	10	183,264
Miscellaneous ..	19	110,976	18	89,512
General labour ..	7	673,010	5	402,261
Total ..	171	5,128,648	167	4,369,268

**Canada.**—According to the *Labour Gazette* published by the Department of Labour, Ottawa, Reports from the officers of the Employment Service of Canada for the month of October 1923 showed a decrease in the number of vacancies, applications and placements reported, as compared with September, and an increase on the whole when contrasted with the same time last year. At the beginning of November, the percentage of unemployment among members of trade unions was 4.8 as compared with 2.0 per cent. at the beginning of October and with 3.9 per cent. at the beginning of November 1922. The time loss due to industrial disputes during November was greater than during either October 1923 or November 1922. Seventeen disputes began or were in progress during the month, involving 2,651 employees and a time loss estimated at 64,000 working days. Corresponding figures for the previous month were 15 disputes involving 2,497 employees and a time loss of 55,994 working days, and for November 1922, 14 disputes involving 2,036 employees and a time loss of 48,023 working days. At the end of November there were 15 disputes in progress involving 2,636 employees.

## Publications Received

## OFFICIAL

## India

*Wholesale and Retail (Fortnightly) Prices* ending 15th and 31st December 1923. (Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta.)

*Census of India, 1921.*—Vol. I, Part I (Report) and Part II (Tables) by J. T. Marten. (Superintendent, Government Printing, India, Calcutta.)

*Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal and Assam for 1922.* (Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, Calcutta.)



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## CHARTS

1. Cost of Living in Bombay.
2. Progress of the Monsoon, 1923.
3. Securities Index.
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.

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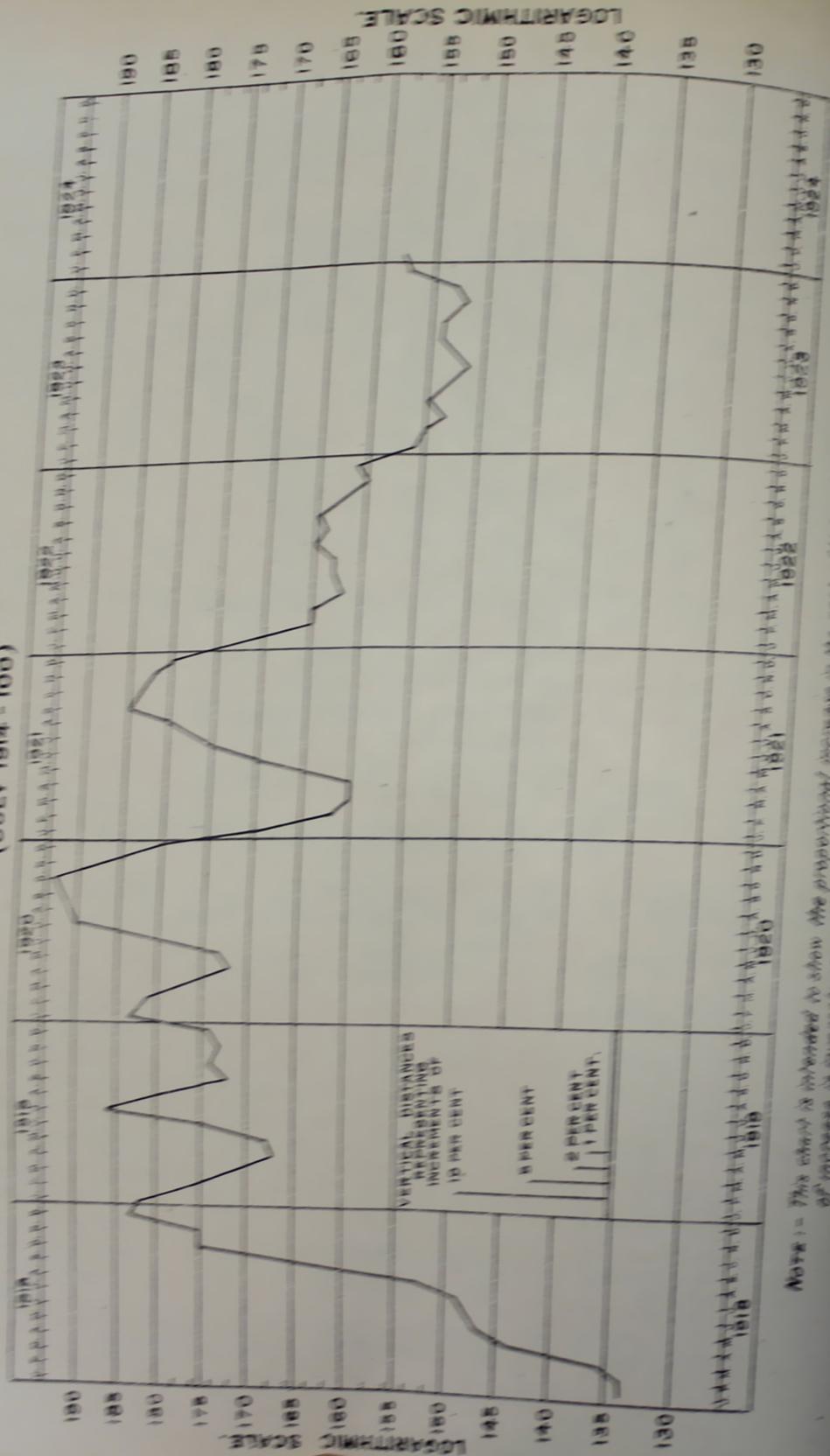
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CHART No. 1.  
COST OF LIVING IN BOMBAY  
RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART  
(JULY 1914 = 100)



Note: - This chart is intended to show the proportional increase in the cost of living. It will be seen that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus an increase of 5 points over 100 is a 5% increase. The same 5 points over 200 is a 2.5% increase. This is the principle of the logarithmic scale. The vertical distances of 10 percent, 5 percent, 2 percent, and 1 percent are marked on the right side of the chart.

CHART No. 2.  
PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1923.

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

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

NOTES:  
1. Within the wet season the whiter the chart the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient and black areas excessive rains.  
2. Excess More than 120 percent of the normal.  
Normal 80-120 percent of the normal.  
Fair 40-75 percent of the normal.  
Scanty Less than 40 percent 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.  
3. The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon, and are based on information supplied by the Director-General of Observatories. Lettering outside the green lines is omitted as rainfall in these places is less important.  
Within the green lines (i.e. the Monsoon) the third successive and following "EX" squares and the second successive and following "S" squares are hatched.  
4. As the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the Indus above the fair irrigator 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.

SECURITIES INDEX  
RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART  
(July 1914=100)

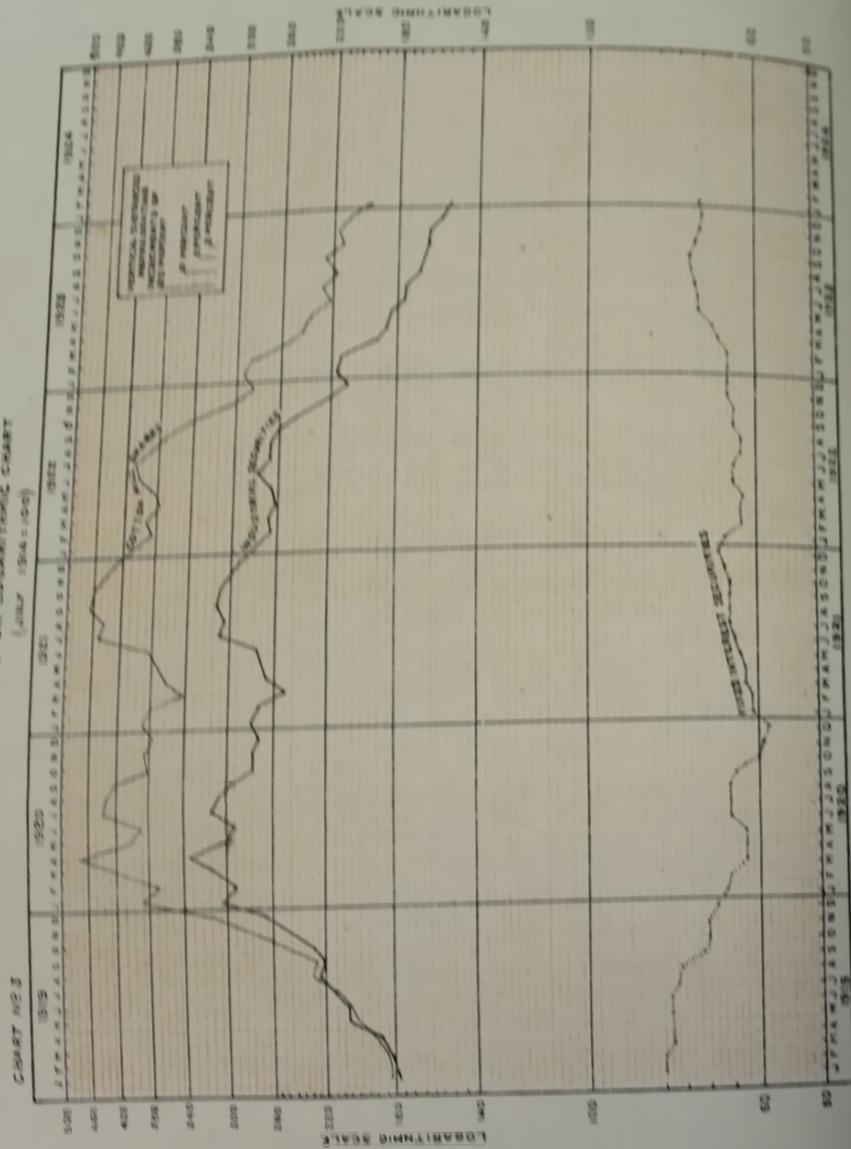


CHART NO. 4  
RAINFALL FOR THE PERIOD, JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1922.

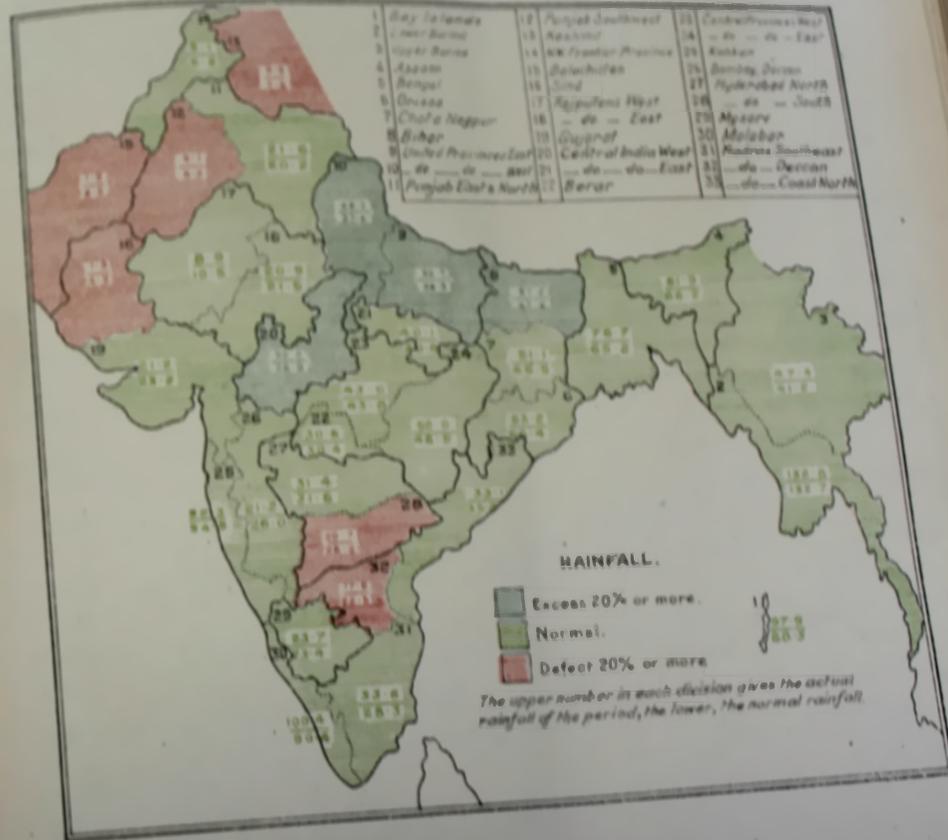
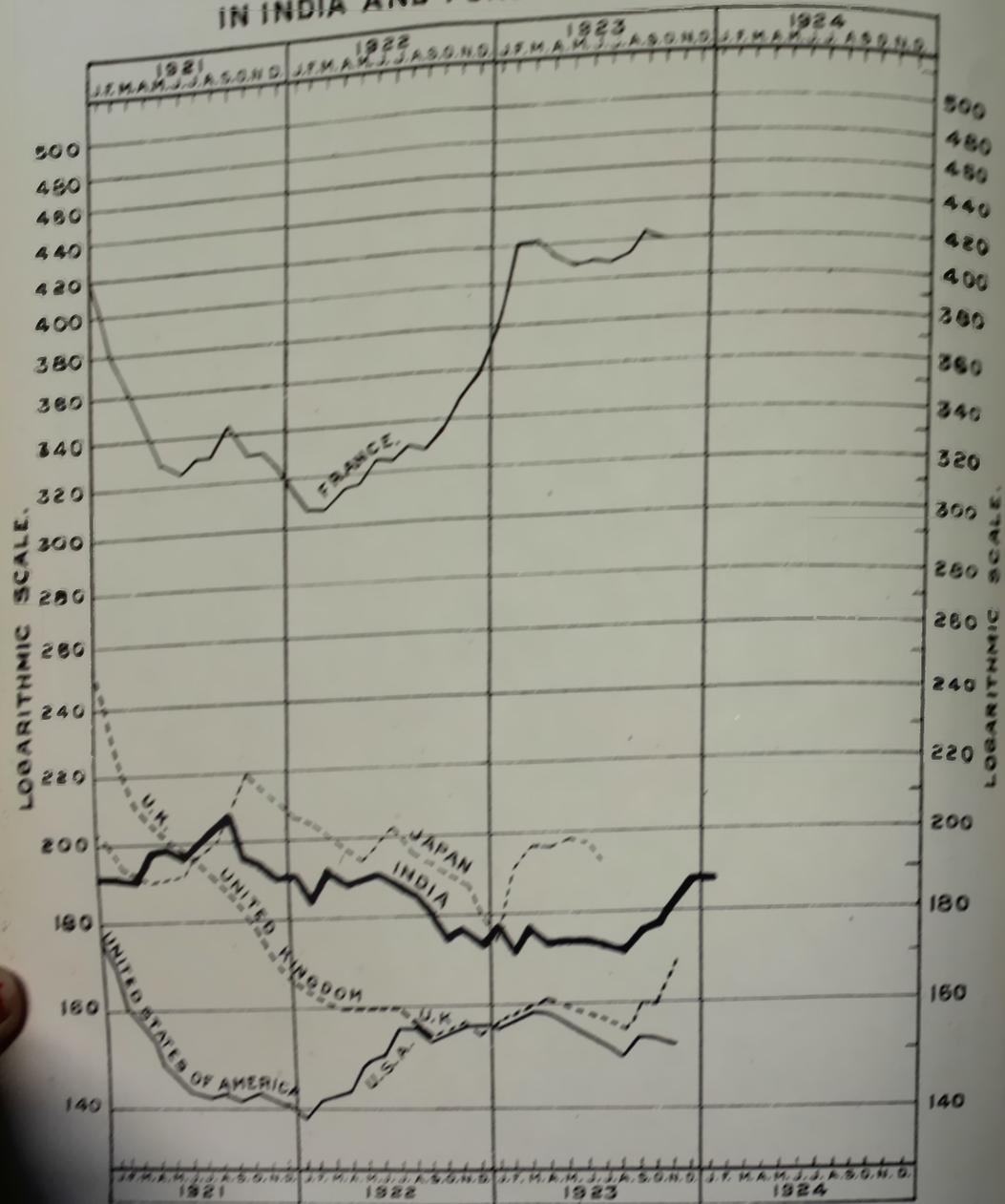
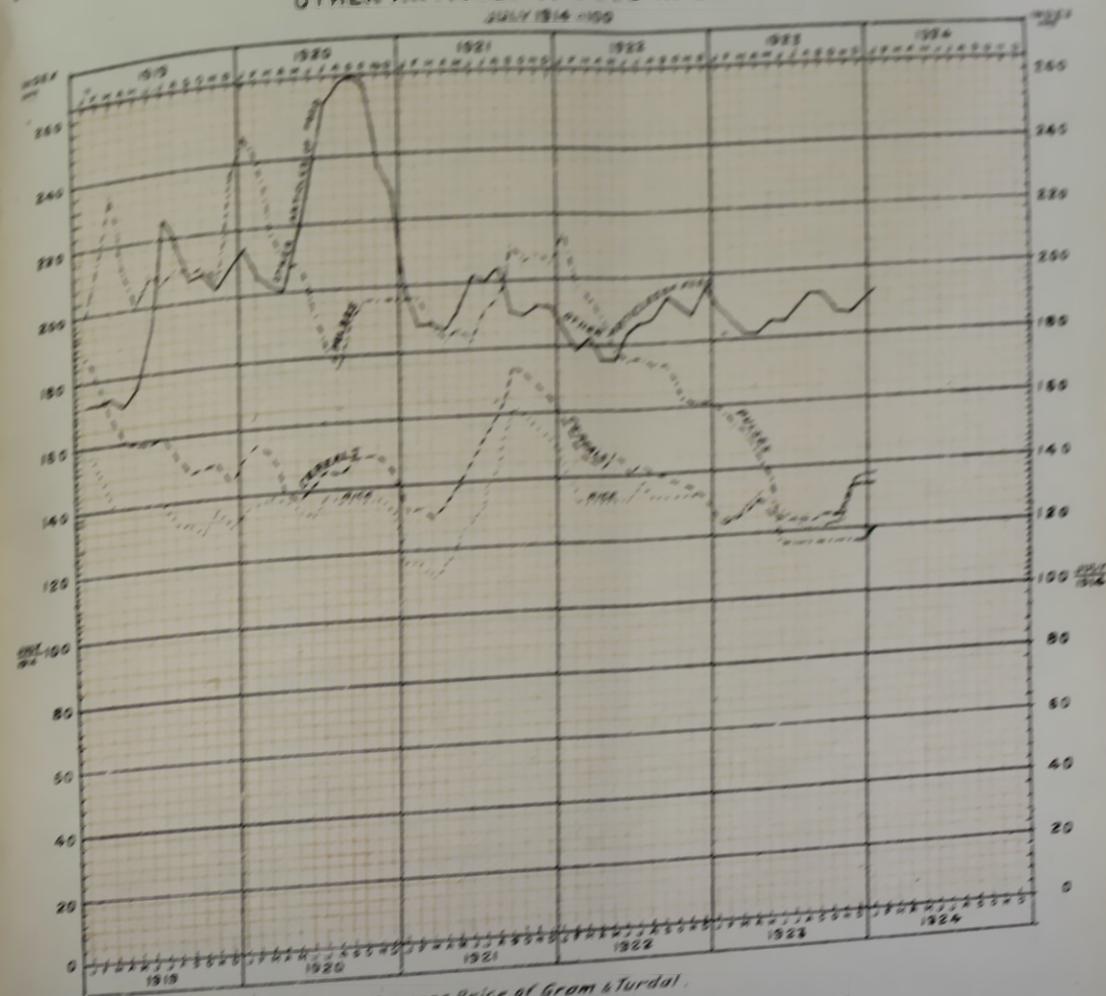


CHART NRS  
 INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES  
 IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES



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

CHART NRS  
 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.

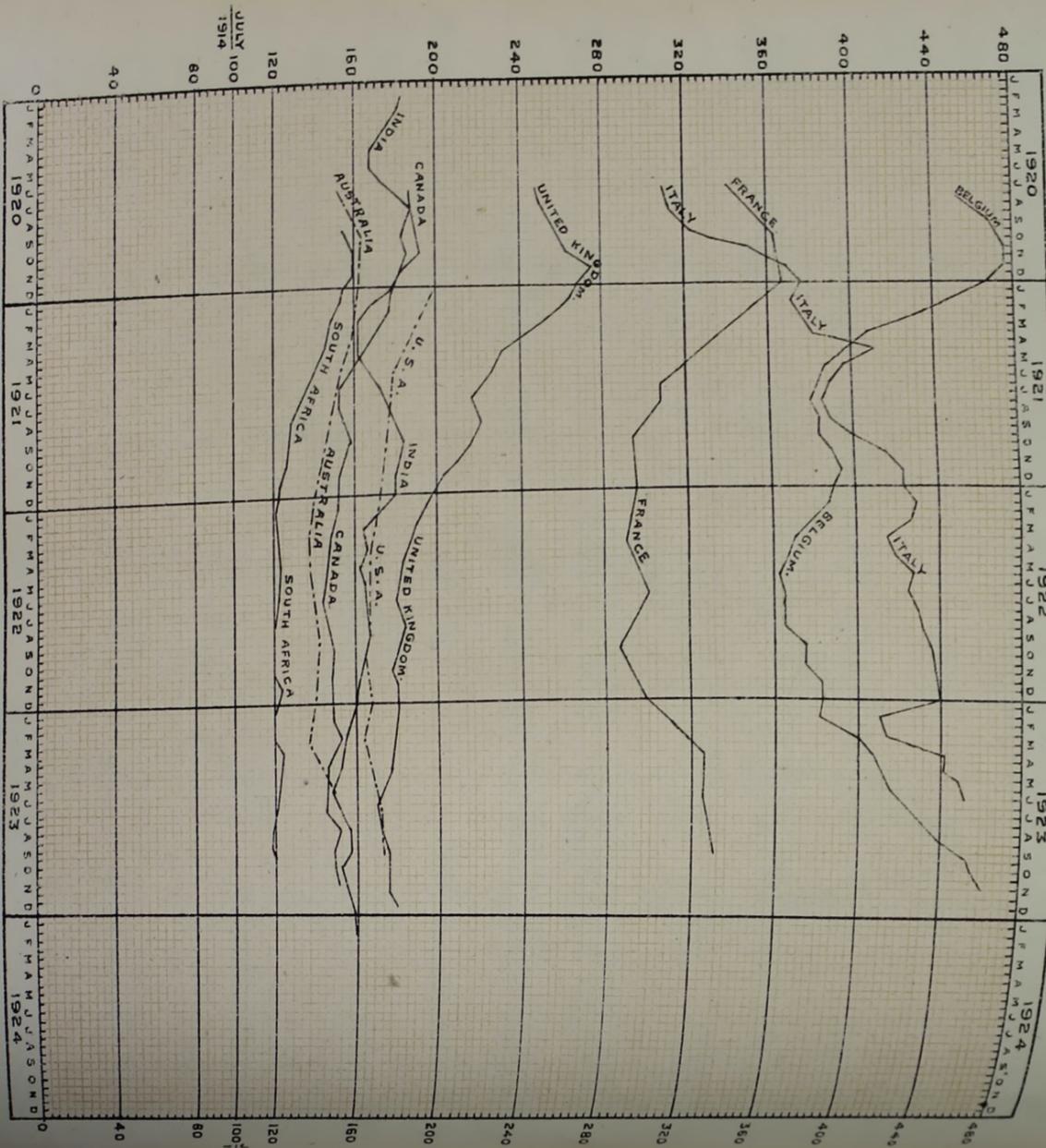
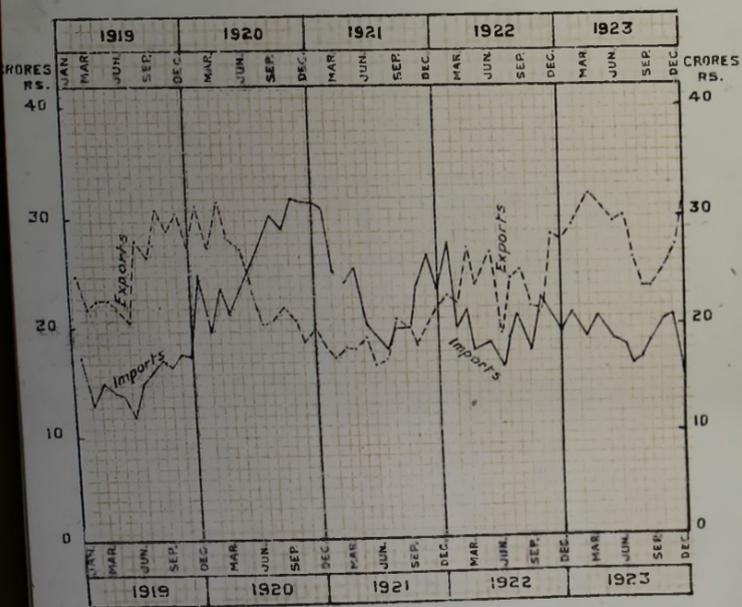


CHART No 8

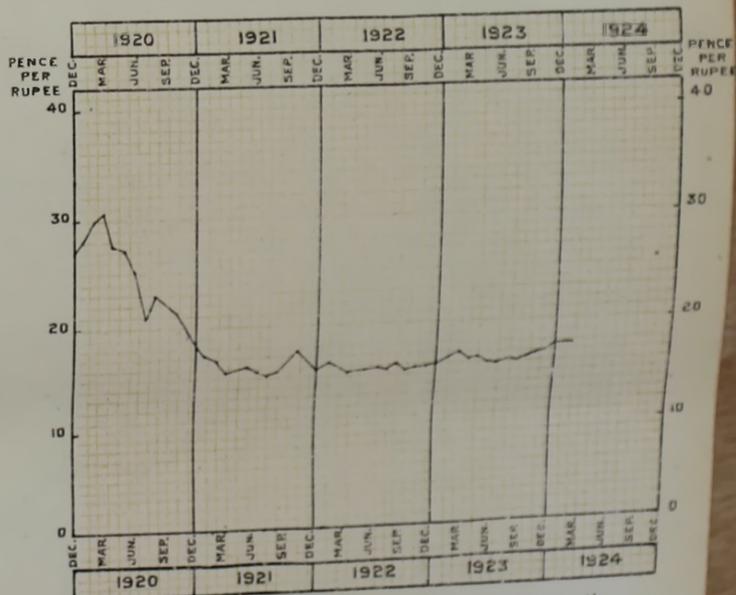
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA



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

CHART No 9

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY



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

### WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS

JULY 1914 = 100

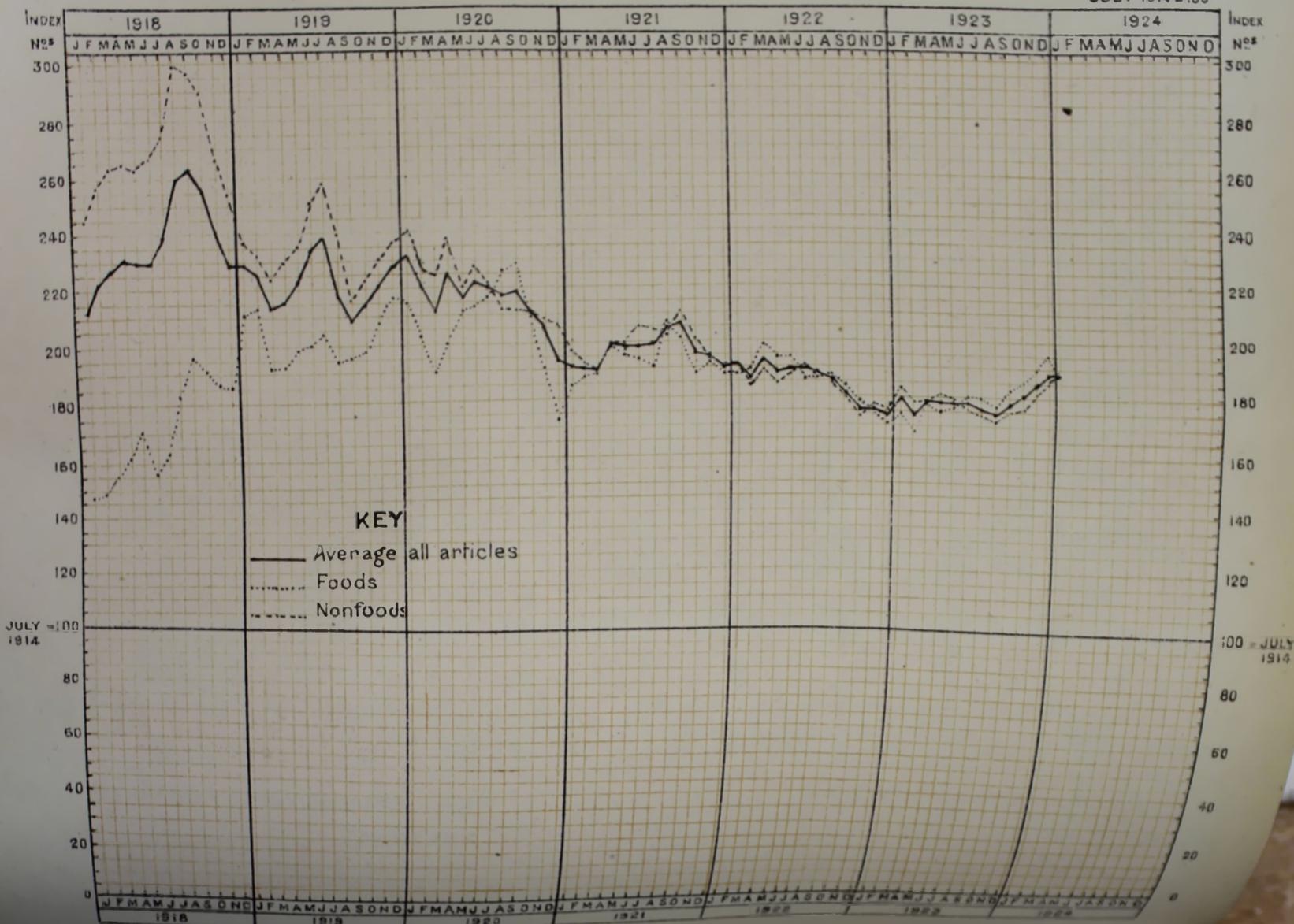


CHART No 11.

### NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED

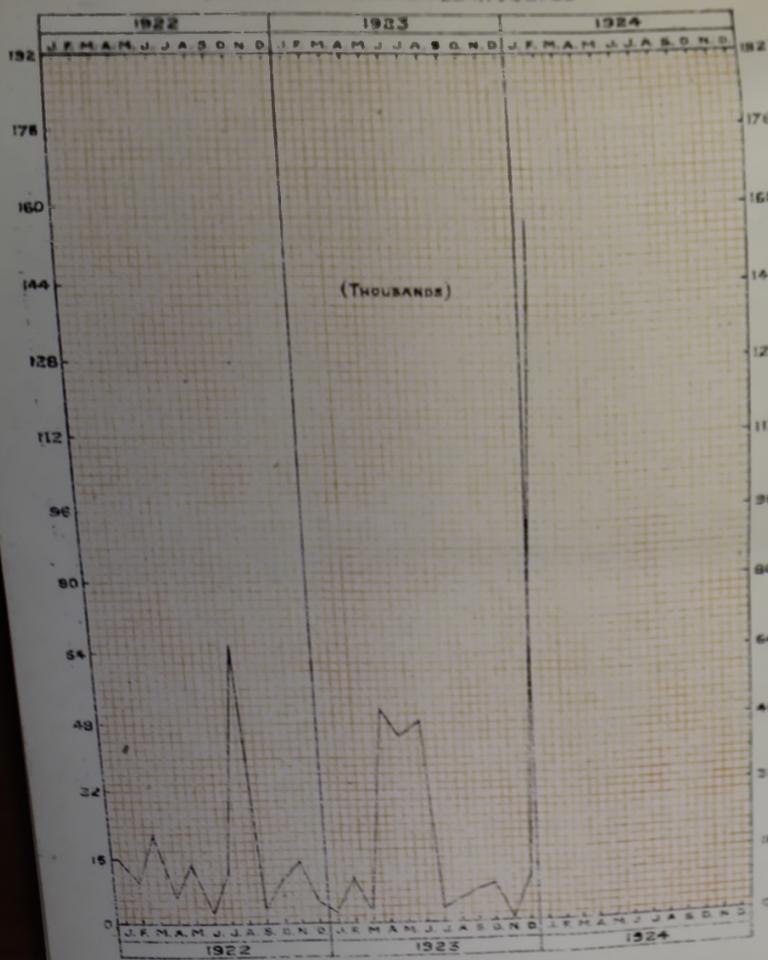


CHART No 12.

### NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST

