

THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1923

(See Chart No. 2.)

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

'Normal' in the charts is a variation from 80 to 120 per cent. of the true normal, 'fair' 40 to 79 per cent. of this normal, and 'scanty' is less than 40 per cent. The whiter the statement, the more the satisfactory nature of the monsoon; the redder it is, the worse the monsoon. The rainfall in other provinces also has been shown, as these (e.g., the United Provinces which exports to us bajri and jowari for our millworkers) have an influence in the long run on future price levels of food.

In Sind, the monsoon scarcely counts; it is the level of the Indus that does. The rise of the river up till the end of September is shown in the charts; after this date the rise is of little material importance.

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(The Labour Office accepts no responsibility for opinions expressed in signed articles.)

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The Month in Brief

EMPLOYMENT—THE COTTON INDUSTRY

IN BOMBAY CITY AND ISLAND the general lock-out in the textile industry continued during the month ended 12th March. Owing to the total closure of all mills save two which only worked for a few days in the month, the usual reports regarding the supply of labour and absenteeism have not, of course, been received. The data will again be published when comparative figures for a complete month are available.

In AHMEDABAD, the supply of labour was, as in the last month, reported to be equal to the demand during the month under review except in one case. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been received from representative mills in this centre. These reports showed an average absenteeism of 4·01 per cent. during the month as compared with 5·3 per cent. last month.

In SHOLAPUR, the supply of labour was adequate and absenteeism in the month under review remained practically on the level of the last month. The average absenteeism was 14·1 per cent. in the present month as compared with 14·5 per cent. last month and 13·7 per cent. two months ago.

In BROACH, absenteeism showed a slight increase as compared with the preceding month, the figures being 8·2 per cent. in the present month as compared with 7·7 last 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 increase, the figures being 12·16 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 10·9 per cent. last month and 13·53 per cent. two months ago.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism was 4·25 per cent. as compared with 5·25 per cent. in the preceding month and 5 per cent. two months ago. On the construction of *chawls* (tenements) at Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Sewri absenteeism remained on the same level (3 per cent.) as in the previous month. On the construction of *chawls* at Worli, absenteeism increased to 9 per cent. as compared with 8 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 16·3 in the month under review, as compared with 17·3 in the preceding month and two months ago. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply of labour was plentiful and an improvement in attendance was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism was 8·25 as compared with 9·69 last month and 8·4 two months ago.

In KARACHI, the supply of all types of labour was greater than the demand. The average attendance based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshops of the Karachi Port Trust remained on the level of last month, the figure being 10·5 per cent. as compared with 10·8 per cent. two months ago.

THE COST OF LIVING

In February 1924, the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, fell by more than 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 156 for all articles and 151 for food articles only. There was a rise of nearly one per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 19 per cent. below the high water mark (October 1920). The fall in the percentage during February was mainly due to decreases in the prices of rice and potato.

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



THE WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

In February 1924, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay remained stationary at a level of 188 as in the two previous months, showing a slightly downward tendency. The prices of food articles as well as those of non-food articles fell by nearly one per cent. The index number for food grains only was 117 during February as compared with 119 in the previous month.

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				
	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924
Foods ..	85	89	94	88	87
Non-foods ..	79	85	85	89	88
All articles ..	81	86	88	88	88

SECURITIES INDEX NUMBER

In February 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities was 143, showing a fall of more than 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month. Industrial Securities also registered a fall of nearly 2 per cent. owing to a fall of 3 per cent. in cotton mill shares and 5 per cent. in Miscellaneous Companies. Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies remained stationary at 122 as in the previous three months. The noticeable feature during the month was a rise of nearly 3 per cent. in Fixed Interest Securities. Railway Companies and Bank shares showed a rise of nearly 3 per cent. during the month.

COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

Cotton mill production in January and in the ten months ended January 1924, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two previous years, is shown in the two tables below. The salient feature is that, during January, production of yarn in Bombay declined as compared with the two preceding years, while in Ahmedabad it remained on the same level of the last two years. In regard to woven goods, the production in Bombay remained on the level of the last year, while in Ahmedabad it recorded a fall.

(1) Month of January

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	January			January		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay Island ..	31	31	24	17	16	16
Ahmedabad ..	8	8	8	8	11	8
Other centres ..	5	5	4	2	4	2
Total, Presidency ..	44	44	36	27	31	26

(2) Ten months ending January

	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Ten months ended January			Ten months ended January		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay Island ..	294	296	265	176	168	168
Ahmedabad ..	71	76	61	70	71	61
Other centres ..	50	50	45	29	28	28
Total, Presidency ..	415	422	371	275	267	257

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

	Net rate per lb. in annum		
	February 1923	January 1924	February 1924
Longcloth ..	224	234	234
T. Cloths ..	21	214	214
Chadders ..	201	201	204

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were 3 industrial disputes in progress during February 1924, as compared with 7 in the preceding month. All the disputes began in the month, and the number of workpeople involved was 163,980 as compared with 157,821 in the preceding month and 11,789 in February 1923. The aggregate duration of all disputes during February 1924 was about 4,062,870 working days as compared with 565,238 in January 1924 and 68,590 in February 1923.

THE OUTLOOK

The index number of wholesale prices has remained steady for the last three months. Food-grains are now only 17 per cent. above the pre-war level. This is an average of rice, wheat, jowari, bajri, gram, and tur dal. The general average of foods is 87 per cent. above the pre-war level, mainly owing to the high prices of sugar, ghee and salt. The average of non-food is 88 per cent. above the pre-war level, raw cotton being 148 per cent. above the basic period. Security prices register a steady fall from June 1922 to the present time, chiefly due to the very low quotations of cotton mill shares and miscellaneous companies. Fixed interest bearing securities, on the other hand, have risen from July 1922 and they are still rising. Money seems to be accumulating in the hands of investors, and this is being placed in fixed interest securities in preference to industrial securities. With a return to normal conditions especially in the cotton mill industry money will again flow into industrial investment. The rate of exchange in Bombay on London in



the first week of December last was 1s. 5¹/₂d. This fell to 1s. 4¹/₂d. on 1st March while the rate for telegraphic transfers on 18th March was 1s. 4¹/₂d. The most pleasing feature of the outlook is the increase in the volume of trade. India's foreign trade has shown a decided advance during the last few months. The bank rate has remained unchanged at 9 per cent. since 14th February, illustrating the tightness of the money market. At this time of the year the bank rate normally reaches its maximum, but the rate last year did not exceed 8 per cent. The adequacy or otherwise of India's monsoon last year is clearly shown in the new map in this issue prepared by the Director-General of Observatories which shows the rainfall for the period June to November 1923.

In the United Kingdom there has been a continuous improvement and the financial indexes are moving in the way expected during the recovery from the great depression. Generally speaking, exports and imports of manufactured goods were maintained. Unemployment at the end of January was 8.9 per cent. as compared with 11.4 in August 1923, a figure lower than any month since February 1921. The effects of the recent dock strike were not so adverse as were expected and the improved tone of markets on the Continent gave a stimulus to trade. The cotton industry is, however, still far from normal. On 22nd February the Federation of Master Cotton Spinners announced that 87 per cent. of its members voted in favour of organised short time. This means that about 25 million spindles are working 26½ hours a week.

In the United States business continues in an upward direction. Labour is reported to be fully employed. Money is abundant at low rates and the immediate outlook is good. Unfilled orders of the United States Steel Corporation at the end of January showed an increase over the previous month.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

A reference to page 6 of this issue is invited where the statement made by the Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward in the Legislative Council that a Statistics Act for the Bombay Presidency had been sent to the Governor-General in Council for approval is referred to. This Act is similar to Statistics Acts of the Dominions and relates to the collection of industrial statistics. A bill regarding Industrial Disputes is also at present under consideration.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE

During February 1924, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to Rs. 13,61 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1923 was an adverse balance of Rs. 32 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below:—

	India					
	In lakhs of rupees.					
	September 1923	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	23,44	25,33	22,63	26,94	26,85	25,24
Imports do. ..	18,72	20,80	21,29	15,42	22,61	18,39
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 4,72	+ 4,53	+ 1,34	+ 11,52	+ 14,24	+ 6,85
Balance of transactions in treasure (estimated) ..	- 3,18	- 4,73	- 3,75	- 57	- 4,55	- 4,56
Visible balance of trade (including securities) ..	+ 1,54	- 1	- 2,41	+ 11,95	+ 9,69	+ 2,29

	Bombay					
	In lakhs of rupees.					
	September 1923	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	1,95	6,64	7,23	6,81	15,86	13,79
Imports do. ..	6,68	6,17	6,06	6,72	6,85	7,06
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	- 4,73	- 1,37	- 1,15	- 1,19	+ 7,11	+ 6,73
Imports of treasure ..	1,42	6,61	1,52	2,89	4,13	4,24
Exports of treasure ..	39	10	1	1,50	..	..
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	- 3,80	- 4,51	- 1,51	- 50	- 4,13	- 4,24

	Karachi					
	In lakhs of rupees.					
	September 1923	October 1923	November 1923	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	1,42	86	2,23	2,85	4,57	5,80
Imports do. ..	2,41	2,80	1,98	1,12	1,90	1,44
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	- 99	- 1,14	+ 25	+ 1,73	+ 2,67	+ 4,36
Imports of treasure ..	1	12	..	3	9	6
Exports of treasure ..	11	11	..	..	..	..
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	+ 10	- 1	..	- 3	- 9	- 6

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

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

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



	s.	d.
April 1923	.. 1	4 ¹ / ₁₆
May "	.. 1	4 ⁵ / ₃₂
June "	.. 1	4 ¹ / ₁₆
July "	.. 1	4 ³ / ₃₂
August "	.. 1	4 ¹ / ₃₂
September "	.. 1	4 ¹ / ₃₂
October 1923	.. 1	4 ³ / ₁₆
November "	.. 1	4 ¹¹ / ₁₆
December "	.. 1	5 ⁷ / ₃₂
January 1924	.. 1	5 ³ / ₁₆
February "	.. 1	5 ⁸ / ₁₆
March "	.. 1	4 ¹⁵ / ₃₂

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 27th March exchange on London was s. 1 d. 4 ²/₃₂.

There was a fall of 3 crores of rupees in Bank clearings in Bombay in February 1924 as compared with the preceding month. In Calcutta the Bank clearings remained the same, Rs. 16 crores, while the clearings in Karachi and Rangoon decreased by Rs. 2 crores and 1 crore respectively. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees*

	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	Total January to February 1924
Bombay	417	56	53	109
Karachi	3	5	3	8
Calcutta	89	64	64	128
Rangoon	7	11	10	21
Total (four ports)	507	136	130	266

* 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 February 1924 was 55.14 as against 56.79 in January 1924 and 59.39 in December 1923.

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

March 1923	.. Rs. 1,125	September 1923	.. Rs. 995
April "	.. " 1,193	October "	.. " 983
May "	.. " 1,215	November "	.. " 998
June "	.. " 1,042	December "	.. " 1,005
July "	.. " 1,123	January 1924	.. " 924
August "	.. " 1,007	February "	.. " 908

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

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES COMMITTEE

At question time on 17th March 1924 in the Bombay Legislative Council, in reply to Mr. S. K. Bole who asked when the Government intended to give effect to

the recommendation of the Industrial Disputes Committee, the Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward said that a Bill empowering Government to call for industrial statistics had since been referred for sanction to the Governor General in Council.

LOSS THROUGH BOMBAY MILL STRIKE

The total number of working days lost through the Bombay mill strike, which is reviewed on page 14 of this issue, up to 27th March was 7 ¹/₂ million days. The "time loss" is obtained by the number of workpeople involved multiplied by the number of working days, an allowance being made for workers replaced by others.

On 27th March 78 mills were working with a little over half the normal number of workers, the number being 82,000. The table below shows the gradual resumption of work since the 14th March:—

Date.	Number of mills working.	Number of operatives working.
March 14th	1	200
" 15th	1	500
" 16th	Holiday	
" 17th	4	1,500
" 18th	14	4,183
" 19th	22	6,706
" 20th	30	10,151
" 21st	Holidays	
" 22nd	Holidays	
" 23rd		
" 24th	69	31,000
" 25th	76	55,390
" 26th	77	72,230
" 27th	78	82,339

The "time loss" in the general strike in the textile industry in Ahmedabad during April and May 1923 was 2 ¹/₂ million days.



The Cost of Living Index for February 1924

A fall of two points

All articles .. 56 per cent.

In February 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 two points below the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was 158 in January and 156 in February 1924. The general index is 19 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 5 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922 and one per cent. above the twelve-monthly average of 1923.

The cost of living index now stands at the same level as in January of last year. In comparison with the previous month there was a fall of 3 points in the general level of retail prices of food articles owing to a fall of 6 points in rice on account of larger imports of rice from Rangoon and of 25 points in potatoes. There was an increase of 5 points in the clothing group during the month.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
January	34	82	83	69	73	56	58
February	34	76	81	62	65	55	56
March	36	72	77	60	65	54	
April	44	67	72	60	62	55	
May	47	68	73	67	63	53	
June	48	74	81	73	63	51	
July	49	86	90	77	65	53	
August	53	79	91	80	64	54	
September	65	72	92	85	65	54	
October	75	74	93	83	62	52	
November	75	73	86	82	60	53	
December	83	74	81	79	61	57	
Yearly average	54	75	83	73	64	54	

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

The following table shows the price levels of articles of food in January and February 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.

Food only .. 51 per cent.

Articles.	July 1914.	January 1924.	February 1924.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in February 1924 over or below January 1924.
Rice	100	136	130	- 6
Wheat	100	126	126	....
Jowari	100	124	124	....
Bajri	100	125	124	- 1
Gram	100	120	119	- 1
Turdal	100	119	119	....
Sugar (refined)	100	202	202	....
Sugar (raw)	100	167	167	....
Tea	100	270	205	+ 5
Salt	100	199	199	....
Beef	100	158	158	....
Mutton	100	215	215	....
Milk	100	191	191	....
Ghee	100	191	197	+ 6
Potatoes	100	184	159	- 25
Onions	100	460	460	....
Coconut oil	100	129	129	....
All food articles (weighted average)	100	154	151	- 3

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

Cost of Living in the United Kingdom

In the House of Commons, Mr. Shaw, Minister of Labour (Preston, Lab.), replying to Mr. C. Wilson (Attercliffe, Lab.) and Mr. Hoffman (Essex, S. E. Lab.), said:—I am aware that the official cost of living index figure has often been criticised from different points of view. Criticism may most properly be directed, I think, to the fact that the latest budgets of working-class expenditure, which form part of the basis of the calculations, were collected as long ago as 1904. So long as the object of the index number is, as at present, to show the changes in the cost of maintaining a pre-war standard, this does not materially affect the accuracy of the calculations; but I think it is essential that a new inquiry into working-class expenditure should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity. Suitable information could not, however, be obtained during the present abnormal conditions of employment, but I propose to institute an inquiry as soon as conditions become sufficiently normal.



Bombay Cost of Living Index

A

MARCH, 1924

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores).	Price.			Total Expenditure.		
			July 1914.	January 1924.	February 1924.	July 1914.	January 1924.	February 1924.
Cereals—								
Rice	Maund	70	Rs. 5.594	Rs. 7.620	Rs. 7.271	Rs. 391.58	Rs. 555.40	Rs. 568.97
Wheat	"	21	5.594	7.047	7.047	117.47	147.99	147.99
Jowari	"	11	4.354	5.385	5.385	47.89	59.24	59.24
Bajri	"	6	4.313	5.385	5.333	25.88	32.31	32.96
Total and Average—Cereals	—	—	100	133	128	582.82	772.94	748.26
Pulses—								
Gram	Maund	10	4.302	5.172	5.120	43.02	51.72	51.28
Turdal	"	3	5.844	6.924	6.974	17.99	20.92	20.92
Total and Average—Pulses	—	—	100	120	119	60.55	72.64	72.12
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	7.620	21.474	21.474	15.24	42.95	42.95
Sugar (raw)	"	7	8.557	14.287	14.287	59.90	100.01	100.01
Tea	"	1	40.000	80.000	82.052	1.00	2.00	2.05
Salt	"	40	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	76.19	246.16	246.16
Chase	"	1 1/2	50.792	96.969	100.000	7.141	49.27	49.27
Potatoes	"	11	4.479	7.141	7.141	4.66	21.42	21.42
Onions	"	3	1.552	32.651	32.651	12.70	16.33	16.33
Coconut Oil	"	1/2	25.396					
Total and Average—Other food articles.	—	—	100	192	190	381.18	730.09	722.49
Total and Average—All food articles.	—	—	100	154	151	1,024.55	1,575.67	1,542.81
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	1.266	1.297	16.04	34.18	35.02
Shirtings	"	25	0.641	1.490	1.521	16.03	37.25	38.03
T. Cloth	"	36	0.583	1.313	1.344	20.99	47.27	48.38
Total and Average—Clothing	—	—	100	224	229	53.06	118.70	121.43
House-rent	Per month	10	11.302	18.700	18.700	113.02	187.00	187.00
Grand Total and General Average	—	—	100	158	156	1,251.07	1,978.62	1,948.49

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 February 1924 at February price levels was Rs. 1,948.49, i.e., an increase of 56 per cent. (Rs. 1,251.07 = 100; Rs. 1,948.49 = 156).



Bombay Cost of Living Index

B

MARCH, 1924

Alternative method of presentation.

Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditures in July 1914.	Index Number.		Weight x Index Number.	
		January 1924.	February 1924.	January 1924.	February 1924.
Cereals—					
Rice	31.4	136	130	4,270.4	4,082.0
Wheat	9.4	126	124	1,184.4	1,184.4
Jowari	7.8	124	124	967.2	967.2
Bajri	2.1	125	124	262.5	260.4
Total and Average Index No.	46.7	133	128	6,180.5	5,990.0
Pulses—					
Gram	3.1	120	119	372.0	368.9
Turdal	1.3	119	119	154.7	154.7
Total and Average Index No.	4.4	120	119	526.7	523.6
Other food articles—					
Sugar (refined)	1.2	282	282	338.4	338.4
Sugar (raw)	4.8	167	167	801.6	801.6
Tea	0.1	200	205	20.0	20.5
Salt	0.7	199	199	139.3	139.3
Beef	1.1	158	158	173.8	173.8
Mutton	10.3	215	215	2,211.5	2,211.5
Milk	6.1	191	191	1,165.1	1,165.1
Chase	4.0	191	197	796.0	796.0
Potatoes	0.4	184	159	73.6	61.0
Onions	1.0	460	460	460.0	460.0
Coconut oil	1.0	129	129	129.0	129.0
Total and Average Index No.	30.6	192	190	5,867.6	5,804.7
Fuel and lighting—					
Kerosene oil	1.8	159	159	286.2	286.2
Firewood	3.0	162	162	486.0	486.0
Coal	0.1	167	167	16.7	16.7
Total and Average Index No.	4.9	161	161	788.9	788.9
Clothing—					
Chadders	1.3	213	218	276.9	283.4
Shirtings	1.3	232	237	301.6	308.1
T. Cloth	1.7	225	231	382.5	392.7
Total and Average Index No.	4.3	223	229	961.0	984.2
House-rent	9.1	165	165	1,501.5	1,501.5
Grand total of weights	100				
General Average or Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100) .. .. .	.....	158	156	15,834.2	15,600.9



Wholesale Prices in Bombay
PRICES STATIONARY

In February 1924, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay remained approximately at the same level (188) as in the two previous months showing a slightly downward tendency. The prices of food articles as well as those of non-food articles fell by nearly 1 per cent. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have risen by 6 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 index number for food articles was 187 and for non-food articles 188 during February 1924. The general index of food grains was 117 as compared with 119 during the previous month, thus showing a fall of nearly 2 per cent. Other food articles showed a rise of more than 2 per cent. during the month. In non-food articles there was a noticeable fall of 9 per cent. in the raw cotton group.

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

*Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay**

Groups.	No. of items.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent. in February 1924 as compared with	
		the preceding month (January 1924)	the corresponding month of last year (February 1923)
1. Cereals	7	- 2	....
2. Pulses	2	- 4	- 7
3. Sugar	3	- 3	+ 12
4. Other food	3	+ 3	+ 30
Total, food	15	- 1	+ 12
5. Oilseeds	4	- 2	+ 3
6. Raw cotton	4	- 9	+ 18
7. Cotton manufactures	6	- 1	+ 4
8. Other textiles	2	- 5	- 9
9. Hides and skins	3	....	+ 20
10. Metals	5	+ 5	- 11
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	....	- 8
Total, non-food	28	- 1	+ 3
General average	43	....	+ 6

*Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 33-35

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

100 = average of 1923

Groups.	Feb. 1923	May 1923	Aug. 1923	Nov. 1923	Jan. 1924	Feb. 1924
I. Cereals	100	99	96	100	102	100
II. Pulses	104	97	93	99	101	97
III. Sugar	94	111	90	102	109	105
IV. Other food	83	88	107	114	106	108
Total, food	93	98	98	106	105	104
V. Oilseeds	99	98	98	103	103	104
VI. Raw cotton	94	92	94	135	122	102
VII. Cotton manufactures	102	99	95	107	107	111
VIII. Other textiles	99	101	101	97	94	96
IX. Hides and skins	89	108	93	108	105	106
X. Metals	107	102	98	96	91	96
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles	103	102	99	94	95	95
Total, non-food	100	100	97	102	104	103
General average—all articles	98	99	97	103	104	104

The main fact which emerges from this table is that the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay stands at 4 per cent. above the average of 1923.

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

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	Index Nos.	July 1914.		February 1924.	
			Total Num- bers.	Average.	Total Num- bers.	Average.
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri).	7	700	878	125	125
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal).	2	200	175	88	88
3	Sugar (Refined and raw).	3	300	707	236	236
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3	300	1,044	348	348
5	Total, all food	15	1,500	2,804	187	187
6	Oilseeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and gingelly)	4	400	545	136	136
7	Raw cotton	4	400	990	248	248
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.)	6	600	1,401	234	234
9	Other textiles (Silk)	2	200	345	173	173
10	Hides and skins	3	300	473	158	158
11	Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.)	5	500	868	174	174
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (kerosene and coal)	4	400	641	160	160
13	Total, non-food	28	2,800	5,263	188	188
14	General Average	43	4,300	8,067	188	188

The following table is intended to show the annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices:—
July 1914 = 100.

	Food.	Non-food	All articles.
Twelve-monthly average 1918	171	269	236
" " 1919	202	233	222
" " 1920	206	219	216
" " 1921	193	201	199
" " 1922	186	187	187
" " 1923	179	182	181
Two-monthly .. 1924	188	189	188

Comparative Retail Prices

The following table compares the retail food prices in Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona with those in Bombay in January and February 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 January and February 1924.

Bombay prices in January 1924 = 100.

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmed-abad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice	100	87	117	102	125
Wheat	100	69	102	85	90
Jowari	100	71	71	81	85
Bajri	100	79	98	76	94
Average—Cereals	100	77	97	86	99
Pulses—					
Gram	100	76	111	76	79
Turdal	100	104	96	105	127
Average—Pulses	100	90	104	91	103
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined)	100	93	99	106	90
Jagri (Gul)	100	72	93	93	74
Tea	100	89	133	114	93
Salt	100	73	79	118	99
Beef	100	123	98	74	74
Mutton	100	84	112	70	77
Milk	100	57	57	76	76
Ghee	100	83	83	83	77
Potatoes	100	70	114	129	96
Onions	100	101	86	81	58
Cocconut oil	100	92	109	103	86
Average—Other articles of food	100	85	97	95	82
Average—All articles food	100	84	98	92	88

Bombay prices in February 1924 = 100.

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmed-abad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice	100	92	122	100	124
Wheat	100	68	87	86	90
Jowari	100	74	65	81	87
Bajri	100	82	94	77	100
Average—Cereals	100	79	92	86	100
Pulses—					
Gram	100	78	112	82	80
Turdal	100	100	96	94	127
Average—Pulses	100	89	104	88	104
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined)	100	92	99	103	101
Jagri (Gul)	100	75	93	72	74
Tea	100	87	130	111	91
Salt	100	73	79	102	99
Beef	100	123	74	74	74
Mutton	100	84	84	70	77
Milk	100	48	57	76	76
Ghee	100	78	80	80	74
Potatoes	100	76	93	128	58
Onions	100	84	77	81	49
Cocconut oil	100	93	109	102	94
Average—Other articles of food	100	83	89	91	80
Average—All articles food	100	83	91	89	87

On page 37 will be found statistics of food prices in January and February 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 3 POINTS

In February 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities taken in the Labour Office Securities Index Number was 143 as compared with 146 in the previous month, thus showing a fall of more than 2 per cent. The noticeable feature during the month was an increase of nearly 3 per cent. in Fixed Interest (Government and Corporation) Securities. The shares of cotton ginning and pressing companies continue stationary during the last four months. A rise of nearly 3 per cent. was shown by Banks and Railway Companies. As a result of the falls in Cotton and



Miscellaneous shares of 2 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively, Industrials registered a fall of nearly 2 per cent. It is of interest to note the long period fluctuations in Fixed Interest Securities and Industrials as shown in Chart 3 of this issue.

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

The Construction of the Index

Table with 6 columns: No., Description, Index No., July 1914, February 1924, Average. Rows include Government and Corporation Securities, Banks, Railway Companies, Cotton Mills, etc.

* 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:—

Table with 5 columns: Year, Fixed Interest Securities, Industrial Securities, Cotton Mill shares, General average (100 Securities). Rows from 1914 July to 1924 February.

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

Problems of Industrial India

The New World of Labour.—Sherwood Eddy—New York, George H. Doran Company.

During 1922 and 1923 Mr. Sherwood Eddy travelled round the world in order to make a study of the industrial situation and of conditions of labour in the countries visited. Mr. Sherwood Eddy will be remembered in Bombay for his severe criticisms on the working conditions of Bombay. Chapter III deals with Indian Industrial Revolution. The author refers to Indian industrial legislation since the war, notably the Factories Act, the Mines Act, and the Workmen's Compensation Act. Mr. Sherwood Eddy believes that 'full credit should be given to the Government of India for its wise and generous policy for the protection of labour'. India was almost the first country in the world to ratify the action of the Washington Labour Conference. No other country has been more responsive to world public opinion regarding industrial conditions or has more improved its labour legislation since the war. India has far surpassed Japan and has set a shining example to China in her labour legislation. The book is extremely up to date.

Labour in Indian Industries.—By (Miss) G. M. Broughton, O.B.E., M.A., Oxford University Press, 1924.

The views in this book are based on enquiries and observations conducted personally throughout India during the author's employment as adviser in the Labour Bureau of the Industries Department of the Government of India from July 1920 to December 1922. The headings of the chapters give a good idea of the scope of the book—A General Survey, the industrial revolution in India, the sources of labour supply, the demand for labour, conditions of employment, and ameliorative measures. Like Miss Janet H. Kelman's recent book "Labour in India" (Allen and Unwin) the treatise is of special interest in regard to factories. Miss Broughton believes that future factory legislation in this country will be probably in the direction of acts similar to the Truck Acts in England, and also that legislation will take the form of restraining the practice of fining employees, and laying down the method of prompter payment of wages, i.e., putting an end to the system of paying wages towards the middle of the succeeding month. She also believes that legislation will establish maternity benefits, crèches, and that the Workmen's Breach of Contract Act which makes the offender liable not only to civil damages but also to fine and imprisonment as for a criminal offence will be repealed. She has also great hopes in the proposed extension of free and compulsory primary education in the Bombay Presidency. She deals with the necessity of labour records in factories but hardly realises the difficulties of the Bombay employer, often a sympathetic employer, in dealing with a worker who returns to his country often. Labour turnover is great and absenteeism almost proverbial.



Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in February 3

Workpeople involved .. 163,980

On page 47 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during February 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 February 1924.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Table with 5 columns: Trade, Started before 1st February, Started in February, Total, Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in February 1924, Aggregate duration in working days in February 1924. Rows include Textile, Engineering, Miscellaneous, Total February 1924, Total January 1924.

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

(a) Included in the general strike.

There were 3 industrial disputes in progress in February 1924, two of which occurred in cotton mills. The remaining one was a general strike affecting 75 cotton mills, two silk mills, two woollen mills and two dye-works. The number of workpeople affected was 163,980 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 4,062,870 which is a considerably large increase on the January 1924 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results October 1923 to February 1924

Table with 5 columns: October 1923, November 1923, December 1923, January 1924, February 1924. Rows include Number of strikes and lock-outs, Dispute in progress at beginning, Fresh disputes begun, Totals or (cols. 4 to 7) Average.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results—contd.

Table with 5 columns: October 1923, November 1923, December 1923, January 1924, February 1924. Rows include Disputes ended, Disputes in progress at end, Number of workpeople involved, Aggregate duration in working days, Demands (Pay, Bonus, Personal, Leave and hours, Others), Results (In favour of employees, Compromised, In favour of employers).

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

Table with 7 columns: Month, Number of strikes and lock-outs, Aggregate duration in working days, Proportion settled (In favour of employers, In favour of employees, Compromised, In progress). Rows from February 1923 to February 1924.



A General Review of Disputes

During February 1924, there were three industrial disputes in the Presidency as compared with seven in the preceding month. All the three disputes occurred in the cotton mill industry. One of these was the general strike affecting 75 cotton mills, two silk mills, two woollen mills and two dye-works. Of the three disputes one was due to the question of bonus and the remaining two to other minor grievances. Two were settled in favour of the employees and one was in progress.

BOMBAY

The general strike in the textile industry in Bombay on the question of bonus for the year 1923, which commenced on the 17th of January 1924, continued throughout the month of February. A detailed description of this dispute up to 22nd of February was published in the previous issue of this Journal. Further developments regarding this strike will be found in the following article.

AHMEDABAD

In Ahmedabad there were in February 1924, two industrial disputes. On the 18th of February, 100 weavers in the Asarwa Mills struck work demanding the supply of good yarn. The strike terminated on the 21st, the strikers having resumed work on a promise to be supplied with good yarn in a few days. The weavers' strike in the Swadeshi Spinning and Weaving Co.'s Mill, which occurred on the 18th of February was also due to the supply of bad yarn. It continued for more than a week during the course of which 75 men of the Frame Department joined the strike bringing the total number of strikers to 200. All the strikers resumed work on the 26th, the Agent having promised to supply them with good yarn when the existing stock was exhausted. Further, the weavers were promised Rs. 2 each for the strike days and the remainder daily wages for the days for which they might remain idle before the present stocks were exhausted.

Textile Industry Lock-out

The history and progress of the lock-out in the textile industry of Bombay City and Island up to February 22nd was published in the last issue of this Journal (pages 14-16). The Committee of Enquiry appointed by His Excellency the Governor on 22nd February submitted its Report on the 11th instant and this was published on the 12th instant. The full text of the Report and conclusions arrived at are shown on pages 15-17 of this issue. The Report clearly sets out the history of the bonus granted to operatives in the textile industry for five years in succession, and the way in which

this bonus has been regarded by the operatives. The question of profits is also fully dealt with. In short, the Report arrives at the following conclusions:—

(1) The mill workers have not established any enforceable claim, customary, legal or equitable, to the payment annually of a bonus, or, in other words, the Committee is of opinion that such a claim would not be upheld in a Court of Law.

(2) In regard to the profits of the industry, 32 mills made a profit and 43 made a loss after allowing for the usual depreciation, during the year 1923.

(3) The results of the working of the mill industry, as a whole, for the year 1923 are such as to justify the contention of the mill-owners that the profits do not admit of the payment of a bonus.

PROGRESS

There was no change in the strike situation from the 22nd of February to the 1st of March. A meeting of sympathisers was held on 1st March under the auspices of the Central Labour Board, Bombay, at which Mr. F. J. Ginwalla presided. Messrs. G. N. Sahasrabudhe and J. G. Nensey were appointed Secretaries and were authorised to address the Trustees of the G. I. P. Railway Strikers' Family Relief Fund, the Secretary of the Provincial Congress Committee, the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor and the Trustees of the N. N. Wadia Charities asking for financial assistance for the strikers. On the 7th March the following notice was issued and posted at all mills over the signature of Mr. S. D. Saklatvala, Chairman, Bombay Millowners' Association:

"As certain millowners have been approached by their operatives with a request to open the mills, and as they are prepared to resume work unconditionally, it is hereby notified that this mill will be opened for the resumption of work on Saturday, 8th March 1924. Two days after the work is resumed the wages due to the operatives for the days worked in January will be given to them."

This notice, however, did not succeed in inducing the strikers to resume work. On the other hand, immediately after the posting of the notice several serious disturbances took place in the mill areas. The workers repudiated the assertion that they were prepared to resume work unconditionally and they removed these notices from the gates of the mills. By noon of the 8th instant other disturbances took place and these resulted in loss of life and damage to property in several parts of the city.

PAYMENT OF WAGES

From the 8th March to the 13th March the situation remained practically unchanged. There was, however, a demand for the payment of the wages due to the operatives for work done in January. At a meeting of the Committee of the Millowners' Association on the 13th March this question was discussed with representatives of Government, and arrangements were made for the payment of wages earned in January in groups of mills on different days,



Bonus Dispute Committee's Report

On page 16 of the February 1924 issue of the *Labour Gazette*, the appointment of a Committee of Enquiry in connexion with the Bonus Dispute was referred to. The Committee submitted its Report to Government on 11th March 1924. The full text of the Report, which is unanimous, is given below:—

We were appointed by His Excellency the Governor-in-Council by Home Department Notification No. 355-Poll., dated the 22nd February, 1924, as a Committee to enquire into the dispute between the cotton millowners and workers.

The terms of reference remitted to us were:—

(1) To consider the nature and basis of the bonus which has been granted to the employees in the cotton mills of Bombay since 1919 and to declare whether the employees have established any enforceable claim, customary, legal or equitable.

(2) To enquire into the profits made in each year since 1917 with a view to comparing these profits with the profits made in the year 1923, and to report on the contention of the millowners that the grant of a bonus such as has been given in previous years is not justified by the profits of the mill industry as a whole in 1923. Such reports shall not set forth the profits or losses or financial position of any individual concern save in so far as such profits or losses or financial position shall be disclosed in any statement of account published in the ordinary course of business or in any statement of information which may be submitted before the Committee of Enquiry with express permission to publish or refer to the same individually. The Committee shall not make any award or make any recommendations for action, but shall merely record findings of facts.

The constitution of the Committee was as follows:—

CHAIRMAN

The Honourable Sir Norman Macleod, Kt.
Chief Justice, High Court, Bombay.

MEMBERS

1. Mr. R. P. Masani.
2. Mr. Devidas Madhavji Thackersey,
Mr. W. J. Herridge, Labour Office, Bombay, Secretary.

The Committee held three meetings, the first on February the 25th, the second on the 1st of March and the third on the 8th of March 1924. All three meetings were held in the High Court, Bombay. The Committee examined a number of witnesses representing both employers and workers in the cotton mill industry of Bombay, the Director of the Labour Office and a number of actual mill operatives. Written evidence* was obtained from most of these witnesses and this is appended to our report.

Report

1. In regard to the first term of reference, the words "enforceable claim, customary, legal or equitable" are neither precise nor free from ambiguity. "Enforceable" we presume means enforceable in a Court of Law, so that what we have really been asked to do is to express an opinion whether if a suit were filed by a worker to recover the bonus from his employer, he would have any chance of success. Such a suit would be based on contract. The plaintiff would have to prove that at the commencement of his service or later his employer had agreed to pay the bonus on certain terms and conditions. There could be no occasion in such a suit for the application of the principles of equity in the strict sense of the term, for the decision would depend on evidence regarding the terms of the contract. Nor could there be an enforceable customary claim unless it were proved that there was a custom in the mill industry recognised by both parties that as soon as a worker was taken on he came within the scope of the conditions on which the bonus was to be paid by the employer. We have not been asked to state whether in our opinion the claim is one which should be acceded to on purely equitable grounds apart from the question whether the claim is enforceable.

2. We have heard the members of the Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association, the members of the Strike Settlement Committee, Mr. S. K. Bole, General Secretary of the Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha, the Director of the Labour Office, Mr. N. N. Wadia and Mr. J. A. Wadia, and we have examined some of the mill workers themselves. To all of these we tender our thanks for the information they have given us.

* Not printed.

provisions being made for the maintenance of order in the various mill areas. It was reported that numbers of workers were only waiting for the payment of January wages before proceeding back to their villages, while numbers of them had already left.

STRIKERS' PROPOSALS

On the suggestion of His Excellency the Governor, a deputation consisting of about 40 mill-workers representing various mills waited upon the Director, Labour Office, at the Old Custom House on 11th March. The deputation was headed by Mr. Bhatvadekar, President, Gimi Kamgar Mahamandal. The object of the deputation was to discuss plans for the repatriation of the workers to their villages in the event of a settlement not being reached. The deputation explained that about 500 men per mill would be available for repatriation. The deputation suggested:—

(1) Unless bonus was paid to them they would be unwilling to take pay for January.

(2) Although most of the workers belong to Ratnagiri a few did go by rail and provision should be made for this in addition to those who go by steamer.

(3) The dependents and children as well as mill-hands should receive passes and it was suggested that the distribution of passes should be made at five stations and that the Mahamandal would arrange to see that none except mill-hands receive passes.

(4) That about 50,000 actual workers would be willing to go to their homes.

(5) That in addition to the actual fares they should have a small sum for maintenance as they will have to go to their homes at several miles distant from the port of disembarkation.

(6) That they want to leave their own things in their rooms and at present the landlords are forcing them to pay rent for two months which they could not and therefore they wish Government to arrange that their things are not removed from their chawls.

(7) That those who would be left in Bombay should be provided with food.

These suggestions were placed before Government for consideration.

RESUMPTION OF WORK

One mill, the Bombay Woollen Mill situated in Lady Jamsetji Road, Dadar, the first mill to pay out the wages earned in January, resumed work with about 30 per cent. of its operatives on the 14th March.

Wages earned in January were paid in all mills commencing from the 17th of March, adequate protection having been arranged. Twelve mills were protected for disbursing January wages and in addition five other mills paid out on the 17th. In addition to the Bombay Woollen Mill, mentioned above, work was resumed on this date in four other mills though with much reduced staffs. On the 18th fourteen mills were on the protected list and apart from these six other mills paid January wages. Nine more mills started work with depleted staffs. On the 19th, 29 mills were given protection for paying January wages and seven other mills paid out without protection. Eight more mills started work with a comparatively small number of operatives. All the remaining mills paid January wages on the 20th. By the 25th almost all the mills started work although the number of operatives working on this date did not exceed a third of the total labour force of the industry in Bombay. The strike may thus be said to have ended on the 25th instant.



HISTORY OF BONUS

3. We can now set out the history relating to the increase of wages and the payments of bonus since 1917, in order to ascertain what foundation there is for the various contentions of the millowners and the employees respectively. In July 1917 an increase of 10 per cent. in wages was granted owing to war conditions. We have not seen any notice or circular of that date setting out the increase and the reasons therefor, but on the 23rd January 1918, a Circular was issued to the members of the Millowners' Association announcing that the war bonus of 10 per cent. granted in July 1917, should be increased to 15 per cent. as from the 1st January 1918. At the end of the year a strike commenced at the Century Mill and soon became general. On the 22nd January 1919 the following terms were offered by the employers:—

- (a) The war bonus to be increased from 15 per cent. to 35 per cent. and termed a special allowance on account of the high price of food stuffs.
(b) The wages for January to be augmented by the payment of a bonus varying from Rs. 10 to Rs. 20 per worker.

These terms were accepted and the men went back to work. On the 1st December 1919, the employers sanctioned the payment of a bonus to all operatives on the muster-roll on the 31st December 1919 at rates varying according to the length of service. On the 22nd December 1919, alterations were made in the terms offered but in spite of this another strike commenced on the 2nd January 1920. At a Conference of millhands held on the 14th December 1919, resolutions were passed *inter alia* (1) that the hours of the work should be reduced from 12 to 9 hours, (2) that wages should be paid on the 15th of the month, (3) that the millhands were grateful to the employers for the bonus promised and requested that for certain workers more liberal terms might be offered. These resolutions were forwarded to the Millowners' Association by the President of the Millhands' First Conference on the 13th January 1920. Eventually a notice was posted at all the mills on the 24th January 1920, in answer to the various demands put forward on behalf of the workers by the Bombay Labour Settlement Committee and some 2,000 hand bills were also distributed. As far as we can ascertain a copy of the notice was not sent to the President of the Labour Settlement Committee. We need only refer to two of the clauses.

THE MILLOWNERS' REPLY

Clause 4 contained the answer to the 4th demand that a bonus should be paid annually in the following words:—

"The Committee can make no definite announcements as regards annual bonuses. This question is one of profits and good-will and no undertaking can be given."

Clause 13 gave the answer to the demand for privilege leave as follows:—
"The Committee will consider later the desirability of granting some privilege leave for 11 months' continuous attendance at work."

On the 20th October 1920, the Committee of the Millowners' Association decided—

- (1) To recommend certain increases in pay,
(2) To recommend the payment of a bonus of one month's pay on the same scale as in the previous years, payment to be made on the 15th January 1921. This bonus however was based on all wages together with percentages of increase sanctioned from time to time.

The Committee again considered the desirability of granting some privilege leave for 11 months' continuous attendance at work and it was decided that the Committee could not recommend the adoption of any such procedure.

In spite of the increase of pay and the payment of a bonus, the workers in some of the mills demanded further increases so that on the 27th January 1921 there was a general meeting of the Millowners' Association when it was decided that a reply should be sent by those mills which had received such demands to the effect that their pay had been increased by 100 per cent., their hours of work reduced and that they received an annual bonus of one month's pay when the mills did well.

In November 1921 a notice was posted that a bonus would be paid to all workers on the muster-roll on the 30th November 1921. In November 1922 a notice was posted on all the mills declaring that a bonus would be paid to all operatives on the muster-roll on 15th December 1922 on a certain scale.

NO WARNING GIVEN

4. It is necessary to point out that at the time when the payment of the bonus was made in each of the years 1921, 1922 and 1923, no warning was given to the millhands that such payments depended entirely upon the results of the past year's working, and that it could not be continued if it could not be justified by the profits earned. We may also observe that after the first payment of bonus in the year 1919, which was styled an augmentation of the wages for January, the bonus declared was based on the monthly wages earned by each of the workers.

5. By the end of 1922 the absence of demand for yarn and cloth was causing much anxiety in the Bombay Mill Industry. The situation was

discussed at various meetings of the Committee of the Millowners' Association, until it was decided on the 9th July 1923 that a notice should be posted on all the Mills on the 23rd July 1923 to the effect that owing to bad trade the Millowners regretted that they would be unable to pay a bonus for 1923. From the millhands whom we have examined we gather that they did not consider this notice very seriously and still remained under the impression that the bonus would be paid at the end of the year.

6. On the 12th of January 1924 the Chairman of the Millowners' Association granted an interview to a deputation consisting of the Secretary and two members of the Kamgar Hitwardhak Sabha at which the question of the annual bonus was discussed. The seriousness of the situation was placed before the deputation and they had to realise that so far from the payment of a bonus being the real issue, the question of the moment was whether the Mills should work short time or reduce the wages.

As the bonus was not paid, the strike became general towards the end of January 1924.

7. Such being the nature and basis of the payment of the bonus since January 1919 we are of opinion, and this was not seriously contested before us, even by the members of the Strike Settlement Committee, that the workers have not established an enforceable claim to a bonus. If any one amongst them thought they had, the question could have been decided by this time in a Court of Law.

WORKERS' VIEWS

On the other hand it seems clear, if the evidence of the few workers whom we have examined is to be taken as expressing generally the views of the workers, that owing to the payment of a bonus for five consecutive years the workers consider that they have a just claim against the millowners. They do not stop to consider whether or not it is based on the contract of employment, they cannot say that the employers agreed at the beginning of any one year to pay the bonus at the end, whatever the results might be, and they may or may not be aware in fact that the millowners in each year have paid a bonus on the results of the past year's working, and have never made any promise for the future except that the bonus was dependent on profits. The workers, however, now desire to divorce this demand for an extra payment at the end of the year from the question of profits or the general condition of the mill industry.

BONUS AND WAGES

Their demands are based either on a system of a deferred payment of wages under which a proportion of the worker's wages is deducted each month to be paid to them at the end of the year, or on a recognition of one month's privilege leave on full pay being allowed for 11 months' work, or lastly on the fact that the previous payments of a bonus have created an equity in their favour for their being paid something extra at the end of the year whether the employers can afford it or not. It has been suggested to us that because the increase in the wages allowed from the year 1917 owing to war conditions was called a "War Bonus" the mill-workers have looked upon the annual bonus as really a part of their wages and it is possible that the majority of the mill-workers could not understand the distinction between the increase in the monthly wages which was called at first a "War Bonus" and the extra payment at the end of the year which was also called "Bonus". Moreover, those workers who came to work in the mills after the beginning of 1920 would have heard that a bonus had been paid before, and finding that this was received in the following years without any warning such as we have referred to above, they have come to look upon it as a payment to which they were entitled as a matter of right according to the period for which they had worked. But we doubt very much whether the workers would seriously consider any system of privilege leave as a substitution for the bonus, since it would exclude all those who had not worked continuously for 11 months, especially those who are in the habit of going to their country in May to cultivate their fields. It has been conceded that workers who left before the date declared for calculating the bonus were not entitled to it, but the expectation of getting a bonus is said to have been the inducement to many to continue working instead of going back to their villages.

8. It is quite possible that by now it will be found that these two ideas of deferred wages and privilege leave have gained ground by a process of induction amongst the workers but we think that the main idea which exists in all minds is that they are entitled at the end of the year to a further payment in addition to what they have been paid for the time they have actually worked and it makes no difference by what name such further payment is called.

9. That being the real nature of the claim, it is a question of bargaining between the workers and the employers, in which consideration might be given to principles of equity. It is not a question of determining what is the contract between the parties.



CONCLUSIONS

1. Having thus examined the nature and basis of the bonus which has been paid to the mill-workers for five years since the year 1919, we declare that the mill-workers have not established any enforceable claim, customary, legal or equitable to the payment annually of a bonus, by which we mean that in our opinion such a claim would not be upheld in a Court of Law.

2. We have enquired into the profits made since the year 1917 with a view to comparing these profits with the profits made in the year 1923, and we have to report on the figures presented to us by the Bombay Millowners' Association that, during the year 1923, 32 mills made a profit and 43 mills made a loss, after allowing for the usual depreciation (see Appendix D*). The figures have not been furnished for seven Mills. Taking the figures for 75 Mills as a whole the profits are not sufficient to provide for the ordinary amount which should be set aside for depreciation.

The total profits on the balance before debiting depreciation amount roughly to Rs. 53 lakhs or Rs. 119 lakhs if the income-tax on the profits for the year 1923 only is debited, and the amount ordinarily required for depreciation amounts to Rs. 170 lakhs. A detailed statement of the accounts of the mill industry as prepared by Messrs. Fergusson & Co., Auditors*, is appended herewith.

3. It can be said therefore that the results of the working of the mill industry as a whole for the year 1923 are such as to justify the contention of the millowners that the profits do not admit of the payment of a bonus.

In conclusion, we desire to express our warm appreciation of the services of our Secretary, Mr. W. J. Herridge of the Labour Office, who has been of the greatest assistance in carrying out our work and in the preparation of our Report.

(Signed) N. C. MACLEOD,

Chairman.

(Signed) R. P. MASANI

(Signed) DEVIDAS MADHAVJI THACKERSEY

(Signed) W. J. HERRIDGE,

Secretary.

High Court, Bombay,

Dated the 11th March 1924.

* Not printed.

Industrial Disputes in other Provinces

MADRAS

According to the Labour Commissioner, Madras, 200 coolies in the Madras Port Trust struck work on the 15th of February 1924, against the reduction of the minimum number of men employed for loading and unloading work from 175 before the construction of quays in the harbour, to 120 after their construction. The strikers resumed work on the 17th February, on the Traffic Manager having promised to refer the matter to the Chairman. The Chairman approved of the reduction and the men were informed accordingly.

Industrial Disputes

LEGISLATION IN GREAT BRITAIN

The Conciliation Act of 1896 and the Industrial Courts Act of 1919

In view of requests made for copies of the British Conciliation Act of 1896 and the Industrial Courts Act of 1919, referred to on page 17 of the *Labour Gazette* for February 1924, in connexion with His Excellency the Governor's reference to this subject in his opening speech at the Legislative Council (page 5 of the *Labour Gazette* for February 1924), these Acts are republished in extenso for general information. Portions of these

two Acts were previously published in the *Labour Gazette* for November 1921 and a short note on the working of the latter Act was also published on page 20 of the *Labour Gazette* for January 1922.

THE CONCILIATION ACT, 1896

An act to make better provision for the prevention and settlement of trade disputes.

1. *Registration and powers of conciliation Boards.*—(1) Any board established either before or after the passing of this Act, which is constituted for the purpose of settling disputes between employers and workmen by conciliation or arbitration, or any association or body authorized by an agreement in writing made between employers and workmen to deal with such disputes (in this Act referred to as a conciliation board), may apply to the Board of Trade for registration under this Act.

(2) The application must be accompanied by copies of the constitution, bye-laws, and regulations of the conciliation board, with such other information as the Board of Trade may reasonably require.

(3) The Board of Trade shall keep a register of conciliation boards, and enter therein with respect to each registered board its name and principal office, and such other particulars as the Board of Trade may think expedient, and any registered conciliation board shall be entitled to have its name removed from the register on sending to the Board of Trade a written application to that effect.

(4) Every registered conciliation board shall furnish such returns, reports of its proceedings, and other documents as the Board of Trade may reasonably require.

(5) The Board of Trade may, on being satisfied that a registered conciliation board has ceased to exist or to act, remove its name from the register.

(6) Subject to any agreement to the contrary, proceedings for conciliation before a registered conciliation board shall be conducted in accordance with the regulations of the board in that behalf.

2. *Powers of Board of Trade as to Trade Disputes.*—(1) Where a difference exists or is apprehended between an employer, or any class of employers, and workmen, or between different classes of workmen, the Board of Trade may, if they think fit, exercise all or any of the following powers, namely:—

(a) inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference,

(b) take such steps as to the Board may seem expedient for the purpose of enabling the parties to the difference to meet together, by themselves or their representatives, under the presidency of a chairman mutually agreed upon or nominated by the Board of Trade or by some other person or body, with a view to the amicable settlement of the difference;

(c) on the application of employers or workmen interested, and after taking into consideration the existence and adequacy of means available for conciliation in the district or trade and the circumstances of the case, appoint a person or persons to act as conciliator or as a board of conciliation;

(d) on the application of both parties to the difference, appoint an arbitrator.

(2) If any person is so appointed to act as conciliator, he shall inquire into the causes and circumstances of the difference by communication with the parties, and otherwise shall endeavour to bring about a settlement of the difference, and shall report his proceedings to the Board of Trade.

(3) If a settlement of the difference is effected either by conciliation or by arbitration, a memorandum of the terms thereof shall be drawn up and signed by the parties or their representatives, and a copy thereof shall be delivered to and kept by the Board of Trade.

3. *Exclusion of 52 and 53 Vict. c. 49.*—The Arbitration Act, 1889, shall not apply to the settlement by arbitration of any difference or dispute to which this Act applies, but any such arbitration proceedings shall be conducted in accordance with such of the provisions of the said Act, or such of the regulations of any conciliation board, or under such other rules or regulations, as may be mutually agreed upon by the parties to the difference or dispute.

4. *Power for Board of Trade to aid in establishing conciliation boards.*—If it appears to the Board of Trade that in any district or trade adequate means do not exist for having disputes submitted to a conciliation board for the district or trade, they may appoint any person or persons to inquire into the conditions of the district or trade, and to confer with employers and employed, and, if the Board of Trade think fit, with any local authority or body, as to the expediency of establishing a conciliation board for the district or trade.

5. *Report to Parliament.*—The Board of Trade shall from time to time present to Parliament a report of their proceedings under this Act.

6. *Expenses.*—The expenses incurred by the Board of Trade in the execution of this Act shall be defrayed out of moneys provided by Parliament.



7. *Repeal* (5 Geo. 4 c. 96, 30 and 31 Vict. c. 105, 35 and 36 Vict. c. 46).—The Masters and Workmen Arbitration Act, 1824, and the Councils of Conciliation Act, 1867, and the Arbitration (Masters and Workmen) Act, 1872, are hereby repealed.

8. *Short Title*.—This Act may be cited as the Conciliation Act, 1896.

INDUSTRIAL COURTS ACT, 1919

An Act to provide for the establishment of an Industrial Court and Courts of Inquiry in connection with Trade Disputes, and to make other provision for the settlement of such disputes, and to continue for a limited period certain of the provisions of the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918, Ch. 69. Dated 20th November 1919.

PART I

Industrial Courts

I.—(1) For the purpose of the settlement of trade disputes in manner provided by this Act, there shall be a standing Industrial Court, consisting of persons to be appointed by the Minister of Labour (in this Act referred to as "the Minister"), of whom some shall be independent persons, some shall be persons representing employers, and some shall be persons representing workmen, and in addition one or more women.

(2) A member of the Industrial Court shall hold office for such term as may be fixed by the Minister at the time of his appointment.

(3) For the purpose of dealing with any matter which may be referred to it, the Court shall be constituted of such of the members of the Court as the president may direct.

(4) The president of the Court, and the chairman of any division of the Court, shall be such person, being one of the independent persons aforesaid, as the Minister may by order, given either generally or specially, direct.

II.—(1) Any trade dispute as defined by this Act, whether existing or apprehended, may be reported to the Minister by or on behalf of either of the parties to the dispute, and the Minister shall thereupon take the matter into his consideration and take such steps as seem to him expedient for promoting a settlement thereof.

(2) Where a trade dispute exists or is apprehended, the Minister may, subject as hereinafter provided, if he thinks fit and if both parties consent, either—

(a) Refer the matter for settlement to the Industrial Court; or

(b) Refer the matter for settlement to the arbitration of one or more persons appointed by him; or

(c) Refer the matter for settlement to a board of arbitration consisting of one or more persons nominated by or on behalf of the employers concerned and an equal number of persons nominated by or on behalf of the workmen concerned, and an independent chairman nominated by the Minister, and, for the purpose of facilitating the nomination of persons to act as members of a board of arbitration, the Minister of Labour shall constitute panels of persons appearing to him suitable so to act, and women shall be included in the panels.

(3) The Minister may refer to the Industrial Court for advice any matter relating to or arising out of a trade dispute, or trade disputes in general or trade disputes of any class, or any other matter which in his opinion ought to be so referred.

(4) If there are existing in any trade or industry any arrangements for settlement by conciliation or arbitration of disputes in such trade or industry, or any branch thereof, made in pursuance of an agreement between organisations of employers and organisations of workmen representative respectively of substantial proportions of the employers and workmen engaged in that trade or industry, the Minister shall not, unless with the consent of both parties to the dispute, and unless and until there has been a failure to obtain a settlement by means of those arrangements, refer the matter for settlement or advice in accordance with the foregoing provisions of this section.

III.—(1) The Minister may make, or authorise the Industrial Court to make, rules regulating the procedure of that Court, and those rules may, amongst other things, provide for references in certain cases to a single member of the Court, and provide for enabling the Court to sit in two or more divisions, and to sit with assessors, who may be men or women, for enabling the Court or any division of the Court to act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number, and for enabling questions as to the interpretation of any award to be settled without any fresh report or reference.

(2) The Minister may make rules regulating the procedure to be followed in cases where matters are referred for settlement to the arbitration of one or more persons appointed by the Minister.

(3) The Arbitration Act, 1889, shall not apply to any reference to the Industrial Court, or to any reference to arbitration under this Act.

(4) Where the members of the Industrial Court are unable to agree as to their award, the matter shall be decided by the chairman acting with the full powers of an umpire.

(5) Where any trade dispute referred to the Industrial Court involves questions as to wages, or as to hours of work, or otherwise as to the terms or conditions of or affecting employment which are regulated by any Act other than this Act, the Court shall not make any award which is inconsistent with the provisions of that Act.

PART II

Courts of Inquiry

IV.—(1) Where any trade dispute exists or is apprehended, the Minister may, whether or not the dispute is reported to him under Part I of this Act, inquire into the causes and circumstances of the dispute, and, if he thinks fit, refer any matters appearing to him to be connected with or relevant to the dispute to a Court of Inquiry appointed by him for the purpose of such reference, and the Court shall, either in public or in private, at their discretion, inquire into the matters referred to them and report thereon to the Minister.

(2) A Court of Inquiry for the purposes of this Part of this Act (in this Act referred to as "a Court of Inquiry") shall consist of a chairman and such other persons as the Minister thinks fit to appoint, or may, if the Minister thinks fit, consist of one person appointed by the Minister.

(3) A Court of Inquiry may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number.

(4) The Minister may make rules regulating the procedure of any Court of Inquiry, including rules as to summoning of witnesses, quorum, and the appointment of committees and enabling the Court to call for such documents as the Court may determine to be relevant to the subject matter of the inquiry.

(5) A Court of Inquiry may, if and to such extent as may be authorised by rules made under this section, by order require any person who appears to the Court to have any knowledge of the subject-matter of the inquiry to furnish, in writing or otherwise, such particulars in relation thereto as the Court may require, and, where necessary, to attend before the Court and give evidence on oath, and the Court may administer or authorise any person to administer an oath for that purpose.

V.—(1) A Court of Inquiry may, if it thinks fit, make interim reports.

(2) Any report of a Court of Inquiry, and any minority report, shall be laid as soon as may be before both Houses of Parliament.

(3) The Minister may, whether before or after any such report has been laid before Parliament, publish or cause to be published from time to time, in such manner as he thinks fit, any information obtained or conclusions arrived at by the Court as the result or in the course of their inquiry: Provided that there shall not be included in any report or publication made or authorised by the Court or the Minister any information obtained by the Court in the course of their inquiry as to any trade union or as to any individual business (whether carried on by a person, firm, or company) which is not available otherwise than through evidence given at the inquiry, except with the consent of the Secretary of the trade union or of the person, firm, or company in question, nor shall any individual member of that Court or any person concerned in the inquiry, without such consent, disclose any such information.

PART III

Continuance of certain provisions of wages

(Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918.

VI.—(1) The provisions of the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918, which are specified in the Schedule to this Act shall, subject to the modifications specified in the second column of that Schedule, continue in operation until the 30th day of September 1920.

(2) Where, before the passing of this Act, any matter has been referred for settlement under the Wages (Temporary Regulation) Act, 1918, and has not, at that date, been settled by the person or persons to whom it has been so referred, the Minister may by order transfer the matter to the Industrial Court, and where any such matter is so transferred the award of that Court shall have effect as if it were an award of the Interim Court of Arbitration made under that Act.

PART IV

General

7. Any expenses incurred by the Minister in carrying this Act into operation, including the expenses of the Industrial Court and of any Court of Inquiry, shall be paid out of moneys provided by Parliament.



8. For the purposes of this Act:—

The expression "trade dispute" means any dispute or difference between employers and workmen, or between workmen and workmen connected with the employment or non-employment, or the terms of the employment or with the conditions of labour of any person:

The expression "workman" means any person who has entered into or works under a contract with an employer whether the contract be by way of manual labour, clerical work, or otherwise, be expressed or implied, oral or in writing, and whether it be a contract of service or of apprenticeship or a contract personally to execute any work of labour.

9. Provision shall be made by rules under this Act with respect to the cases in which persons may appear by counsel or solicitor on proceedings under this Act before the Industrial Court, before an arbitrator or before a Court of Inquiry, and except as provided by those rules no person shall be entitled to appear on any such proceedings by counsel or solicitor.

10. This Act shall not apply to persons in the naval, military or air services of the Crown, but otherwise shall apply to workmen employed by or under the Crown in the same manner as if they were employed by or under a private person.

11. In the case of a trade dispute in the industry of agriculture steps to be taken under this Act by the Minister of Labour shall be taken in conjunction with the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

12. (1) In the application of this Act to Scotland a reference to an overseaman shall be substituted for any reference to an umpire, and a reference to the Board of Agriculture for Scotland shall be substituted for any reference to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

(2) In the application of this Act to Ireland, a reference to the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland shall be substituted for any reference to the Board of Agriculture and Fisheries.

13. The Minister shall from time to time present to Parliament a report of his proceedings under this Act.

14. This Act may be cited as the Industrial Courts Act, 1919.

SCHEDULE

Provisions continued in Force.	Modifications.
S. 1. (Obligation to pay prescribed rates of wages).	As from the commencement of this Act the power to substitute any enforceable rate for the prescribed rate shall cease, without prejudice, however, to the enforceability of any rate substituted for the prescribed rate before the commencement of this Act, whether the substituted rate has or has not come into operation before that date, and without prejudice to the enforceability of any rate substituted for the prescribed rate by an award of the Industrial Court under Part III of this Act.
Subs. (2) of S. 2. (Settlement of differences).	As from the commencement of this Act matters instead of being referred for settlement as provided in sub-section (2) shall be referred to the Industrial Court. The words "or as to whether any rate should be substituted for the prescribed rate" shall cease to have effect, and the proviso to sub-section (2) shall not apply.
S. 3. (Powers of Inquiry).	
S. 4. (Definition of prescribed rates of wages).	As from the commencement of this Act a reference to the Industrial Court shall be substituted for any reference to the Interim Court of Arbitration.
S. 5. (Legal proceedings).	

APPENDIX

Industrial Court (Procedure) Rules, 1920, dated 15th day of March 1920. Made by the Minister of Labour.

1. In these Rules:—

The expression "Act" means the Industrial Courts Act, 1919; and
The expression "Minister" means the Minister of Labour; and
The expression "Court" means the Industrial Court established by this Act and includes, unless the contrary intention appears, any division thereof and any single member of the Court to whom a matter may be referred for determination; and the expression "President" means the President of the Industrial Court; and

The expression "Division" means any group of members of the Court constituted as the President may direct to hear and determine any matter referred to the Court.

2. The Court may sit in two or more divisions.

3. Any matter referred to the Court for settlement may at the discretion of the President be heard and determined by a single member of the Court.

4. The Court may, at the discretion of the President, in any matter in which it appears expedient to do so call in the aid of one or more assessors and may settle the matter wholly or partially with the assistance of such assessor or assessors.

5. The Court may with the consent of the parties act notwithstanding any vacancy in their number, and no act, proceeding, or determination of the Court shall be called in question or invalidated by reason of any such vacancy, provided such consent has first been obtained.

6. The Court may correct in any award any clerical mistake or error arising from an accidental slip or omission.

7. If any question arises as to the interpretation of any award of the Court, the Minister, or any party of the award may apply for a decision on such question and the Court shall decide the matter after hearing the parties or without such hearing, provided the consent of the parties has first been obtained. The decision of the Court shall be notified to the parties and shall be final in the same manner as the decision in an original award.

8. Persons may appear by counsel or solicitor on proceedings before the Court with the permission of the Court.

9. Subject to these rules the Court may regulate their own procedure as they think fit.

10. These Rules may be cited as the Industrial Court (Procedure) Rules, 1920.

Conciliation and Arbitration in Canada

PROCEEDINGS UNDER THE INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES INVESTIGATION ACT OF 1907

The Annual Report of the Department of Labour of the Dominion of Canada has been received in the Labour Office. It contains an interesting review of the proceedings under the Industrial Disputes Investigation Act of 1907. This Act (published on page 17 of the *Labour Gazette* for November 1921) provides that whenever any dispute between an employer and an employee cannot be settled between themselves, either party may apply to the Department of Labour for the appointment of a Conciliation Board. The minister, if in his opinion the provisions of the Act are applicable to the case submitted has power to appoint a Board consisting of one member recommended by the employer, one member recommended by the employees and a third co-opted by the first two, the co-opted member being the Chairman of the Board. This Act came into force from the 22nd March 1907.

The number of applications received during the year for the appointment of Conciliation Boards totalled 45 out of which Conciliation Boards were established in 27 cases, the industries concerned being Railway, Transportation and Communication Companies (19); Mining Concerns (2); Lighting and power Companies (3); and Miscellaneous Concerns (3). Out of 4 applications received for Coal Mining concerns 3 strikes were not averted or ended, 2 of them being cases in which the findings of the Boards appointed were not established.

The number of applications, the number of Boards established as well as the number of strikes not averted or ended are given year by year from March 1907.

The total number of applications for the appointment of Boards received from the time the Act came into force up to the end of 1922-23 was 597 out of which Boards were established in 428 cases.



Trade Unions in the Presidency

Quarter ending March 1924—an increase in unions and membership

The previous review of trade unions in the Presidency was published in the December 1923 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The latest information for the first quarter of the present year is summarised on pages 41—43 of this issue and shows in Table I on pages 41 and 42 that as compared with the last quarter, the number of unions has increased by 4 and the membership by 4,265. There are at the moment 10 unions with a membership of 27,813 in Bombay City and Island; 7 unions with a membership of 14,085 in Ahmedabad and 6 unions with a membership of 8,404 in the rest of the Presidency. The total for the Presidency is thus 23 unions with 50,302 members as compared with 19 unions with 46,037 members in the previous quarter. These numbers, as in previous reviews, include only those unions known actually to be in existence. The information has been collected through the Secretaries of the Unions as well as through District Officers in the Presidency including Sind.

THE INCREASE IN UNIONS AND MEMBERSHIP

Bombay City and Island records an increase of two unions, viz., the Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union and the Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association, with a membership of 600 and 1,200 respectively. The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union shows an increase of 1,000 members. In Ahmedabad, the Labour Union reports an increase of 1,000 members in the Weavers' Union and decreases of 150 members in the Winders' Union and 105 members in the Throstle Union. In Broach, two new unions, the Fine Counts Mill Labour Union and the Saraswati Mill Labour Union with 360 members each are reported. No other changes of importance took place during the quarter under review. The following table summarises the position as regards unions and membership since June 1922.

Summary table showing the membership of the Unions

Quarter ended	No. of unions.	Membership at end of quarter.	Percentage decrease (—) or increase (+) on previous quarter.
June 1922	19	46,037	—
September 1922	21	51,276	+ 11.3
December 1922	22	51,472	+ 0.4
March 1923	22	48,669	- 5.4
June 1923	21	51,276	+ 5.8
September 1923	19	41,646	- 18.7
December 1923	19	46,037	+ 10.5
March 1924	23	50,302	+ 9.2

There has thus been an increase of 9.26 per cent. in membership in the present quarter as compared with last

quarter but a decrease of 13.14 per cent. as compared with June 1922.

THE BOMBAY UNIONS

As already mentioned only one union in Bombay, the G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union, shows an increase in membership. This is said to be due to the stimulus received owing to the strike in the G. I. P. Carriage and Waggon Workshop at Matunga in December last. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union records an increase of 100 members in its branch at Lonavla and a decrease of 100 members owing to the closing of the branch at Kurduwadi. Its membership now stands as follows:—

Station.	Number of members.
Wadi Bunder (Bombay)	434
Administrative Office (Bombay)	542
Kalyan	500
Bhusawal	672
Lonavla	250
Poona	150
Manmad	738
Shahabad	150
Bhopal	222
Dhond	129
Ahmednagar	126
Itarsi	150
Jhansi	150
Total members	4,213

Two new unions were formed in Bombay during the quarter under review. The Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union was formed with the immediate object of securing concerted action in urging the modification of the existing license regulations for Victorias in Bombay. The Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Union, which is said to have 1,200 members, was formed for the purpose of protesting against the recent new regulations framed by the Bombay Municipality for the licensing and control of all hair-cutting saloons in Bombay. The President of the Association, Mr. S. H. Jhabwalla, states the Association is conducted on the lines of all other trade unions under the Central Labour Board. There were no other important changes in the Bombay Unions during the quarter under review. No regular unions of Cotton mill operatives were reported to have been formed.

THE AHMEDABAD UNIONS

The Weavers' Union in Ahmedabad, which is under the Labour Union, shows a large increase of 1,000 members, but apart from other minor changes, the position of the unions in this centre has remained almost unaltered as compared with that in the preceding quarter. The rate of recovery from the effects of the general strike, in April



and May of last year, has not been so rapid during the present quarter as it was during the last quarter.

REST OF THE PRESIDENCY

It is significant that in Broach a trade union movement has now been started in the mills. The two new unions in this centre, the Fine Counts Mill Labour Union and the Saraswati Mill Labour Union, have not, however, as yet a large membership (360 each). These unions are organised on an industrial basis and not on a craft basis, an organisation so conspicuous in Ahmedabad. The unions at Sukkur, Karachi, Sholapur and Poona record no changes during the present quarter.

ACCOUNTS OF THE UNIONS

Table II on page 43 shows the approximate monthly income and expenditure of the unions. The financial position of the Bombay Unions does not appear to be good. For example, the Indian Seamen's Union has a monthly expenditure greater than the monthly income. In the case of the other unions the number of regular paying members is small. In Ahmedabad a considerable increase in the monthly income of the Weavers' Union, the Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union, and the Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union is noticeable.

QUASI UNIONS

As in previous reviews, the following associations are excluded from the list of trade unions as these are regarded more as welfare associations than trade unions:—

- (1) The amalgamated Society of Railway Servants of India and Burma.
- (2) The Bombay Presidency Postal Association.
- (3) The Kamgar Hitwardak Sabha.
- (4) The Girni Kamgar Sangh.

The Bombay Presidency Postal Association is a central body to which is affiliated a number of district branch postal associations. The membership of these branches consists of the clerical establishment and officials of the post offices in these districts as well as the staff of the Royal Mail Service. The Association is recognised by the postal authorities and it is doing much useful work in placing grievances regarding conditions of service before the Postmaster General, Bombay. The General Secretary of the Association is Mr. S. C. Joshi, M.A., LL.B. The Association publishes a General Letter monthly which in addition to dealing with matters of general interest to the Association, contains reports from the various branches of the Association throughout the Presidency. The Kamgar Hitwardak Sabha has been actively engaged during the last two months in connexion with the general strike and lock-out in the textile industry in Bombay. Its General Secretary, Mr. S. K. Bole, M.L.C., recently gave evidence in the name of the Sabha on behalf of the mill operatives before the Bonus Dispute Committee of Enquiry. The Girni Kamgar Sangh does not appear to be at all active at the moment. In addition

to these quasi unions, two strike committees came into being shortly after the beginning of the present general strike in Bombay. These are:—

- (1) The Strike Settlement Committee.
- (2) The Girni Kamgar Mahamandal.

These Committees do not, however, come within the definition of a union.

CONCLUSION

The outstanding features of the present quarter are (1) an increase of 4 unions in the Presidency, (2) an increase of 9.26 per cent. in membership of trade unions as compared with the preceding quarter and (3) the complete absence of unions of cotton mill workers in Bombay in spite of the recent general strike in this industry.

North Western Railway Union, Karachi

In a meeting held on 22nd January 1924, the District Committee of the North Western Railway Union, Karachi, passed the following resolutions:—

- (1) Resolved that the General Secretary be furnished with a copy of Bombay Government Resolution No. 2837, dated the 8th December 1923, on the subject of compensatory allowance to officers at expensive places, with the request that the Agent be approached as early as possible to recommend to the Railway Board that the scale of allowance shown in the said resolution be sanctioned for railway staff drawing over Rs. 100 per mensem with such retrospective effect as sanctioned in the above referred to resolution, in as much as the high cost of living at Karachi affects railway employees to the same degree as other Government servants.

Further resolved that a copy of the Bombay Government Resolution along with advance copy of the above be sent to the Agent for information.

- (2) This Committee views with gratitude and satisfaction the reply given by His Excellency Sir Leslie Wilson, the new Governor of Bombay, to the address presented to him by the representatives of the Provincial Trade Union Conference, Bombay, on the 5th January 1924, especially those portions of the reply which promise sympathetic consideration of the demand for labour representation on the Bombay Municipal Corporation.

In view of the fact that Karachi is a large labour centre, containing a considerable labour element chiefly composed of Railway workmen, whose interests do not receive adequate attention and sympathetic consideration at the hands of Municipal Councillors representing other interests and classes, this Committee requests the Commissioner in Sind and the Government of Bombay to take early steps for the allotment of at least one seat on the Karachi Municipal Corporation to this Union, in conjunction with other organised labour associations of the city, which may by virtue of their numerical strength and organisation be considered deserving of such representation.

This Committee further requests the Commissioner in Sind and the Government of Bombay to be pleased to nominate one Union representative on the Corporation at the time of the next elections till such time as permanent arrangements as requested above are inaugurated.

Further resolved that copies of the above be sent to the Government of Bombay and the Commissioner in Sind.

The Committee also recommended to the Government of India the appointment of either Mr. Joseph Baptista or Mr. J. B. Miller (Chief Organiser of the Union, Lahore) as labour representative at the sixth session of the International Labour Conference to be held at Geneva in June. The Committee further resolved that the labour representative appointed by the Government be called upon to record at the Conference, before participating in its deliberations, his strong protest against the appointment being made by Government instead of by the suffrage of labour associations and against the proportion of 1 to 3 thus making the voice of labour ineffective.



Absenteeism in the Bombay Mills

WAGE CENSUS, AUGUST 1923

The following table compiled from cent. per cent. returns received from the cotton mills in Bombay City and Island in connexion with the wage census held in August 1923, shows for some of the principal occupations (1) the percentage of the number of days not worked during the month to the number of days in the months, i.e. 31 days, and (2) the percentage of the number of working days not worked to the number of working days in the month, i.e. 27 days in most of the mills and 26 in others. It will be seen that the percentages are higher in the former case. This is due to the fact that the holidays for which the mills were closed have also been treated as days not worked.

Occupation.	Percentage of days not worked (including holidays) to total number of days in August 1923.	Percentage of working days not worked to total number of working days in August 1923.
Machine Attendants T	30.0	7.5
Shedding Frame Tenders P	25.5	13.8
Inter Frame Tenders P	28.7	16.6
Rowing Frame Tenders P	29.0	10.3
Side Drafters T	21.0	9.3
Side Men or Parsers T	27.1	15.7
Turvalins or Followers T	27.7	16.7
Bobbins Carriers T	21.6	9.3
Cover Winders P	27.4	16.7
Warpers P	23.5	10.4
Line Jobbers P	17.7	4.8
Two Loom Weavers P	17.4	4.4

(P) represents Piece Workers.

(T) represents Time Workers.

The Bombay Millowners' Association

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Bombay Millowners' Association was held on Tuesday the 26th February 1924 when Mr. S. D. Saklatwala presided, and His Excellency the Governor, was present.

The Chairman in moving the adoption of the past year's report referred to the heavy stocks and diminishing margin of profits and to the soaring up of raw cotton prices owing to the smallness of the American crop. He attributed trade depression to the effects of the aftermath of war. He said:—"India can scarcely hope to escape the gloom which seems to have enveloped countries with far greater staying power than India. But

the main reasons for this continued depression are in my opinion the stringency and uncertainty prevailing in the money market and an inclination on the part of buyers to wait with a view to be able to make a better bargain in the future."

Apropos the non-payment of bonus he said:—"It was decided to reconsider the question in the middle of the year and it was only the continuance of depression in the cloth market from April to July that ultimately compelled millowners to put up the notice with regard to the non-payment of the bonus for the year 1923. I do not see how our critics can justifiably take exception to the course adopted. Naturally the notice gave cause for some dissatisfaction to the workers. But the state of the industry left us no choice." Having explained that it was in the interest of the workers themselves that the decision not to pay bonus was not arrived at in January 1923, he contended that bonus could not be interpreted to be deferred wages. He further remarked:—"We have done and I assure you, Sir, we shall continue to do all we can to help labour to maintain its position in spite of extreme difficulties. In spite of the fact that a few mills have been actually working at a loss we have made no reduction in wages yet, although the millowners in Ahmedabad succeeded in doing so."

The Chairman also referred to the excise duty on cotton, the reforms necessary in the East India Cotton Association and to the work of the Bombay Stock Exchange Committee.

His Excellency the Governor in addressing the meeting said:—

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen,—I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity of being present at the annual general meeting of the Millowners' Association, and I thank you most sincerely for the most cordial welcome and for the good wishes which you have so kindly expressed to me when moving the adoption of the annual report. I welcome the opportunity of being here, for perhaps you may remember that, in the course of the first speech I made on my arrival in Bombay, when thanking the Municipality for their cordial offer of co-operation, I assured them as I assure you now, that I am keenly convinced of the importance to any administration of maintaining the closest and most friendly relations with all the commercial interests of Bombay. Your Association represents the premier industry of this Presidency, the importance of which can best perhaps be realised by the fact that your paid up capital of the cotton mills in the city and island alone amounts to 20 crores, while the workers' wages bill for last year is estimated to have amounted to Rs. 7,61,00,000. Your industry naturally brings a great access of wealth to Bombay and its importance to India can be best gauged from the fact that the production of Indian mills is almost entirely consumed in India, for the whole of the exports abroad to the various countries only amounted to 10 per cent. of the total production in 1923. I have listened with the greatest interest, Sir, to your speech, and I must say that my feelings have been tinged with some regret at the rather pessimistic view which you have taken. I realise, however, that you are speaking from the point of view of the cotton mill industry alone, and undoubtedly that industry is feeling the effects of the depression which has followed on the enormous boom which was experienced during the years 1919-21.

WORLD'S COTTON CROP

As you have indicated in your speech, the prosperity of the industry must depend on the next American crop of raw cotton being a good one, and if this is so, an industry which is in such a strong position as yours, as regards its reserves cannot fail to prosper. Unfortunately the world's cotton crop in 1922-23 was only 69 per cent. of that in 1914, while the American crop was only just over 10 million bales as compared with the 16½ million bales in 1914-15. The consequence is that prices of raw cotton have soared to



a great height in Bombay and this is natural, as India could not hope to escape the effects of the economic solidarity which binds her to the outside world. Before I came out here I had the opportunity of visiting Manchester on more than one occasion and of discussing this question with those in Manchester who are suffering from the same economic disturbances as you are, and it is an undoubted fact that the general position of the raw cotton supply and consumption is one which must command more attention than ever. I have read a most interesting article in the "Statist" of the 26th of January this year, which I think is well worth mentioning to you. I will not quote it at length but it deals with the yield per unit of the cotton crop in the southern States of America; it deals with the cost of the production of cotton in the cotton belt of North America; it deals with the Egyptian crop, with the Indian crop and shows that the area under cotton in India is 60 per cent. of the United States, but that the Indian yield per unit is the lowest of any of the important cotton centres of the world.

I have every hope that in the future India with the help of the great irrigation schemes now under construction will not only increase her output very largely but will also add considerably to her yield per unit.

Generally, I must say that I do not share with what I have termed the rather pessimistic views of your Chairman. With the general trade improvement throughout the world the cotton industry must benefit. 1921 was a period following the bursting of the boom, 1922 was a period of minor adjustments, 1923 witnessed the first definite steps towards recovery and was a period of slow but continuous progression, and it is very satisfactory to realise from a speech made by the Chairman of the Westminster Bank last month that Great Britain has again taken her place as a lending nation and the London market is now best for a foreign borrower. There are many facts which I could, with sufficient time, quote to you and which I feel sure would prove that after several years of great depression, we are entitled to look forward with a definite feeling of confidence and of hope to the coming years.

BOMBAY LABOUR DISPUTE

It is needless for me to say that I have listened to your remarks on the relations of your Association with labour with the deepest possible interest. Your minds, as well as mine, have been filled during the past few weeks with the thought of the strike, and, through all this time, I have been more than anxious, as I cannot help feeling a greater responsibility towards the men and women out of work than one would feel if one were dealing with an industrial disagreement in the West. Here the workers are practically unorganised, and although I have made every possible enquiry, I am afraid that it is a fact that there is no man or body of men who is entitled to speak for the mill operatives as a whole.

As I have already told the representatives of your Association, I view with grave apprehension a similar progress in this industrial dispute to that which has occurred on previous occasions when nothing was done on either side until riots, bloodshed or danger to the health of the community made necessary the intervention of Government. Up to the present, I am glad to say, and I feel sure that you will agree with me, that the behaviour of the men out of work has been exemplary. But the time must come, if matters continued as they are, when hunger might cause some looting and possible riots, or the health of the city may be endangered. I accordingly stated in my speech when opening the Legislative Council that Government proposed to set up a Committee of Enquiry, as it seemed to me that this was the least and at the same time the most, under the circumstances, Government could or ought to do. There are certain facts in the dispute which you, Sir, have dealt with in your speech, and, as you have stated yourself, one of the questions to be resolved is with regard to the profit of the industry being large enough, or not large enough, to allow of the payment of bonus. This is a question which obviously no one can decide without knowing the facts and this is one of the questions which has been put before the Committee to report on. I am sure that you would not expect me to deal with any arguments on this question of bonus, and it would, of course, be most improper for me to do so.

APPEAL TO BOTH SIDES

I am fully aware, as you tell me, that your Committee has every desire, not only to take up a fair, but a very sympathetic attitude towards labour. While realising the difficulties with which you have to contend, I am certain that, on your side, you will make that allowance to all your work people who have not the advantages either as regards literacy, organisation or experience which are possessed by the work-people in the West. I can assure you that I should welcome as heartily as you a labour organisation properly led, and I know that you will give every assistance in your power, and in fact in some cases have done so to organise the mill operatives into a properly constituted union, so that you could discuss all important questions with their accredited representatives, knowing that any agreement made with them would be loyally carried out by those for whom they were speaking. I hope that I can rely

on the earnest and whole-hearted support of every member of this Association to bring this unfortunate strike to an early conclusion. I have seen your Committee, as you are aware, more than once. I have seen representatives of the men whenever they have asked to see me. I am as fully aware of all the facts in dispute as it is possible for me to be—and with a willingness on your part which naturally exists to end the dispute, and with the desire on the part of the great majority of the men which I know is there to re-start work, I would urge very strongly a further effort on both sides to bring the matter to a satisfactory conclusion, realizing as I do, and as you must do, the possible consequences of a prolongation of the strike.

In the speech which you have just delivered, Sir, you have mentioned many matters of great importance, and I have attempted to deal with some of the points which you have mentioned. If, however, I were to start on a discussion on Excise duty, a subject as engrossing in interest to Manchester as it is to you—a subject which has sent more deputations of members of Parliament to interview the Secretary of State than perhaps any other—I should not only detain you at inordinate length, but I should undoubtedly be unable to deal properly in a speech of this description with a subject of such keen controversy. Before I left England I was honoured by an invitation from the Manchester Chamber of Commerce to address the members. You will understand that the task was by no means an easy one, and I sincerely hope that any members of this Association going to England will visit that centre of the cotton industry and explain the Indian position, which I am quite sure is not properly appreciated there.

STOCK EXCHANGE ENQUIRY

I must say just one word on the subject of the Stock Exchange Enquiry to which you have referred. In the first place, I should like to express the sincere gratitude of Government to Sir Wilfrid Atlay and his colleagues who devoted so much time and care to a most thorough investigation of a very difficult problem. With regard to the report, this will be published immediately and it would have been published before had it not been for the fact that the minority report has only been received within the last few days. I do not think it would be advisable for me at this juncture to comment on the report until the public generally have had an opportunity of studying it.

With regard to the domestic affairs of your Association to which you, Sir, have alluded, I can naturally make no comment, except that perhaps you will allow me to endorse the remarks you have made in regard to your Assistant Secretary, Mr. Maloney, of whose ability and efficiency, I have had some personal experience, and the Association would perhaps allow me to say that they are fortunate indeed in securing his services.

May I Sir, in conclusion offer you my sincere congratulations on your appointment to the chair of this important Association. The responsibility of the post which you occupy is a heavy one, but I feel sure that you will maintain that *esprit de corps* between Indians and non-Indians which is indeed noteworthy to-day and could be followed with great advantage in other relationships. In the words which you have used in this connection you have struck the key-note, by which we can only hope to find a solution of the many complex problems which confront us. Indians and Europeans living and working together in India must have for their one object the prosperity of India and of the millions who inhabit this great country, and I, in all sincerity, hope that during your term of office your Association will grow in power—using that power, as you will, to the benefit of this important industry on which the welfare of Bombay depends to so great an extent. Gentlemen, I thank you very sincerely for asking me to be present to-day."

Official Labour Statisticians

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

The International Conference of Labour Statisticians which sat at Geneva from 29th October 1923 to 2nd November 1923 was attended by 52 representatives from 38 countries. The International Labour Office has published reports summarising the material presented to this Conference and also the resolutions passed by the Conference. A further reference to these will be made in the future issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

The agenda was limited to the following three items:—

- (a) classification of industries and occupations for purposes of labour statistics;
- (b) statistics of wages and hours of labour;
- (c) statistics of industrial accidents.



The Conference elected as President M. Jolin, the Secretary General of the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour, at whose suggestion it then passed resolutions...

The texts of the Resolutions submitted by the respective Committees are as follows:—

(I) Classification of Industries and Occupations (Chairman and Reporter of the Committee, Mr. John Hilton, Director of Statistics, of the British Ministry of Labour).

1. Occupied persons should be classified in the first instance according to the industry in which they are employed, and within each industry they may be further classified according to their individual occupations...

2. Industries should be classified under the following main divisions:—

- (a) Primary production: Agriculture, Factoring, Forestry, Hunting, Fishing, etc. Mining, Quarrying, etc., i.e., extraction of minerals. (b) Secondary production: Manufacturing industries, etc., i.e., the transformation or modification of materials...

3. In classifying manufacturing industries the establishment considered as a technical unit should be taken as basis.

4. In the absence of an agreed classification of industries and as a preparation for such a classification, and in order to facilitate international comparison, the grouping of industries used in the different countries should be as subdivided as possible...

5. It is desirable for purposes of international comparison that each country should publish definitions of the occupational, industrial and other terms most commonly used in that country in connection with labour statistics.

(II) Statistics of Wages and Hours of Labour (Chairman and Reporter of the Committee, M. Huber (France)).

Detailed statistics of rates of wages, of actual earnings and of normal and actual hours of labour should be collected and published in each country as frequently as possible, account being taken of the special circumstances and conditions obtaining in each case.

(1) As regular intervals, and at least once a year, should be published:

- (a) statutory minimum rates; (b) rates fixed in collective agreements; (c) rates accepted by organizations of employers and workpeople in typical categories of workers.

(2) In order to provide an indication of the general course of wage movements, information should be published at more frequent intervals as to the nature and amount of any changes resulting from alterations in the statutory minimum rates or arranged between organizations of employers and workpeople.

(3) At regular intervals, not less than once a year, average actual earnings and actual hours of labour during a typical period in a year should be given for each of the principal industries, based on data supplied by representative employees.

(4) From the data indicated above, index numbers should be computed to show the general course of changes in nominal wage rates and in actual earnings. Index numbers of the purchasing power of the wages should also be calculated by relating changes in actual earnings to changes in the cost of living...

The nominal wages employed in computing the index numbers should be given in crisp cash.

(5) At less frequent intervals general wage curves should be taken, information being obtained from the pay sheets of establishments to show

rates of wages and the actual earnings in a typical year. The information should be given by industries, districts, occupations and sex, and the distinction should be made between adults and young persons.

(III) Statistics of Industrial Accidents (Chairman and Reporter of the Committee, Mr. C. Bellhouse, C.B.E., H.M. Chief Inspector of Factories, Great Britain).

1. Classification of Industrial Accidents.

Industrial accidents should be classified according to the industry of the injured worker, the cause of accident, the extent and degree of disability, the location of the injury and the nature thereof.

(a) The classification of industrial accidents according to the industry of the injured worker should conform to the list indicated in paragraph 1 of the Resolution concerning the Classification of Industries, with such subdivisions as will allow special consideration to be given to industries with a relatively high accident rate.

(b) The classification of accidents according to the cause of accident should, as far as possible, be in accordance with the list given below, and such subdivisions as may be considered necessary.

- I. Machinery: (a) Prime movers, (b) transmission machinery, (c) lifting machinery, (d) working machinery, (e) transport machinery, (f) vehicles. II. Transport: (a) Railways, (b) steamships, (c) motor vehicles, (d) trams, (e) boats, (f) aircraft. III. Explosives, fire, IV. Poisonous, hot or corrosive substances, V. Electricity, VI. Falls of persons, VII. Stripping or striking against objects, VIII. Falling objects, IX. Falls of goods, X. Handling without machinery, XI. Hand tools, XII. Animals, XIII. Miscellaneous.

(c) In the classification of accidents according to the extent and degree of disability, a distinction should be made between fatal and non-fatal accidents, and between temporary and permanent disabilities.

Temporary disabilities should be classified according to duration, and uniformity should be obtained by using the following groups:

Permanent disabilities should be classified by degree, and uniformity should be obtained by using the following groups:

Permanent disabilities should be classified at the time they are acquired, as such:

- (a) The location of injury should be clearly distinguished from the nature of injury. The most suitable classification is that of the common anatomical divisions of the body, viz.: (i) head; (ii) trunk; (iii) upper extremities; (iv) lower extremities; (v) general.

Each of these groups should be subdivided if necessary.

- (b) The nature of injury should be classified as follows: (i) contusions and abrasions; (ii) burns and scalds; (iii) concussions; (iv) cuts and lacerations; (v) fractured members; (vi) amputations; (vii) dislocations; (viii) fractures; (ix) sprains and strains; (x) asphyxiation; (xi) drowning; (xii) other injuries.

Note.—In publishing the above statistics a note should be added in the following points:—(1) The scope of the legislation; (2) the system of insurance (compulsory or optional); (3) the nature of the accident included; (4) the methods of reporting the accidents and of compiling the statistics; (5) a summary of the benefits given to the injured or to their dependants.

In countries in which industrial diseases are recognized as accidents, they should, wherever possible, be distinguished separately in the tables.

Seven groups are distinguished commencing with "two weeks or less" and ending with "two years and up to three years."

The groups commencing with "under 20 per cent. disability" and ending with "100 per cent."

2. Accident Rates.

For industrial and international comparison, it is essential to calculate frequency rates and severity rates.

(a) The frequency rate should, if possible, be calculated by dividing the number of accidents (multiplied by 100,000) by the number of hours of working time.

(b) The severity rate should similarly be calculated by dividing the number of working hours lost (multiplied by 100,000) by the number of hours of working time.

Where practical difficulties prevent the calculation of the number of hours of working time, this number should be replaced by the number of full-time workers (i.e., the number of man-days divided by 24), or the average number of workers, as may be best suited to the economic and social needs of the country or industry concerned.

Recommendation.

It is hoped that countries in which compensation is invariably paid in the form of pensions will favour for compilation by the International Labour Office the necessary details for the determination of the mortality rate among persons injured in industrial accidents, so as to establish the degree in which this mortality is influenced by the age of the pensioner, by the



time elapsing since the conclusion of medical treatment, and by the extent of industrial capacity.

As no final decision was reached by the Conference further adopted unanimously the following Resolution, proposed by Mr. John Hilton, Director of Labour Statistics, Great Britain:—

In order that the International Labour Office may make tentative comparisons of the level of real wages in the different countries, the competent statistical authorities of each country should, as from 1st January, 1924, furnish the International Labour Office at regular intervals (if possible, monthly) with statements, in a form to be agreed upon, showing for the capital cities of their respective countries:—

- (a) the time-rates of wages and normal weekly hours of labour current in a limited number of typical occupations, and (b) information as to the prices of a limited number of these items upon which the purchase of working-class families in most industrially-developed countries is largely spent.

International Labour Office

INDIA'S EMPLOYERS' DELEGATE ON HIS WORK

At the annual general meeting of the Bombay Mill-owners' Association held on Tuesday the 26th February 1924 Mr. J. A. Kay, the employers' delegate for India at the Fifth International Labour Conference held at Geneva, spoke on the following lines about the work of the International Labour Office and the need for watching closely its activities:—

Really the procedure is, that typical principles of industrial labour questions are decided upon by a Commission Body and then submitted to a General Conference composed of representatives of the various Governments, employers and labour of such countries. Draft Conventions or Recommendations are then decided upon and sent back to the various States for ratification or acceptance.

It may be asked what work has the International Office done up to now. Since the office was inaugurated—according to the last Director's Report—120 resolutions have either been communicated or adopted which, considering the political and social changes in many countries commencing upon the war, is considered satisfactory progress. The office claims advantage upon things to have been instrumental in bringing about improvements in labour legislation in this country, but I think considerable credit must go to our own Government for this, and also a little to the wisdom of employers—a combination of forces which has enabled this country to get into better shape during the last three years than almost any other country.

What I want to impress upon you to-day, gentlemen, is the importance of watching for the application of conventions. The Labour Office cannot go much further than getting conventions ratified. It is then for the individual States to see that they are applied. Obviously if enlightened countries give immediate effect to Draft Conventions which others who have agreed but do not really have the spirit in that convention reacts adversely on those countries who have introduced forward labour legislation.

As an example let me give the case of the 48-hour week. At the Washington Conference of 1919 the principle of a 48-hour week for Western Countries and 40-hour week for Eastern Countries was accepted. Since that time 12 countries only—including India—have applied this convention, whilst 14 countries are still either drafting or preparing legislation. I could give other examples but I think, this will illustrate the importance of our watching and following up through our own Government or any other channel the work of the International Labour Office.

Bombay Chamber of Commerce

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual general meeting of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce was held on Wednesday the 5th March 1924 with Sir Frank Nelson in the Chair. His Excellency the Governor was present on this occasion and the following extracts from his speech are of interest:—

TRADE OUTLOOK

I am particularly glad to hear, in the opening remarks of the Chairman's speech, a noticeable mark of optimism. It is quite true that the great difficulties for industry created by the results of the late war have not yet passed away; but I, like your Chairman, am convinced that there has been during the past year steady and progressive reconstruction, which last year, I think, has nearly passed.

There are undoubtedly still low trade, and the losses of 1919-20, in itself and in its effects, was very similar to the state of affairs which arose following the great Napoleonic Wars. But then, in 1815, the after effects of the losses had a most serious result on trade and industry, and, as a result, considerable unemployment, suffering and industrial stagnation. What is required for industry in any country, or here in the world, is stability, and continuousness, more through these progresses.

Without troubling you with a mass of figures, I cannot help feeling that the general trade position of India has made a very distinct recovery during the past year from the depression which followed the hectic years of 1919-20, and it is a remarkable fact that, whereas in December 1923 our net exports exceeded our imports by 25 per cent., in January 1924 the position was entirely reversed and the surplus of exports over imports was no less than 30 per cent., and ever since November 1922, figures show a normal surplus, and the figures showing a surplus of exports over imports are undoubtedly most significant.

I have said that what is wanted most is stability, and this stability is not only urgently required in trade, but a similar stability for the benefit of trade is required in all branches of the administration. India cannot hope for that prosperity which undoubtedly can be hers unless there is complete confidence in the business world. India, like other producing and industrial countries in the world, cannot derive benefit from the economic life of the world, and the eyes of those who must take their share in the industrial and economic prosperity of India are not unconsciously fixed at the present time on the political situation in this country. With regard to trade and industry, the need for confidence applies not only to this country, which stands so emboldened by the fact that people in England are still awaiting money in the form of interest on industrial and other securities, and whereas in 1923 the index for investment in industrial securities stood as high as 204, in January of this year it stood at only 152. When there is a greater degree of confidence in the business world, and there is that recovery of trade in the United Kingdom of which there are already hopeful signs, India is bound to feel the effect, for, as the United Kingdom explains her stocks which she must do before she can get back to normal, she must buy raw material from India to the benefit of Indian trade and the improvement of Indian exchange.

Accidents and Prosecutions

STATISTICS FOR FEBRUARY 1924

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 39 and 40 of this issue, contain details of accidents reported during the month of February in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During February, in Bombay City and Island, there were in all 123 factory accidents of which one was fatal, two serious and the remainder, 120, minor accidents. Of the total number of accidents 16 or 13 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and 107 or 87 per cent. to other causes.

The comparatively small number of accidents in the month under review was due largely to the closure of all the cotton mills in Bombay consequent on the general strike. Out of 123 accidents, 119 or 97 per cent. occurred in workshops.

In Ahmedabad, there were in all 8 accidents six of which occurred in cotton mills and two in miscellaneous concerns. Of these 8, one was fatal, 3 serious and the remaining 4 were minor accidents. Six of these accidents



were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 2 to other causes.

In Karachi, there were in all three accidents two of which occurred in railway workshops, and one in a Kerosene Tinning Works, and all these were minor accidents. Of the three accidents two were due to machinery in motion and one to other causes.

In other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 23 of which 3 were in textile mills, 19 in workshops and one in a Ginning and Pressing Factory. Three accidents were due to machinery in motion and 20 to other causes. Of these 23 accidents, one was fatal, and the rest minor.

PROSECUTIONS

During February, there were two prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act; (1) The Spinning Master of a Cotton Mill in Bombay was prosecuted under Section 41 (f) of the Act for breach of Rule 33 (ii). He was convicted and fined Rs. 200; (2) The Manager of a Cotton Mill in Ahmedabad was convicted and fined Rs. 300 for the same offence.

General Principles for the Organisation of Factory Inspection

In the January issue of the Labour Gazette (pages 30-32) a reference was made to the Recommendation concerning the general principles for the organisation of factory inspection adopted by the Fifth Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva. The following is the full text of the Recommendation as finally adopted by the Conference, viz., Sphere of Inspection and Nature of the Functions and Powers of Inspectors:—

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation of the League of Nations,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Fifth Session on 22nd October 1923, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals with regard to the general principles for the organisation of factory inspection, the question forming the agenda of the Session, and

Having determined that these proposals should take the form of a recommendation,

adopts this twenty-ninth day of October of the year one thousand nine hundred and twenty-three, the following Recommendation, to be submitted to the Members of the International Labour Organisation for consideration with a view to effect being given to it by national legislation or otherwise, in accordance with the provisions of Part XIII of the Treaty of Versailles and of the corresponding Parts of the other Treaties of Peace:

Whereas the Treaty of Versailles and the other Treaties of Peace include among the methods and principles of special and urgent importance for the physical, moral and intellectual welfare of the workers the principle that each State should make provision for a system of inspection in which women should take part, in order to ensure the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of the workers;

Whereas the resolutions adopted at the First Session of the International Labour Conference concerning certain countries where special conditions prevail involve the creation by these countries of an inspection system if they do not already possess such a system;

Whereas the necessity of organising a system of inspection becomes specially urgent when Conventions adopted at Sessions of the Conference are being ratified by Members of the Organisation and put into force;

Whereas while the institution of an inspection system is undoubtedly recommended as one of the most effective means of ensuring the execution of Conventions and other engagements for the regulation of labour conditions each Member is solely responsible for the execution of Conventions in its territory it is a party in the territory under its sovereignty or its authority accordingly itself determine in accordance with local conditions measures of supervision may enable it to assume such a responsibility

Whereas, in order to put the experience already gained at the International Labour Conference to the Members with a view to assisting them in the organisation of their inspection system, it is desirable to indicate the general principles which practice shows to be the best calculated to ensure uniform, thorough and effective enforcement of Conventions and generally of all measures for the protection of the workers; and

Having decided to leave to each country the determination of the general principles should be applied to certain spheres of activity;

And taking as a guide the long experience already acquired in factory inspection;

The General Conference recommends that each Member of the International Labour Organisation should take the following principles and measures into consideration:

I. SPHERE OF INSPECTION

1. That it should be the principal function of the system of inspection which should be instituted by each Member in accordance with the principle of Article 427 of the Treaty of Versailles to secure the enforcement of the laws and regulations relating to the conditions of work and the protection of the workers while engaged in their work (hours of work and rest, night work; prohibition of the employment of certain persons on dangerous, unhealthy or physically unsuitable work; health and safety, etc.).

2. That, in so far as it may be considered possible and desirable, either for reasons of convenience in the matter of supervision or by reason of the experience which they gain in carrying out their principal duties, to assign to inspectors additional duties which may vary according to the local conditions, traditions and customs prevailing in the different countries, such duties to be assigned, provided:

(a) that they do not in any way interfere with the inspectors' principal duties;

(b) that in themselves they are closely related to the primary object of ensuring the protection of the health and safety of the workers;

(c) that they shall not prejudice in any way the authority and impartiality which are necessary to inspectors in their relations with employers and workers.

II. NATURE OF THE FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF INSPECTORS

A. General

3. That inspectors provided with credentials should be empowered by law:

(a) to visit and inspect, at any hour of the day or night, places where they may have reasonable cause to believe that persons under the protection of the law are employed, and to enter by day any place which they may have reasonable cause to believe to be an establishment, or part thereof, subject to their supervision; provided that, before leaving, inspectors should, if possible, notify the employer or some representative of the employer of their visit;

(b) to question, without witnesses, the staff belonging to the establishment, and, for the purpose of carrying out their duties, to apply for information to any other persons whose evidence they may consider necessary, and to require to be shown any registers or documents which the laws regulating conditions of work require to be kept.

4. That inspectors should be bound by oath, or by any method which conforms with the administrative practice or customs in each country, not to disclose, on pain of legal penalties or suitable disciplinary measures, manufacturing secrets and working processes in general, which may come to their knowledge in the course of their duties.

5. That, regard being had to the administrative and judicial systems of each country, and subject to such reference to superior authority as may be considered necessary, inspectors should be empowered to bring breaches of the laws, which they ascertain, directly before the competent judicial authorities;

That in countries where it is not incompatible with their system and principles of law, the reports drawn up by the inspectors shall be considered to establish the facts stated therein in default of proof to the contrary.

6. That the inspectors should be empowered, in cases where immediate action is necessary to bring installation or plant into conformity with laws and regulations, to make an order (or, if that procedure should not be in accordance with the administrative or judicial systems of the country, to apply to the competent authorities for an order) requiring such alterations to the installation or plant to be carried out within a fixed time as may be



necessary for securing full and exact observance of the laws and regulations relating to the health and safety of the workers;

That in countries where the inspector's order has executive force of itself, its execution should be suspended only by appeal to a higher administrative or judicial authority, but in no circumstances should provisions intended to protect employers against arbitrary action prejudice the taking of measures with a view to the prevention of imminent danger which has been duly shown to exist.

B. Safety

7. Having regard to the fact that, while it is essential that the inspectorate should be invested with all the legal powers necessary for the performance of its duties, it is equally important, in order that inspection may progressively become more effective, that, in accordance with the tendency manifested in the oldest and most experienced countries, inspection should be increasingly directed towards securing the adoption of the most suitable safety methods for preventing accidents and diseases with a view to rendering work less dangerous, more healthy, and even less exhausting, by the intelligent understanding, education, and co-operation of all concerned, it would appear that the following methods are calculated to promote this development in all countries:

(a) that all accidents should be notified to the competent authorities, and that one of the essential duties of the inspectors should be to investigate accidents, and more especially those of a serious or recurring character, with a view to ascertaining by what measures they can be prevented;

(b) that inspectors should inform and advise employers respecting the best standards of health and safety;

(c) that inspectors should encourage the collaboration of employers, managing staff and workers for the promotion of personal caution, safety methods, and the perfecting of safety equipment;

(d) that inspectors should endeavour to promote the improvement and perfecting of measures of health and safety, by the systematic study of technical methods for the internal equipment of undertakings, by special investigations into problems of health and safety, and by any other means;

(e) that in countries where it is considered preferable to have a special organisation for accident insurance and prevention completely independent of the inspectorate, the special officers of such organisations should be guided by the foregoing principles.

III.—ORGANISATION OF INSPECTION

A. Organisation of the Staff

8. That, in order that the inspectors may be as closely as possible in touch with the establishments which they inspect and with the employers and workers, and in order that as much as possible of the inspectors' time may be devoted to the actual visiting of establishments, they should be localised when the circumstances of the country permit, in the industrial districts.

9. That, in countries which for the purposes of inspection are divided into districts, in order to secure uniformity in the application of the law as between district and district and to promote a high standard of efficiency of inspection, the inspectors in the districts should be placed under the general supervision of an inspector of high qualifications and experience. Where the importance of the industries of the country is such as to require the appointment of more than one supervising inspector, the supervising inspectors should meet from time to time to confer on questions arising in the divisions under their control in connection with the application of the law and the improvement of industrial conditions.

10. That the inspectorate should be placed under the direct and exclusive control of a central State authority and should not be under the control of or in any way responsible to any local authority in connection with the execution of any of their duties.

11. That, in view of the difficult scientific and technical questions which arise under the conditions of modern industry in connection with processes involving the use of dangerous materials, the removal of injurious dust and gases, the use of electrical plant and other matters, it is essential that experts having competent medical, engineering, electrical or other scientific training and experience should be employed by the State for dealing with such problems.

12. That, in conformity with the principle contained in Article 427 of the Treaty of Peace, the inspectorate should include women as well as men inspectors; that, while it is evident that with regard to certain matters and certain classes of work inspection can be more suitably carried out by men, as in the case of other matters and other classes of work inspection can be more suitably carried out by women, the women inspectors should in general have the same powers and duties and exercise the same authority as the men inspectors, subject to their having had the necessary training and experience, and should have equal opportunity of promotion to the higher ranks.

B. Qualification and Training of Inspectors.

13. That, in view of the complexity of modern industrial processes and machinery, of the character of the executive and administrative functions entrusted to the inspectors in connection with the application of the law and of the importance of their relations to employers and workers and employers' and workers' organisations and to the judicial and local authorities, it is essential that the inspectors should in general possess a high standard of technical training and experience, should be persons of good general education, and by their character and abilities be capable of acquiring the confidence of all parties.

14. That the inspectorate should be on a permanent basis and should be independent of changes of Government; that the inspectors should be given such a status and standard of remuneration as to secure their freedom from any improper external influences and that they should be prohibited from having any interest in any establishment which is placed under their inspection.

15. That inspectors on appointment should undergo a period of probation for the purpose of testing their qualifications and training them in their duties, and that their appointment should only be confirmed at the end of that period if they have shown themselves fully qualified for the duties of an inspector.

16. That, where countries are divided for the purposes of inspection into districts, and especially where the industries of the country are of a varied character, it is desirable that inspectors, more particularly during the early years of their service, should be transferred from district to district at appropriate intervals in order to obtain a full experience of the work of inspection.

C. Standard and Methods of Inspection.

17. That, as under a system of State inspection the visits of the inspectors to any individual establishment must necessarily be more or less infrequent, it is essential:

(a) That the principle should be laid down and maintained that the employer and the officials of the establishment are responsible for the observance of the law, and are liable to be proceeded against in the event of deliberate violation of or serious negligence in observing the law, without previous warning from the inspector.

It is understood that the foregoing principle does not apply in special cases where the law provides that notice shall be given in the first instance to the employer to carry out certain measures.

(b) That, as a general rule, the visits of the inspectors should be made without any previous notice to the employer.

It is desirable that adequate measures should be taken by the State to ensure that employers, officials and workers are acquainted with the provisions of the law and the measures to be taken for the protection of the health and safety of the workers, as, for example, by requiring the employer to post in his establishment an abstract of the requirements of the law.

18. That, while it is recognised that very wide differences exist between the size and importance of one establishment and another and that there may be special difficulties in countries or areas of a rural character where factories are widely scattered, it is desirable that, as far as possible, every establishment should be visited by an inspector for the purposes of general inspection not less frequently than once a year, in addition to any special visits that may be made for the purpose of investigating a particular complaint or for other purposes; and that large establishments of which the management is unsatisfactory from the point of view of the protection of the health and safety of the workers, and establishments in which dangerous or unhealthy processes are carried on, should be visited much more frequently. It is desirable that, when any serious irregularity has been discovered in an establishment, it should be revisited by the inspector at an early date with a view to ascertaining whether the irregularity has been remedied.

D. Co-operation of Employers and Workers.

19. That it is essential that the workers and their representatives should be afforded every facility for communicating freely with the inspectors as to any defect or breach of the law in the establishment in which they are employed; that every such complaint should as far as possible be investigated promptly by the inspector; that the complaint should be treated as absolutely confidential by the inspector and that no intimation even should be given to the employer or his officials that the visit made for the purpose of investigation is being made in consequence of the receipt of a complaint.

20. That, with a view to securing full co-operation of the employers and workers and their respective organisations in promoting a high standard in regard to the conditions affecting the health and safety of the workers, it is desirable that the inspectorate should confer from time to time with the representatives of the employers' and workers' organisations as to the best measures to be taken for this purpose.



IV.—INSPECTORS' REPORTS

21. That inspectors should regularly submit to their central authority reports framed on uniform lines dealing with their work and its results, and that the said authority should publish an annual report as soon as possible and in any case within one year after the end of the year to which it relates, containing a general survey of the information furnished by the inspectors; that the calendar year should be uniformly adopted for these reports.

22. That the annual general report should contain a list of the laws and regulations relating to conditions of work made during the year which it covers.

23. That this annual report should also give the statistical tables necessary in order to provide all information on the organisation and work of the inspectorate and on the results obtained. The information supplied should as far as possible state:

- (a) The strength and organisation of the staff of the inspectorate;
(b) The number of establishments covered by the laws and regulations classified by industries and indicating the number of workers employed (men, women, young persons, children);
(c) The number of visits of inspection made for each class of establishment with an indication of the number of workers employed in the establishments inspected (the number of workers being taken to be the number employed at the time of the first visit of the year), and the number of establishments inspected more than once during the year;
(d) The number and nature of breaches of the laws and regulations brought before the competent authorities and the number and nature of the convictions by the competent authority;
(e) The number, nature and the cause of accidents and occupational diseases notified, tabulated according to class of establishment.

Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923

An Act amending, among other Acts, the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, was passed by the Legislative Assembly on the 1st March 1924.

The changes effected in the Workmen's Compensation Act (Act VIII of 1923) are as follows:—

Amendments (See section 2)

Table with 5 columns: Year, Number, Short title, Amendments, Explanation. It details amendments to the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, including corrections to printing and clerical errors, and substitutions of words in various sections.

Repeals (See section 3)

Table with 5 columns: Year, Number, Short title, Repeals, Explanation. It lists the repeal of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, and provides an explanation of the changes.

Questions in the Legislature LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Mr. Chaman Lal asked: (a) Will Government be pleased to state in the shape of a comparative table the average monthly wages obtained for different classes of workers in principal categories in the—

- (i) Cotton industry in India,
(ii) Jute industry in India,
and for both these industries in Great Britain?
(b) Will Government state the number of maximum hours worked by operatives in:—
(i) Cotton mills,
(ii) Jute mills,

in India and the corresponding classes of workers in Great Britain?

The Honourable Mr. A. C. Chatterjee replied: (a) The Honourable Member is referred to the Report published last year by the Bombay Labour Office entitled "Wages and Hours of Labour—Cotton Mill Industry". The statement of average earnings for the different classes of workers comprises 69 pages of figures in this Report. The report relates only to one Presidency and only to one of the two industries for which he desires information. I must leave the estimate of the labour involved in collecting similar figures in each province of India and in Great Britain to the imagination of the Honourable Member.

(b) No distinction is made between cotton mills and jute mills in either country. In India the maximum weekly hours permitted are sixty for adults of both sexes and thirty-six for children under 15. In Great Britain there is no legal maximum for men; women and young persons under 18 may not be employed for more than 55 hours weekly, and children under 14 may not be employed at all.



Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Large table showing cost of living index numbers for various countries (India, United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, etc.) from 1914 to 1924. It includes sub-indices for food, clothing, fuel, and other categories.

(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 1915 is the base. * In millions (one's omitted).

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Table showing retail food index for various countries (India, United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, etc.) from 1914 to 1924. It includes sub-indices for different food items.

(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. * In millions (one's omitted).

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	February 1923.	January 1924.	February 1924.
			Rs. a p.	Rs. a p.	Rs. a p.	Rs. a p.
Cereals—	Rangoon Small-mill	Md.	4 11 3	5 11 5	6 4 11	6 1 2
Rice	Delhi No. 1	Cwt.	5 9 6	7 5 6	7 1 0	6 12 9
Wheat	Khandwa Seoni	Candy	45 0 0	70 0 0	64 0 0	65 0 0
Do.	Jubbulpore	Md.	40 0 0	47 8 0	48 8 0	46 0 0
Do.	Rangoon		3 2 6	3 14 8	4 3 9	4 2 0
Jowari			3 4 6	3 4 6	3 6 2	4 2 0
Barley			3 4 6	4 0 4	4 2 4	3 7 10
Bajri	Ghati					4 2 0
Pulses—	Punjab yellow (2nd sort).		4 3 9	4 0 4	3 12 11	3 9 7
Gram	Cawnpore		5 10 5	5 4 8	5 4 8	5 1 3
Turdal						
Sugar—	Mauritius No. 1	Cwt.	9 3 0	23 2 0	28 12 0	28 6 0
Sugar	Java white		10 3 0	23 8 0	27 12 0	28 3 0
Do.	Sangli	Md.	7 14 3	11 9 0	11 9 0	9 8 3
Raw (Gul)						
Other food—	Rajapuri		5 9 3	25 2 9	33 5 4	34 6 0
Turmeric	Deshi		45 11 5	85 11 5	94 4 7	94 4 7
Ghee	Bombay (black)		1 7 6	2 7 0	3 3 0	3 4 0
Salt						

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Cereals—	Rangoon Small-mill	100	121	134	129
Rice	Delhi No. 1	100	131	126	122
Wheat	Khandwa Seoni	100	156	142	144
Do.	Jubbulpore	100	119	121	144
Do.	Rangoon	100	124	134	120
Jowari		100	100	103	131
Barley		100	100	106	106
Bajri	Ghati	100	123	126	126
Average—Cereals		100	125	127	125
Pulses—	Punjab yellow (2nd sort)	100	95	90	85
Gram	Cawnpore	100	94	94	90
Turdal					
Average—Pulses		100	95	92	88
Average—Food grains		100	118	119	117
Sugar—	Mauritius No. 1	100	252	313	309
Sugar	Java white	100	231	272	277
Do.	Sangli	100	147	147	121
Raw (Gul)					
Average—Sugar		100	210	244	236
Other food—	Rajapuri	100	451	598	617
Turmeric	Deshi	100	188	206	206
Ghee	Bombay (black)	100	166	217	221
Salt					
Average—Other food		100	268	340	348
Average—All food		100	167	188	187

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	February 1923.	January 1924.	February 1924.
			Rs. a p.	Rs. a p.	Rs. a p.	Rs. a p.
Oilseeds—	Bold	Cwt.	8 14 6	12 9 0	13 13 0	13 4 0
Linseed	Cawnpore (brown)		8 0 0	10 2 0	10 12 0	10 13 0
Rapeseed	Do.		10 14 0	13 4 0	13 6 0	13 6 0
Poppyseed	White		11 4 0	15 10 0	13 12 0	15 8 0
Gingelly						
Textiles—Cotton—	Good	Candy	251 0 0	470 0 0	505 0 0	500 0 0
(a) Cotton—raw	Fully good		222 0 0	470 0 0	540 0 0	540 0 0
Broach	Saw-ginned		230 0 0	575 0 0	535 0 0	535 0 0
Oomra	Machine-ginned		205 0 0	545 0 0	505 0 0	505 0 0
Dharwar	Do.		198 0 0			
Khandesh						
Bengal						
(b) Cotton manufactures—	40S	Lb.	0 12 9	1 8 6	1 13 0	1 12 0
Twist	Fari 2,000	Fine	5 15 0	12 12 0	13 12 0	13 12 0
Grey shirtings	6,600		4 3 0	10 0 0	9 4 0	8 12 0
White mulls	Liepmann's 1,500		10 6 0	25 8 0	28 4 0	28 8 0
Shirtings	Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	Lb.	0 9 8	1 6 6	1 7 3	1 7 6
Long cloth	54" x 6 yds.		0 9 8	1 4 9	1 4 9	1 4 9
Chudders						

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—	Bold	100	141	155	149
Linseed	Cawnpore (brown)	100	127	134	135
Rapeseed	Do.	100	122	123	123
Poppyseed	White	100	139	140	138
Gingelly					
Average—Oilseeds		100	132	138	136
Textiles—Cotton—	Good	100	215	264	231
(a) Cotton—raw	Fully good	100	215	264	243
Broach	Saw-ginned	100	205	275	261
Oomra	Machine-ginned	100	205	275	255
Dharwar	Do.				
Khandesh					
Bengal					
Average—Cotton—raw		100	210	273	248
(b) Cotton manufactures—	40S	100	192	227	220
Twist	Fari 2,000	100	215	232	232
Grey shirtings	6,600	100	239	221	209
White mulls	Liepmann's 1,500	100	246	272	275
Shirtings	Local made 36" x 37½ yds.	100	237	245	247
Long cloth	54" x 6 yds.	100	218	218	218
Chudders					
Average—Cotton manufactures		100	225	236	234
Average—Textiles—Cotton		100	221	248	239



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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	February 1923.	January 1924.	February 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles—						
Silk	Manchow	Lb.	5 2 6	9 10 0	6 15 10	6 0 10
Do.	Mathow Lari	"	2 15 1	5 12 0	6 11 6	6 11 6
Hides and Skins—						
Hides, Cow	Tanned	"	1 2 6	1 15 9	1 13 8	1 15 6
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	1 1 3	0 12 3	1 0 1	1 3 6
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	1 4 0	1 14 8	2 11 9	2 5 11
Metals—						
Copper braziers		Cwt.	60 8 0	77 0 0	73 8 0	74 8 0
Iron bars		"	4 0 0	8 12 0	7 0 0	7 0 0
Steel hoops		"	7 12 0	15 8 0	11 12 0	11 12 0
Galvanized sheets		"	9 0 0	19 0 0	15 10 0	17 0 0
Tin plates		Box	8 12 0	19 0 0	18 4 0	20 0 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	Bengal	Ton	14 12 0	27 2 0	23 10 0	24 10 0
Do.	Imported	"	19 11 6	28 4 8	26 7 7	25 11 8
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	2 Tins	4 6 0	7 8 0	6 15 6	6 15 6
Do.	Chester Brand	Case	5 2 0	10 0 6	9 8 0	9 8 0

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

Other textiles—			100	187	136	117
Silk	Manchow	"	100	195	228	228
Do.	Mathow Lari	"	100	191	182	173
Average—Other textiles			100	191	182	173
Hides and Skins—			100	172	160	170
Hides, Cow	Tanned	"	100	71	93	113
Do. Buffalo	Do.	"	100	153	219	190
Skins, Goat	Do.	"	100	132	157	158
Average—Hides and Skins			100	132	157	158
Metals—			100	127	121	123
Copper braziers		"	100	219	175	175
Iron bars		"	100	200	152	152
Steel hoops		"	100	211	174	189
Galvanized sheets		"	100	217	209	229
Tin plates		"	100	195	166	174
Average—Metals			100	195	166	174
Other raw and manufactured articles—			100	184	160	167
Coal	Bengal	"	100	144	134	130
Do.	Imported	"	100	171	159	159
Kerosene	Elephant Brand	"	100	196	185	185
Do.	Chester Brand	"	100	174	160	160
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles			100	174	160	160
Total—Food			100	167	188	187
Total—Non-food			100	182	189	188
General Average			100	177	188	188



Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	February 1923.	January 1924.	February 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—						
Rice	Larkana No. 3	Candy	39 0 0	55 0 0	48 8 0	49 0 0
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt	"	31 8 0	38 4 0	35 8 0	36 12 0
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt	"	31 4 0	37 12 0	34 12 0	36 0 0
" white	92% red, 2% barley, 1% dirt	"	32 0 0	39 6 0	36 8 0	37 14 0
" red	2% barley, 1% dirt	"	32 4 0	38 14 0	35 12 0	37 0 0
Jowari	Export Quality	"	25 8 0	24 0 0	28 0 0	29 0 0
Barley	3% dirt	"	26 8 0	25 8 0	27 4 0	28 12 0
Pulses—						
Gram	1% dirt	"	29 8 0	30 0 0	27 8 0	26 4 0
Sugar—						
Sugar	Java, white	Cwt.	9 2 0	23 12 0	26 0 0	27 6 0
Do.	" brown	"	8 1 6	.....	.....	.....
Other food—						
Salt	Bengal Maund	"	2 2 0	1 11 0	2 14 6	2 14 0

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

Cereals—		100	141	124	126
Rice	Larkana No. 3	100	121	113	117
Wheat, white	5% barley, 3% dirt	100	121	111	115
" red	5% barley, 3% dirt	100	121	112	117
" white	92% red, 2% barley, 1% dirt	100	121	111	115
" red	2% barley, 1% dirt	100	94	106	114
Jowari	Export Quality	100	96	103	108
Barley	3% dirt	100	96	103	108
Average—Cereals		100	116	111	116
Pulses—		100	102	93	89
Gram	1% dirt	100	102	93	89
Sugar—		100	263	285	300
Sugar	Java, white	100	.....	.....	.....
"	" brown	100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Sugar		100	263	285	300
Other food—Salt		100	79	137	135



Wholesale Market Prices in Karachi (Non-foods)

MARCH, 1924

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	February 1924.	January 1924.	February 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3 % admixture	Maud ..	2 11 3	3 13 6	4 5 0	4 7 0
Rapeseed	Black, 9 % admixture	Candy ..	51 0 0	62 0 0	69 4 0	66 8 0
Gingelly			62 0 0	83 0 0	.....	.....
Textiles—						
Jute bags—	B. Twills	100 bags ..	38 4 0	51 4 0	53 8 0	53 8 0
Textile—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	Maud ..	20 4 0	45 0 0	.....	.....
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	Piece ..	10 3 6	22 13 0	28 8 0	28 12 0
Shirtings	Liepmann's	" ..	10 2 0	24 8 0	27 0 0	26 8 0
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)	Lb. ..	0 12 2	.....	.....	.....
Other Textiles—						
Wool	Kandahar	Maud ..	28 0 0	38 0 0	39 0 0	40 0 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oilseeds—						
Cotton seed	3 % admixture	100	142	160	164	
Rapeseed	Black, 9 % admixture	100	122	136	130	
Gingelly		100	134	.....	.....
Average—Oilseeds		100	133	148	147	
Textiles—						
Jute bags	Twills	100	134	140	140	
Textiles—Cotton—						
(a) Cotton, raw	Sind	100	222	.....	.....
(b) Cotton manufactures—						
Drills	Pepperill	100	223	279	281	
Shirtings	Liepmann's	100	242	267	262	
Yarns	40s. Grey (Plough)	100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Cotton manufactures		100	233	273	272	
Average—Textiles—Cotton		100	229	273	272	
Other Textiles—Wool		100	136	139	143	



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

MARCH, 1924

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	February 1924.	January 1924.	February 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Hides—						
Hides dry	Sind	Maud ..	21 4 0	14 4 0	16 8 0	17 0 0
"	Punjab	" ..	21 4 0	14 4 0	16 8 0	17 0 0
Metals—						
Copper Braziers		Cwt. ..	60 8 0	76 8 0	73 0 0	70 0 0
Steel Bars		" ..	3 14 0	7 12 0	6 0 0	6 4 0
" Plates		" ..	4 6 0	8 0 0	7 8 0	7 12 0
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal	Ton ..	16 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0
Kerosene	Chester Brand	Case ..	5 2 0	9 14 6	9 6 0	9 6 0
"	Elephant	2 Tins ..	4 7 0	7 6 0	6 13 6	6 13 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Hides—						
Hides dry	Sind	100	67	78	80	
"	Punjab	100	67	78	80	
Average—Hides		100	67	78	80	
Metals—						
Copper Braziers		100	126	121	116	
Steel Bars		100	200	155	161	
" Plates		100	183	171	177	
Average—Metals		100	170	149	151	
Other raw and manufactured articles—						
Coal	1st Class Bengal	100	219	219	219	
Kerosene	Chester Brand	100	193	183	183	
"	Elephant	100	166	154	154	
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles		100	193	185	185	
Total—Food		100	126	130	134	
Total—Non-food		100	161	163	164	
General Average		100	148	149	151	



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

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Total non-food.	General average.
1921														
February ..	159	146	324	149	188	133	110	265	190	172	234	200	194	195
1922														
February ..	179	168	203	211	189	136	156	244	187	148	192	205	189	190
March ..	177	166	224	241	198	140	174	251	188	168	192	195	193	191
April ..	179	160	228	212	193	144	179	251	191	137	187	190	189	190
May ..	180	160	218	220	193	149	190	250	191	139	186	189	191	190
June ..	169	129	289	231	187	152	202	256	192	136	191	194	195	190
July ..	170	134	220	228	188	151	196	255	192	142	177	189	192	190
August ..	166	132	227	238	188	138	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	178	138	165	226	192	112	183	180	176	177
November ..	137	111	213	260	176	133	173	224	192	146	185	182	180	178
December ..	129	105	216	266	170	135	185	220	192	122	186	181	178	176
1923														
January ..	125	102	202	305	173	130	200	227	191	165	194	178	186	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	185	176	184	180
May ..	124	88	246	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	178
October ..	122	85	214	368	185	133	211	217	192	153	178	169	179	181
November ..	125	90	228	365	189	138	203	235	187	161	174	158	185	181
December ..	125	91	243	375	194	141	286	229	187	146	167	162	185	180
1924														
January ..	127	92	244	340	188	138	273	236	182	157	166	160	189	180
February ..	125	88	236	348	187	136	248	234	173	158	174	160	188	180

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

Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, January and February 1924
The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	Equivalent in tolas.	July 1914.			January 1924.			February 1924.			Increase (+) or decrease (-) in February 1924 over or below			
				July 1914.			January 1924.			February 1924.			July 1914.		January 1924.	
				As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.	As. p.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	210	5 10	8 0	7 9	+1 11	-0 3								
Wheat	Punjab Pissi	"	202	5 10	7 1	7 1	+1 3	....							
Jowari	Shivapuri	"	198	4 3	5 4	5 4	+1 1	....							
Bejri	Ghati	"	200	4 7	5 5	5 4	+0 9	-0 1								
Gram	Punjab red	"	200	4 4	5 2	5 1	+0 9	-0 1								
Tardal	Cawnpore	"	204	5 11	7 1	7 1	+1 2	....							
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer by weight	28	1 1	3 0	3 0	+1 11	....							
Sugar (raw)	Bangli, middle quality	"	28	1 2	2 0	2 0	+0 10	....							
Tea	Ceylon, middle quality	Lb.	39	7 10	15 7	16 0	+8 2	+0 5								
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	168	1 9	3 7	3 7	+1 10	....							
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	....							
Cheese	Belgaum, Deshi	" by weight	28	7 1	13 7	14 0	+6 11	+0 5								
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	"	28	0 8	1 2	1 0	+0 4	-0 2								
Onions	Nasik	"	28	0 3	1 0	1 0	+0 9	....							
Coconut oil	Middle quality	"	28	3 7	4 7	4 7	+1 0	....							



Retail prices of Articles of food in January and February 1924

Articles.	Price per	Bombay.		Karachi.		Almohadi.		Delapour.		Poon.		Sindia.		Kutchi.		Almohadi.		Delapour.		Poon.	
		January 1924.		January 1924.		January 1924.		January 1924.		January 1924.		February 1924.		February 1924.		February 1924.		February 1924.		February 1924.									
		Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Cereals—																					
Rice	Masud	7 9 11	6 12 8	6 14 3	7 12 3	5 3 10	7 4 4	6 12 8	6 14 3	7 4 1	9 0 8										
Wheat	"	7 0 9	4 13 7	7 3 1	5 15 6	5 5 5	7 6 0	4 13 0	6 2 6	6 1 7	5 5 5										
Jowari	"	5 6 2	3 12 11	3 12 11	4 5 5	4 9 4	5 6 2	4 0 0	5 7 0	6 6 7	6 15 8										
Bejri	"	5 6 2	6 6 3	5 6 2	6 1 2	5 1 3	5 5 4	4 5 0	5 6 6	4 1 7	5 5 4										
Pulses—																					
Gram	"	5 2 9	3 15 2	5 11 5	3 15 2	4 1 4	5 1 11	4 0 0	5 11 5	6 5 5	4 1 4										
Tardal	"	6 15 7	7 4 4	6 10 8	7 5 0	6 14 3	6 15 7	6 15 4	6 15 8	6 9 4	8 14 3										
Other articles of food—																					
Sugar (refined)	"	21 7 7	20 0 0	21 5 4	22 13 9	19 4 5	21 7 7	19 12 1	21 5 4	22 1 1	21 12 4										
Jagg (raw)	"	14 4 7	10 5 2	13 5 4	13 5 4	10 8 5	14 4 7	10 10 8	13 5 4	10 5 2	10 8 5										
Tea	Lb.	0 15 7	0 13 10	1 4 9	1 1 9	0 14 6	1 0 0	0 13 10	1 4 9	1 1 9	0 14 6										
Salt	Masud	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	5 0 0	4 3 4	4 3 9	3 1 3	3 5 4	4 4 10	4 3 4										
Beef	Seer	6 8 2	6 10 0	6 8 0	6 6 0	6 6 0	6 8 2	6 10 0	6 6 0	6 6 0	6 6 0										
Mutton	"	0 14 4	0 12 0	1 0 0	0 10 0	0 11 0	0 14 4	0 12 0	0 12 0	0 10 0	0 11 0										
Milk	Masud	17 9 4	10 0 0	10 0 0	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4	8 5 10	10 0 0	11 5 4	13 5 4										
Cheese	"	56 15 6	80 0 0	80 0 0	80 0 0	74 6 8	56 15 6	77 9 4	80 0 0	80 0 0	74 6 8										
Potatoes	"	8 4 0	5 12 3	9 6 2	10 10 8	7 14 9	7 2 3	5 6 9	6 10 8	9 2 3	4 2 7										
Onions	"	7 2 3	7 3 8	6 2 6	5 13 1	4 2 7	7 2 3	5 15 8	5 8 3	5 13 1	3 8 2										
Coconut oil	"	32 10 5	30 3 0	35 8 11	33 10 11	28 1 1	32 10 5	30 7 7	35 8 11	33 10 11	30 12 4										

NOTE.—1 lb. = 39 tolas; 1 masud = 82½ tolas; 1 seer = 2½ lbs.; 60 tolas = 1 seer; 40 seers = 1 Indian maund.

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

Articles.	July 1914.		January 1924.		February 1924.		Increase (+) or decrease (-) in February 1924 over or below	
	July 1914.	January 1924.	July 1914.	January 1924.	July 1914.	January 1924.	July 1914.	January 1924.
Cereals—								
Rice	136	100	144	147	166	130	100	144
Wheat	126	115	153	136	118	126	114	131
Jowari	124	105	100	151	134	124	110	91
Bejri	125	101	112	117	124	124	103	106
Average—cereals	128	105	127	133	136	126	107	118
Pulses—								
Gram	120	104	143	92	84	119	105	143
Tardal	119	109	108	126	135	119	104	108
Average—pulses	120	107	126	109	110	119	105	126
Other articles of food								



Securities Index

	Government and Corporation securities (fixed interest). (7)	Banks. (6)	Railway companies. (10)	Cotton mills. (42)	Cotton ginning and pressing companies. (8)	Cement and man-ganese companies. (4)	Electric under-takings. (2)	Miscel-laneous companies. (21)	Industrial securities. (93)	General average. (100)	
										January	February
1914 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915 "	96	95	113	97	94	98	90	105	101	106	106
1916 "	87	112	123	114	102	245	122	147	130	127	151
1917 "	73	126	102	138	118	404	128	190	158	154	184
1918 "	74	126	97	212	131	456	139	185	194	206	206
1919 "	77	191	107	216	126	627	237	210	216	221	235
October	70	182	100	252	143	569	228	224	232	247	252
November	70	183	98	282	141	572	235	233	247	255	255
December	68	178	95	317	145	585	249	241	265	265	265
1920 January	66	185	95	389	145	632	330	250	304	288	288
February	65	167	92	368	170	588	295	244	291	275	275
March	63	168	91	415	170	594	268	243	311	294	294
April	63	167	90	476	168	582	304	245	338	319	319
May	63	171	89	403	167	536	285	234	301	284	284
June	65	172	89	388	167	534	299	222	292	276	276
July	65	174	91	438	168	505	263	229	313	296	296
August	65	165	92	434	167	467	246	224	307	291	291
September	64	163	91	417	166	440	227	218	277	281	281
October	60	156	90	380	186	413	198	208	277	282	282
November	59	153	89	383	183	400	198	205	276	261	261
December	58	152	87	376	163	395	183	200	270	255	255
1921 January	61	162	88	388	163	448	190	193	277	262	262
February	61	160	87	380	167	425	193	196	273	259	259
March	62	153	88	340	163	416	164	187	251	238	238
April	62	149	88	365	158	492	169	186	266	252	252
May	63	150	89	375	159	481	179	189	271	256	256
June	64	157	91	383	158	471	184	192	311	295	295
July	65	162	92	450	158	529	212	203	306	289	289
August	65	163	89	445	158	498	207	197	312	295	295
September	65	161	88	462	158	508	194	191	312	295	295
October	65	162	88	461	158	484	193	182	308	292	292
November	66	163	86	448	158	473	186	174	300	284	284
December	67	157	87	433	158	472	181	169	292	276	276
1922 January	66	158	85	409	157	438	164	167	278	263	263
February	63	152	86	384	160	413	159	159	265	251	251
March	63	152	85	391	160	407	157	161	267	253	253
April	62	151	85	379	158	387	160	156	265	251	251
May	64	156	88	381	158	433	169	160	277	264	264
June	64	158	91	401	163	465	188	165	277	253	253
July	63	157	94	406	163	413	175	163	267	253	253
August	63	153	94	388	163	404	168	160	257	244	244
September	64	150	92	373	163	385	160	157	243	231	231
October	64	147	92	344	163	367	154	153	221	210	210
November	65	147	92	298	163	363	144	147	221	210	210
December	65	145	91	283	163	313	142	144	210	201	201
1923 January	65	144	91	292	163	318	149	150	216	206	206
February	65	145	91	288	166	310	152	147	214	204	204
March	67	145	92	255	142	264	140	141	193	185	185
April	68	147	95	241	142	247	133	139	186	178	178
May	71	147	100	235	142	256	133	136	183	176	176
June	71	146	101	222	145	214	126	136	176	169	169
July	72	145	102	229	147	196	136	126	168	161	161
August	73	136	106	216	153	162	138	124	168	159	159
September	73	140	106	225	133	171	133	121	166	157	157
October	72	138	106	213	133	157	131	118	163	156	156
November	71	137	104	216	122	131	135	119	163	154	154
December	71	137	100	215	122	131	131	114	160	146	146
1924 January	71	136	100	196	122	128	126	110	151	143	143
February	73	139	103	192	122	118	127	105	148	143	143

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.



Accidents in Factories during February 1924* 1. Bombay City and Island

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.†		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to February 1924.	February 1924.		
	January to February 1924.	February 1924.												
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton	29	2	8	..	..	..	2	1	35	1	37	2		
Woolen Mills	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..		
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	29	2	9	..	..	..	2	1	36	1	38	2		
II Workshops—														
Engineering	2	1	10	2	..	..	1	1	11	2	12	3		
Railway	23	11	183	94	..	..	1	..	205	105	208	105		
Min.	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1		
Others	3	..	12	10	..	..	..	..	15	10	15	10		
Total	28	12	206	107	..	..	2	1	232	118	254	119		
III Miscellaneous—														
Chemical Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Flour Mills	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1	1	1		
Printing Presses	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..		
Others	2	1	3	..	1	1	1	..	3	..	5	1		
Total	4	2	3	..	1	1	1	..	5	1	7	2		
Total, All Factories	61	16	218	107	1	1	5	2	273	120	279	123		

2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to February 1924.	February 1924.		
	January to February 1924.	February 1924.												
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton	13	5	2	1	1	..	7	3	7	3	15	6		
Total	13	5	2	1	1	..	7	3	7	3	15	6		
II Miscellaneous—														
Match Factory	1	1	..	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Flour Mills	1	1		
Total	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2		
Total, All Factories	14	6	3	2	2	1	7	3	8	4	17	8		

* The progressive figure does not always represent the sum of the latest month's figure and of the progressive figure published in the preceding issue as corrections have to be made from month to month in these tables. † Mainly burns, scalds, falls, cuts, shocks, flying pieces of metal, falling of heavy weights, etc.



Accidents in Factories during February 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 to February 1924.	February 1924.		
	January to February 1924.	February 1924.												
I Workshops—														
Railway and Port Trust—	2	1	4	1	1	..	5	2	6	2		
Engineering		
Total ..	2	1	4	1	1	..	5	2	6	2		
II Miscellaneous—	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Total ..	1	1	1	1	1	1		
Total All Factories ..	3	2	4	1	1	..	6	3	7	3		

4. Other Centres

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of accident.						Total No. of accidents.		Remarks	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to February 1924.	February 1924.		
	January to February 1924.	February 1924.												
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills ..	9	1	2	1	..	..	2	..	9	2	11	2		
Others ..	1	1	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	1		
Total ..	10	2	2	1	1	1	2	..	9	2	12	3		
II Workshops—														
Railway ..	3	..	25	19	..	..	..	..	28	19	28	19		
Arms and Ammunition Works ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..		
Total ..	3	..	26	19	..	..	..	..	29	19	29	19		
III Miscellaneous—														
Ginning and Pressing Factories ..	8	1	2	..	3	..	..	..	7	1	10	1		
Paint Works ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total ..	8	1	2	..	3	..	..	..	7	1	10	1		
Total All Factories ..	21	3	30	20	4	1	2	..	46	22	51	23		



Table I—Principal Trade Unions in the Bombay Presidency

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Date of formation.	Number of members.	Name and address of	
				President or Chairman.	Secretary.
1. Bombay City	1. The Indian Seamen's Union.	April 1921	11,000	J. J. Athaide, Freeze Road, Bombay.	S. A. Rehalla, Freeze Road, Bombay.
	2. The B. B. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union.	July 1920	2,000	Rai Sahib Chandrika Prasad of Agner.	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	3. The G. I. P. Railwaymen's Union (Carriage and Wagon Departments).	May 1919	3,000	Rai Sahib Chandrika Prasad of Agner.	C. Bhikardas, Chargehand, E.B. & C.I. Ry. Workshop, Parcel. S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union.	March 1920	3,500	F. J. Givalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	5. The Clerks' Union	April 1918	950	B. M. Anandran, B.A. Malabar Lumbering Company, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay.	1. Anant Palwanshah, 53, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay. 2. S. Bhawanji Rao, Ghelabhai Building, Chawpati, Bombay.
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers') Union.	April 1915	1,000	F. J. Givalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	7. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union.	May 1921	4,213	Motilal J. Mehta, Sub-Assistant Auditor, Audit Office, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.	1. Swami Advaitanand, G. I. P. Railway Staff Union Office, Dadar, Bombay. 2. Narayan G. Kale, Operative Branch, C. T. S.'s Office, Bombay.
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.	July 1922	350	Not elected	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	9. The Victoria Owners and Drivers' Union.	March 1924	600	S. H. Jhalwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.	V. D. Patankar, Matunga.
	10. The Saloon, Hammamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association.	January 1924	1,200	Do.	Ghulam Nabi Munshi, A. Denny House, 126, Shop No. 6, Superibaug Road, Parcel.
	Total Members, Bombay City		27,813		
2. Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union	February 1920	2,500	Anusuya Sarabhai, Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Sewa Gulari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	2. The Winders' Union	June 1920	150	Do.	Assistant Secretary—Khandubhai Kasabhai Desai, Rasput, Ahmedabad. Do.



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

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Date of formation.	Number of members.	Name and address of		
				President or Chairman.	Secretary.	
2. Ahmedabad— contd.	3. The Throble Union	February 1920 ..	5,000	Anusuya Sarabhai, Sewa Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Gulzari Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad. <i>Assistant Secretary—Khanbhai Kasabhai Desai, Bhandari, Ahmedabad.</i>	
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	August 1920 ..	2,350	Do.	Do.	
	5. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	September 1920 ..	400	Do.	Do.	
	6. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.	February 1919 ..	200	V. J. Patel, Khamasa, Ahmedabad.	M. V. Kothari, Rajapur.	
	7. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Association.	February 1920 ..	3,485	Do.	Do. <i>Assistant Secretary—B. N. Sandil, Dolakhana pur, Ahmedabad.</i>	
		Total Members, Ahmedabad ..		14,085		
	3. Sukkur	N. W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	September 1920 ..	3,574	Shahzada Misri, Carriage and Wagon Shop, Sukkur.	Tirlok Nath Kaul, Station Road (Garibabad), Sukkur.
4. Karachi	N. W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	1920 ..	3,500	Thanwardas, Cashier, Goods Office, Karachi.	Kazi Khuda Baksh, 32, New Haroon Building, Bunder Road, Karachi.	
5. Sholapur	The Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union.	March 1921 ..	500	G. G. Bhadbhade, Kurduwadi.	G. T. Malgi, Kurduwadi.	
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union.	February 1921 ..	110	John Mathews, Foreman, Scottish Mission Press, Poona Cantonment.	1. G. T. Sakpal, 879, Shukrawar Peth, Poona City. 2. N. B. Purohit, Gounishankar Press, Poona City.	
7. Broach	1. The Fine Counts Mill Labour Union.	October 1923 ..	360	None	Dinkarrao Narbheram, Pleader, Broach.	
	2. The Saraswati Mill Labour Union.	October 1923 ..	360	Do.	Do.	
	Total, rest of Presidency ..		8,404			
	Total Members, Presidency ..		50,302			



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

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Income per month.	Sum paid per member per month.	Expenditure
				per month.
1. Bombay City	1. The Indian Seamen's Union	Rs. 500	Rs. 6 (per year)	Rs. 700
	2. The B.B. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union	312	From 1 to 8 annas according to pay	115
	3. The C.I.P. Railwaymen's Union	339	Do. do.	128
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union	250	As. 4 for those earning Rs. 50 and under per month; As. 8 for those earning above Rs. 50.	60
	5. The Clerks' Union	200	As. 4	75
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers') Union.	200	As. 8	80
	7. The C.I.P. Railway Staff Union	500	One day's pay per year	450
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.	157	As. 8	15
	9. The Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union.	Not reported	Not reported	Not reported.
	10. The Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association.	Do.	Do.	Do.
2. Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union	625	As. 4	175
	2. The Winders' Union	181	As. 2	12
	3. The Throble Union	1,100	As. 4 per labourer; As. 2 per doffer; Anna 1 per half-day worker.	500
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	587½	As. 4	226
	5. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	175	As. 6 per oilman; As. 8 per driver or fireman.	14
	6. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.	Not reported.	* Re. 1 per year for workers earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 2 per year for those earning above Rs. 50.	Not reported.
	7. The B.B. & C.I. Railway Employees' Association.	682	Rs. 2 per year for workers earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 3 for those earning Rs. 50 to 100; Rs. 4 for those earning Rs. 100 and upwards.	300
3. Sukkur	The N.W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	580	Subscription at the rate of ¼ per cent. of monthly pay from all members.	160
4. Karachi	The N.W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	700	Do. do.	300
5. Sholapur	The Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union.	From 30 to 40.	An amount equal to one day's pay as drawn by a member on the 1st of January of each year.	From Rs. 27 to Rs. 30.
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union	4	As. 2 to As. 3	About 2.
7. Broach	1. The Fine Counts Mill Labour Union	90	As. 4 per member	Nil (†).
	2. The Saraswati Mill Labour Union	90	Do.	Nil (†).

* The details relate to quarter ended December 1923. † Except some casual printing charges.

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

Count or Number.	Month of January.			Ten months ended January.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Yarn, 11 to 20 Pounds	4,971	6,800	5,248	67,625	69,618	62,286
Yarn, 21 to 30 "	21,706	22,672	17,425	204,466	204,215	175,686
Yarn, 31 to 40 "	15,560	12,617	11,625	152,539	155,644	175,686
Yarn, 41 to 50 "	1,110	842	1,258	11,542	11,576	14,775
Yarn, 51 to 60 "	197	124	237	1,684	1,611	1,686
Waste, &c.	117	4	12	531	91	2,449
Total	46,661	44,959	35,654	415,815	421,887	570,069

Bombay Island

Count or Number.	Month of January.			Ten months ended January.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Yarn, 11 to 20 Pounds	6,264	7,279	4,586	58,119	65,845	55,231
Yarn, 21 to 30 "	15,753	16,175	11,628	145,740	144,552	124,217
Yarn, 31 to 40 "	7,972	7,395	6,915	79,862	81,774	91,774
Yarn, 41 to 50 "	292	388	640	3,082	4,911	5,752
Yarn, 51 to 60 "	46	63	191	842	888	6,658
Waste, &c.	3	3	3	171	21	1,297
Total	31,370	31,194	25,862	295,816	296,882	355,969

Ahmedabad

Count or Number.	Month of January.			Ten months ended January.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Yarn, 11 to 20 Pounds	231	284	230	2,147	1,690	1,548
Yarn, 21 to 30 "	1,752	2,075	2,049	24,169	24,451	25,763
Yarn, 31 to 40 "	3,947	4,257	3,666	37,911	41,492	39,973
Yarn, 41 to 50 "	365	362	363	4,538	4,718	5,259
Yarn, 51 to 60 "	7	19	97	581	462	810
Waste, &c.	107	—	—	110	—	1
Total	7,416	7,802	7,405	71,366	75,655	69,953

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

Description.	Month of January.			Ten months ended January.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Cottons	983	1,301	653	12,849	15,793	15,845
Woolens	6,808	7,259	6,568	65,140	61,915	55,557
Silks and jute	65	65	811	7,657	4,314	6,886
Cambrics and lawns	62	44	69	752	535	594
Frocks	362	803	471	3,852	4,382	5,815
Shirtings and long cloth	9,262	9,545	7,445	85,347	79,965	75,918
T. cloth, dimenrics, and sheetings	844	911	653	12,369	11,153	9,478
Tear cloth	119	94	111	1,135	1,427	867
Other sorts	1,524	2,954	1,848	11,613	16,515	21,141
Total	31,771	25,991	11,841	189,748	185,256	189,152
Coloured piece-goods	5,797	6,855	7,491	52,475	68,602	79,104
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	188	181	151	1,685	1,956	1,557
Woolens	16	21	15	176	168	159
Miscellaneous	3	125	23	499	1,094	884
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	1	7	23	63	67	146
Grand Total	26,878	31,890	26,577	275,054	267,156	271,192

Bombay Island

Description.	Month of January.			Ten months ended January.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Cottons	451	674	380	4,796	7,358	8,380
Woolens	2,149	1,577	1,251	21,055	17,450	17,796
Silks and jute	65	65	795	748	5,954	7,612
Cambrics and lawns	46	—	49	511	285	346
Frocks	31	—	—	237	336	45
Shirtings and long cloth	6,463	5,197	4,547	57,334	54,978	54,162
T. cloth, dimenrics, and sheetings	865	884	464	8,865	8,271	7,728
Tear cloth	82	58	168	842	731	547
Other sorts	1,024	1,951	1,168	6,545	12,611	14,427
Total	11,548	11,525	9,568	111,727	107,924	112,673

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

Description.	Month of January.			Ten months ended January.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	4,738	5,387	5,556	61,290	57,432	64,722
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	183	170	127	1,612	1,883	1,526
Hosiery ..	9	14	4	106	94	80
Miscellaneous ..	55	122	73	906	1,083	954
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	2	6	20	55	75	120
Grand Total ..	16,530	16,222	15,368	175,696	168,479	179,929

Ahmedabad

Description.	Month of January.			Ten months ended January.		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—						
Chaddars Pounds ..	270	660	340	3,887	5,153	4,315
Dhotas ..	3,675	4,978	3,777	35,274	33,353	28,414
Drills and jeans ..	62	28	4	272	208	228
Cambrics and lawns ..	8	15	31	93	201	71
Printers ..	400	597	333	2,551	2,937	2,267
Shirts and long cloth ..	2,084	3,601	1,989	18,816	19,532	14,330
T, cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	240	215	153	2,187	1,645	1,602
Tent cloth ..	2	9	40	24	22	237
Other sorts ..	226	685	445	2,636	3,618	4,184
Total ..	6,967	10,788	7,112	65,740	66,669	55,648
Coloured piece-goods ..	290	727	1,110	4,020	4,659	7,112
Grey and coloured goods other than piece-goods ..	3	..	2	21	8	7
Hosiery ..	7	6	9	70	65	71
Miscellaneous ..	..	2	5	..	12	40
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	1	1	3	8	11	9
Grand Total ..	7,268	11,524	8,241	69,859	71,424	62,887



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in February 1924

Name of concern and locality.	Approximate number of work-people involved		Date when dispute		Cause.	Result.
	Directly.	Indirectly.	Began.	Ended.		
Textile Trades.			1924.	1924.		
1. General Strike (Bom- bay City and Island)—						
(a) The Standard Mill, Pachhadia Road, Lower Parel, Bombay.	2,557	..	17 January ..	..	
(b) The Green Mill, Pachhadia Road, Lower Parel, Bombay.	1,670	..	21 ..	..	
(c) 3 Cotton Mills ..	12,025	..	25 ..	..	
(d) 9 Cotton Mills ..	17,579	..	26 ..	..	
(e) 3 Cotton Mills ..	8,923	..	28 ..	..	
(f) 4 Cotton, 2 Silk and 2 Woolen Mills.	92,162	..	29 ..	..		Demand for the payment of an annual bonus for the year 1923.
(g) 7 Cotton Mills ..	16,807	..	30 ..	..	
(h) The Emperor Edward Mill, Hany Road, Margosa, Bom- bay.	2,586	..	31 ..	..	
(i) The Mackinnon Peir Mill, Yandri, Bombay.	5,646	..	1 February	..		
(j) The Colaba Land and Mill and the Jehangir Wadia Mill, Victoria Road, Colaba, Bombay.	2,400	..	15 ..	..	
(k) 2 Dye-Works (Mis- cellaneous Trades.)	1,325	..	29 January ..	..	
2. The Swedish Spinning and Weaving Company Ltd., Naroda Road, Ahmedabad.	200	..	18 February ..	25 February	Against the supply of bad yarn.	Work resumed on a promise if the supply of good yarn and of compensation for the loss.
3. The Anarva Mills, Anarva Road, Ahmedabad.	100	..	18 ..	21 February	Against the supply of bad yarn.	Work resumed on a promise to be supplied with good yarn.



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					
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
January 1st	120	125	165	92	78	77
February	120	130	151	88	77	79
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 1916 1919 1920 1921 1922 1923 1924							
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
End of—								
January	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9
February	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	
March	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	
April	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6*	17.0	11.3	
May	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2*	16.4	11.3	
June	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1*	15.7	11.1	
July	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	16.6	11.1	
August	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	
September	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	
October	2.2	0.4	2.4	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	
November	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	
December	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	

* Excluding coal miners.

Canada.—At the Annual Convention of the Canadian Federation of Labour (composed of "national" trade unions as differentiated from the "international" unions

affiliated with United States organisations) held at Ottawa from 24th to 26th September, an increase in membership of as much as 20 per cent. was reported in all the Provinces except Ontario, where there was a decrease of 15 per cent. Resolutions were passed to the effect that housing schemes should be Provincial and not Federal, and that insurance should be administered by a commission appointed by the different Provincial Governments, so that individuals and workmen could receive directly money with which to build homes. The conference also recommended the establishment by the Federal Government of an old age pensions scheme whereby pensions should be available for every class of worker in the country after the age of 65, irrespective of position in life. It was further decided that strong efforts be made to secure the celebration of "Labour Day" (now observed on the first Monday in September) on 1st July, the Dominion National Holiday, thus obviating the loss of a day's pay.

New Zealand.—In order to facilitate the placing of unemployed workers in positions in the outlying districts of the country, and with a view to bringing farmers into closer touch with the labour markets in the cities, an arrangement has been made by the Labour Department in Wellington with the Post and Telegraph Department by which all postmasters in towns where no permanent officer of the Labour Department is stationed will act as employment agents. Hitherto, constables and civil service officials have been authorised to act as labour agents, but this system has not met with success. Under the new arrangement, any employer desiring the services of a worker may apply at the nearest post office, and if no suitable labour is available locally the postmaster will communicate with the nearest office of the Labour Department. Similarly, workers in need of employment may communicate with the nearest postmaster, and an endeavour will be made to find them suitable work.

Czechoslovakia.—The Ministry of Justice is at present drafting a Bill to extend the scope of the industrial courts. It empowers the industrial courts to deal with all disputes between employers and employed arising out of the contract of service, and also with disputes arising out of the relations between non-manual workers employed in the same undertaking, irrespective of the branch of production to which the undertaking belongs. Undertakings in agriculture and forestry are thus included. If the Bill is adopted, the industrial courts will probably be given some other name such as "labour courts".

The Bill in most respects follows the lines of the present Act of 27th November 1896 concerning industrial courts. Under its provisions, the Government would set up courts by special decree in those localities where they are required. In places where there would probably not be enough business to justify the setting up of a separate labour court, but where such a court might be required owing to local circumstances, the Government would have the



power to issue a decree setting up a special section of the district court to deal with cases normally coming within the competence of a labour court.

The labour courts would be competent, irrespective of the sum in dispute, to deal with cases relating to the following matters:—

- (a) Wages.
- (b) The conclusion, continuation and termination of a labour or apprenticeship contract.
- (c) Claims for compensation arising out of a labour or apprenticeship contract and, in particular, deductions from wages or other penalties fixed by the contract.
- (d) The issue or contents of a certificate relating to work done.
- (e) Claims arising out of membership of a pension or other benefit fund in so far as such matters do not fall within the competence of an arbitration court attached to the accident insurance system, sick fund or pension institution for non-manual employees, or any other statutory court of arbitration.
- (f) The giving of notice to leave a house which is provided by the employer free of charge or as part of the employees' wages; or the rent of such a house.
- (g) Claims made by one non-manual employee against another worker employed in the same undertaking, irrespective of the work performed jointly.

Current Note

International Labour Office.—The Governing Body of the International Labour Office, at its meeting which began on 29th January, was definitely to decide what should be the agenda for the Seventh Session of the International Labour Conference to be held in 1925. A preliminary discussion on this question at the last meeting of the Governing Body (15th to 18th October 1923) resulted in a provisional decision that the following items should be placed on the agenda:

- (1) a general report on social insurance;
- (2) a Draft Convention and a Recommendation dealing with industrial accident insurance.

At the same sitting the Governing Body adopted a resolution proposed by Mr. Forbes Watson (substitute for employers' representative, Great Britain) requesting the Director of the International Labour Office to proceed with all possible speed to prepare, for the information of the Governing Body, a concise statement of the facts showing the present-day law and practice in the various countries relative to social insurance, with special reference to workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, health insurance and old age pensions.

Poland.—The economic depression in Poland has reacted very seriously on the textile industry. The prices of raw materials supplied by countries with a high rate of exchange have become prohibitive, owing to the depreciation of the Polish mark. The value of such imports amounts to some eight million dollars a month. The Government and the Commission of the Diet on Industry and Commerce are giving serious consideration to the position, which has recently increased in gravity. A meeting convened by the Government on 24th October recognised the necessity for the State to open credits and distribute orders to factories, which should undertake not to reduce their staff.

Belgium.—Under section 13 of the Royal Order of 30th December 1920, workers involved in a collective dispute could under certain circumstances be deemed to

be involuntarily unemployed and eligible for benefit from the National Emergency Fund (*Fonds national de crise*). The conditions which had to be fulfilled were (1) that the workers before the outbreak of the dispute had stated their willingness to have recourse to conciliation or arbitration procedure, (2) that the employers had refused conciliation or arbitration. This section has been amended by a Royal Order of 18th September 1923, which provides, not only that workers directly involved in a collective labour dispute shall not be entitled to unemployment benefit, but also that unemployed persons who are out of work as a direct result of a strike or lockout shall be excluded from benefit. The Board of Administration of the National Emergency Fund, which is a joint body, shall decide what circumstances are to be deemed to be the direct results of a strike or a lockout.

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(Incorporated in Holland.)

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FULLY PAID-UP CAPITAL .. F. 80,000,000 16,886,866

RESERVE FUNDS .. F. 42,105,211 12,508,787

HEAD OFFICE at AMSTERDAM (Holland).

AGENCIES AT ROTTERDAM and THE HAGUE.

Head Agency at Batavia.

BRANCHES:

DUTCH EAST INDIES—

Bandjermasin	Macassar	Samarang.
Bandoeng	Medan	Soerabaja.
Cheribon	Padang	Solo.
Djember	Palembang	Tegal.
Djoola	Pekalongan	Tjilatjil.
Kota Radja	Pontianak	Wetlevreden.

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—Singapore, Penang.

BRITISH INDIA—Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon.

JAPAN—Kobe.

CHINA—Shanghai, Hongkong.

LONDON BANKERS.—National Provincial and Union Bank of England, Ltd.

CURRENT ACCOUNTS opened and interest allowed at the rate of 2 per cent. per annum on daily balance up to Rs. 1,00,000. If the accrued interest for six months does not amount to Rs. 10 no interest will be allowed.

FIXED DEPOSITS received and interest allowed on terms to be ascertained on application.

LETTERS OF CREDIT, DRAFTS issued on the above Agencies, the principal Continental places, South Africa, America and Australia.

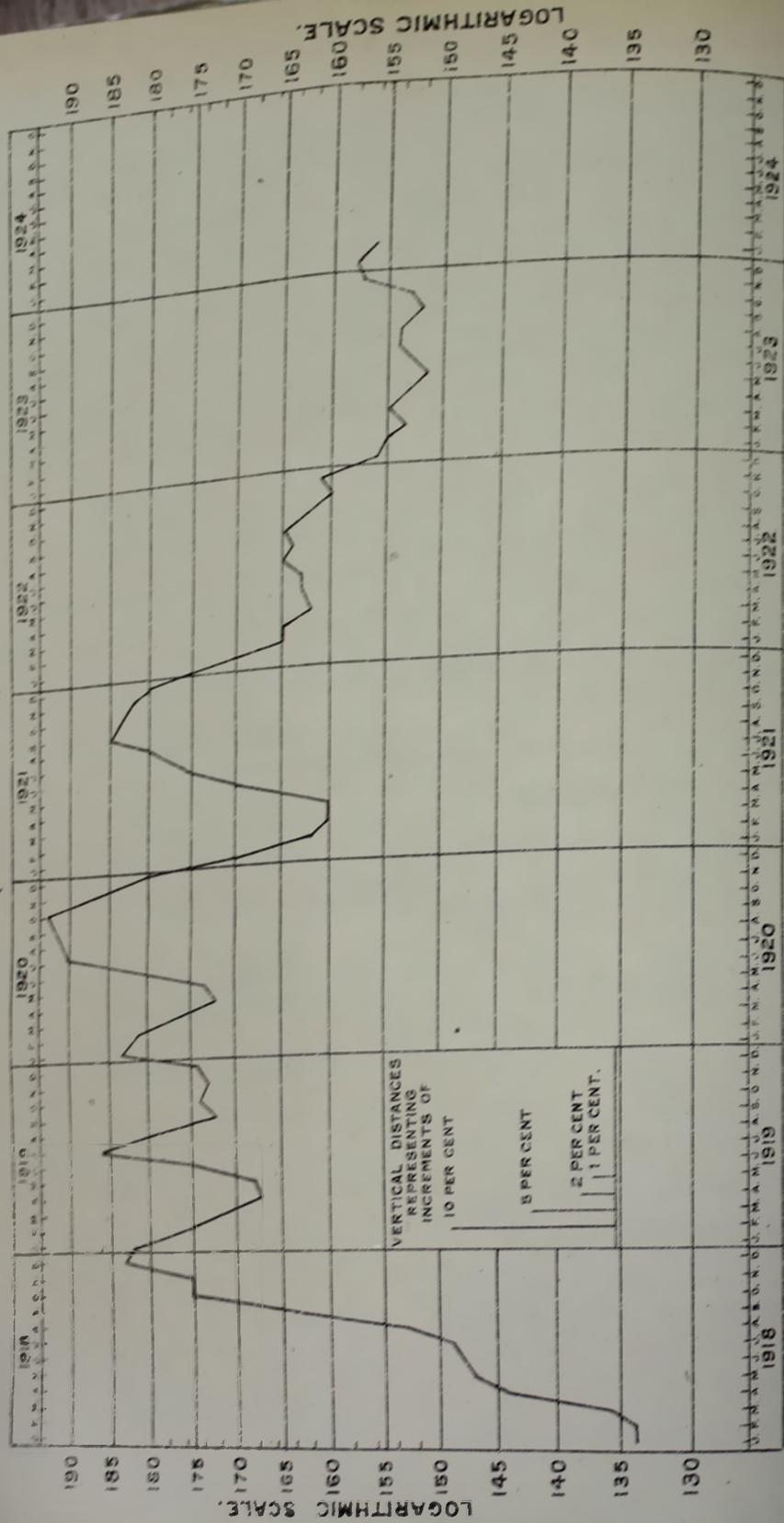
Every description of Banking and Exchange business transacted. Bombay Office.—82, Esplanade Road.

T. P. C. L. J. S. VAN LEEUWEN. Agent.

CHARTS

1. Cost of Living in Bombay.
2. Progress of the Monsoon, 1923.
3. Securities Index.
4. Rainfall for the period June to November 1923.
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.

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 200 is half the increase of the same 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal ratios. From any part of the diagram to any other, instead of equal abscissas, as on a normal scale chart, note the steepness of the curve in 1920.

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 th	15 th	20 th	27 th	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd	29 th	5 th	12 th	19 th	26 th	3 rd	10 th	17 th	24 th	31 st
I BOMBAY PRESIDENCY	F	F	N	N	N	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	F	F				
1 SIND (RIVER RAINFALL)		S	S	S	S	F	N	S	F	N	N	S	S	S	F	EX						
2 GUJARAT	S	S	S	S	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	F	N	F	S	S	N	EX	N					
3 DECCAN	S	F	F	S	EX	EX	EX	N	F	EX	EX	N	F	S	S	EX	EX					
4 KONKAN																						
II MADRAS PRESIDENCY	S	N	N	EX	N	EX	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	S	EX	EX	N	F	S	S	N	EX	
1 MALABAR	S	S	N	S	F	F	N	F	S	F	S	S	S	F	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	S	N
2 DECCAN	S	S	S	S	F	F	N	N	S	F	N	S	S	F	F	EX	N	F	F	F	F	EX
3 COST NORTH																						
4 SOUTH EAST	EX	S	S	S	F	EX	EX	EX	S	S	EX	S	S	S	S	EX	N	S	S	S	F	
III MYSORE																						
IV HYDERABAD	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	S	F	S	F	EX	N	EX						
2 SOUTH																						
V CENTRAL PROVINCES		S	S	S	F	N	S	EX	EX	S	EX	F	S	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	
1 BERAR		S	S	S	N	N	N	EX	EX	F	EX	EX	EX	S	F	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	S	
2 WEST		S	S	S	F	S	EX	N	N	F	EX	N	EX	F	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	
3 EAST																						
VI CENTRAL INDIA		S	S	S	F	EX	N	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	S	EX	EX						
1 WEST		S	S	S	S	EX	F	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	S	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	
2 EAST																						
VII BENGAL PRESIDENCY	S	N	N	N	F	N	N	F	EX	N	F	EX	N	EX	N	EX	N	N	N	EX	F	S
1 WEST	S	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	F	S	F	N	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	EX	F	S
2 EAST																						
VIII ASSAM																						
IX BIHAR & ORISSA		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	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	F	N	F	F	S	N	EX	EX		
2 ORISSA																						
X UNITED PROVINCES																						
1 EAST		S	S	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	F	N	N	EX	S	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX		
2 WEST																						
XI PUNJAB																						
1 EAST & NORTH																						
2 SOUTH & WEST																						
XII RAJPUTANA																						
1 WEST		S	S	EX	S	EX	EX	F	N	EX	F	S	S	S	F							
2 EAST		S	S	N	N	EX	EX	F	EX	F	E	S	S	F								
XIII BURMA																						
1 LOWER	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	EX	N	N	F	N	N	EX	F	F	
2 UPPER	F	EX	N	EX	F	S	N	N	N	N	EX	N	EX	N	N	F	N	N	EX	EX	S	

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 60-120 percent of the normal.
Fair 40-75 percent of the normal.
Scanty Less than 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 irrigation 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)

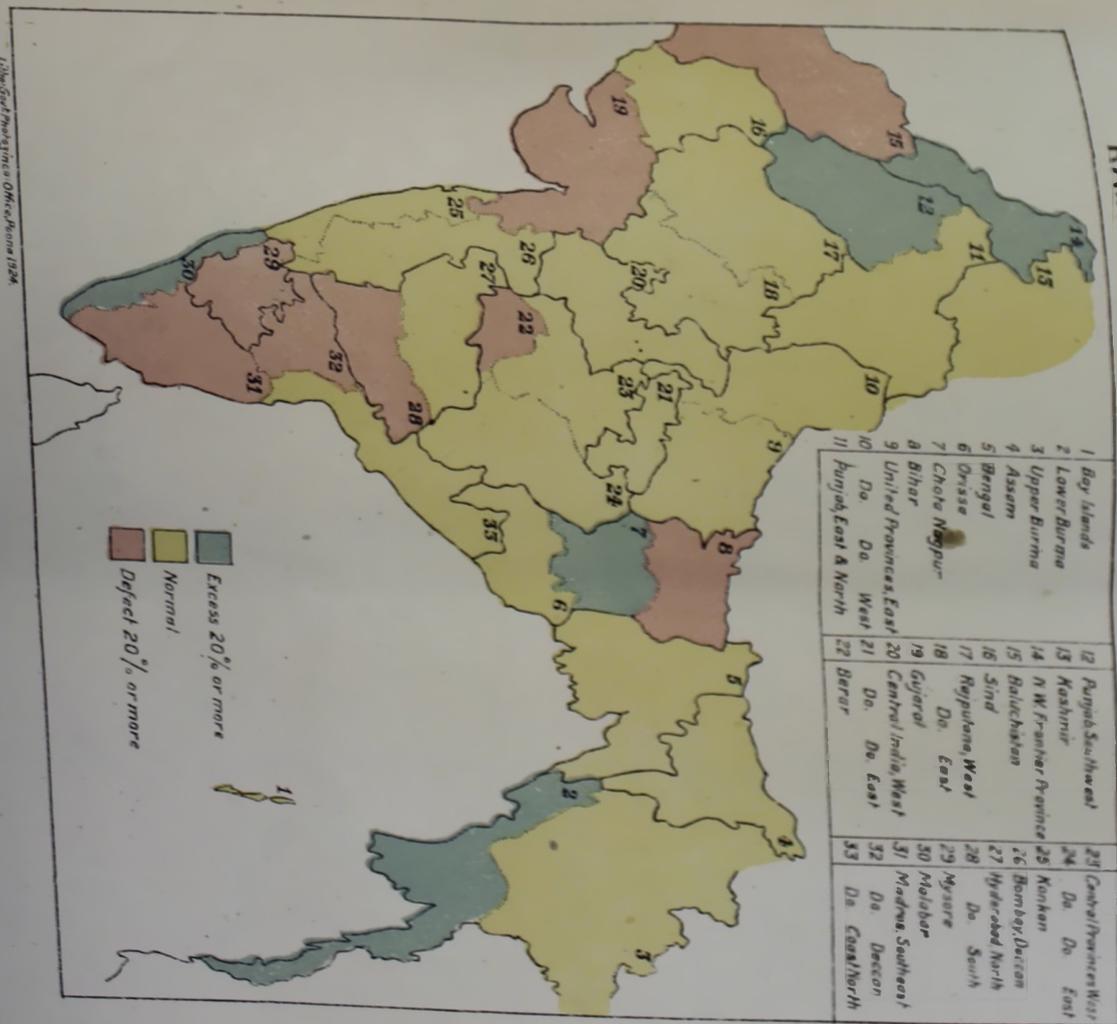
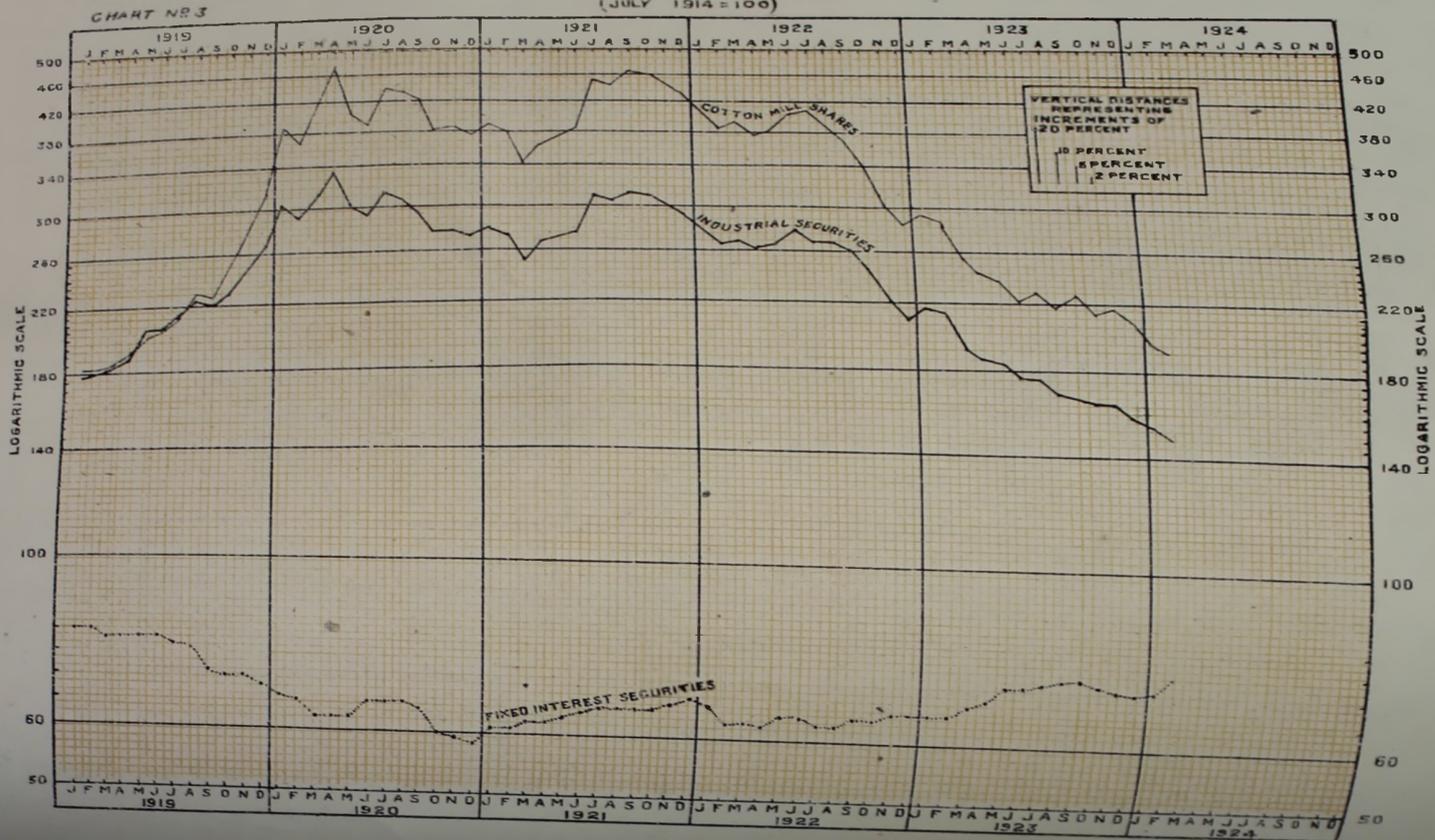
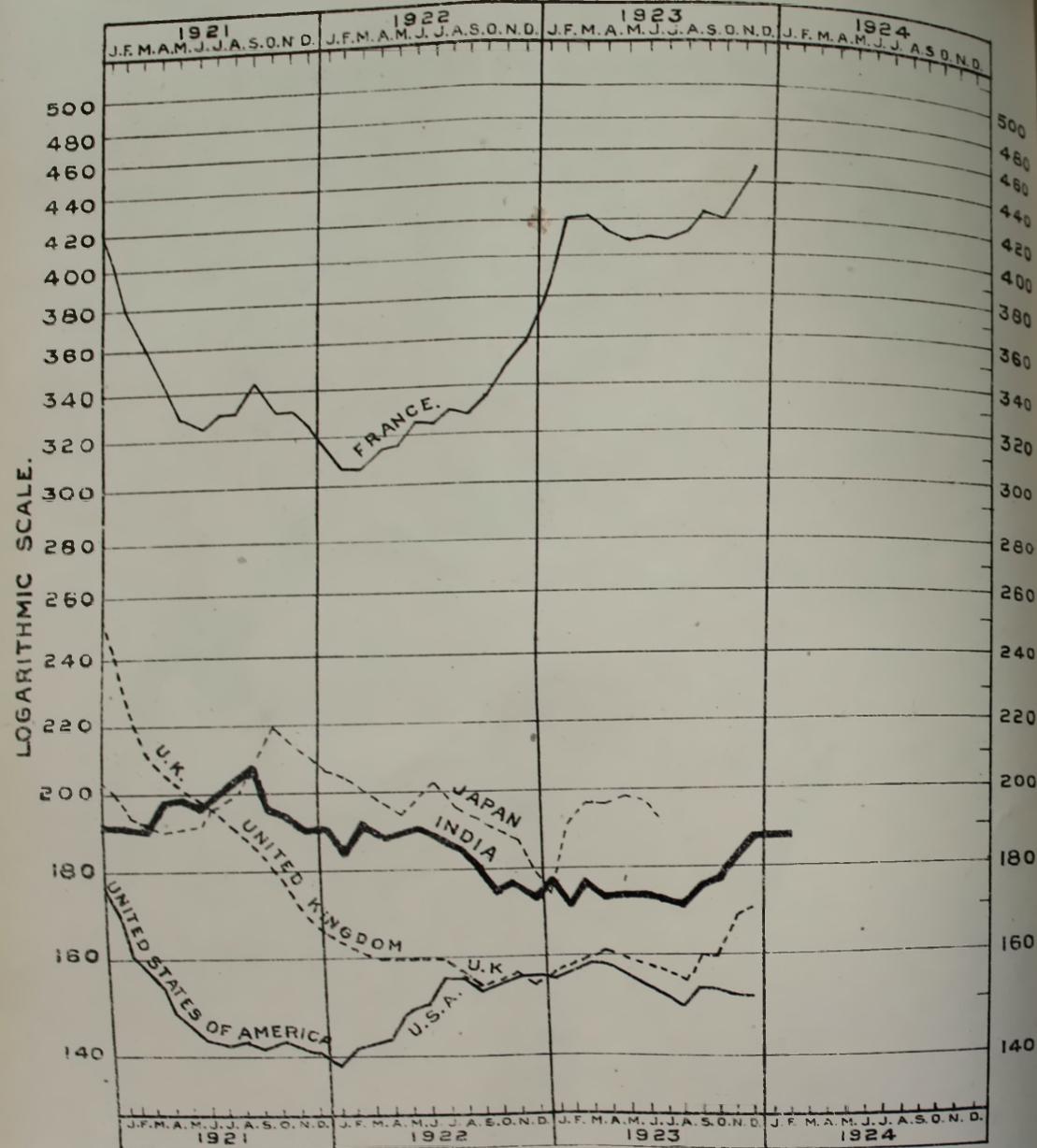


CHART No 5
 INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES
 IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES



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

CHART No 6
 RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND
 OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY.
 JULY 1914 = 100



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, Cocoanut oil & c.

CHART NO 7
COST OF LIVING INDEXES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
 JULY 1914=100.

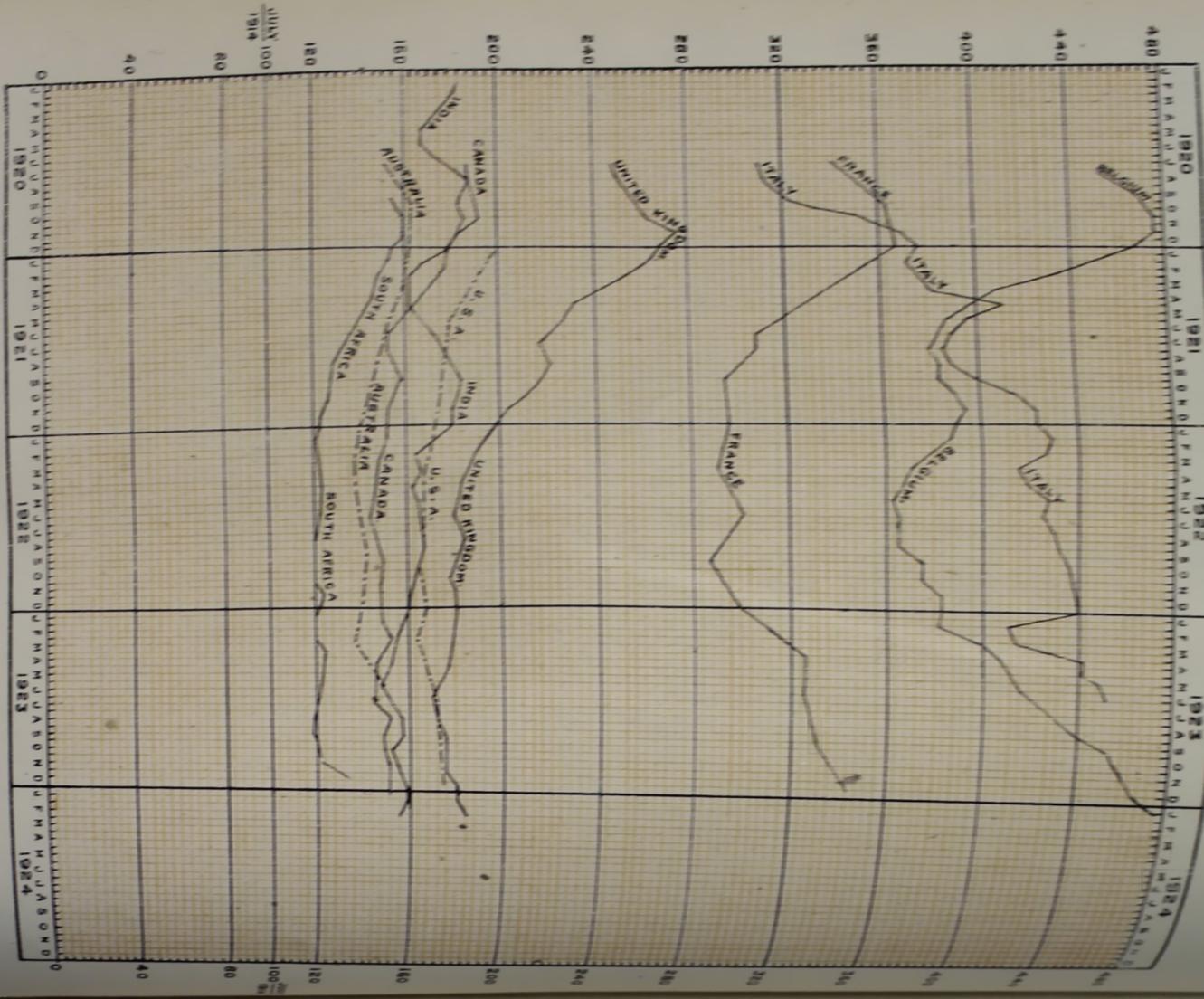
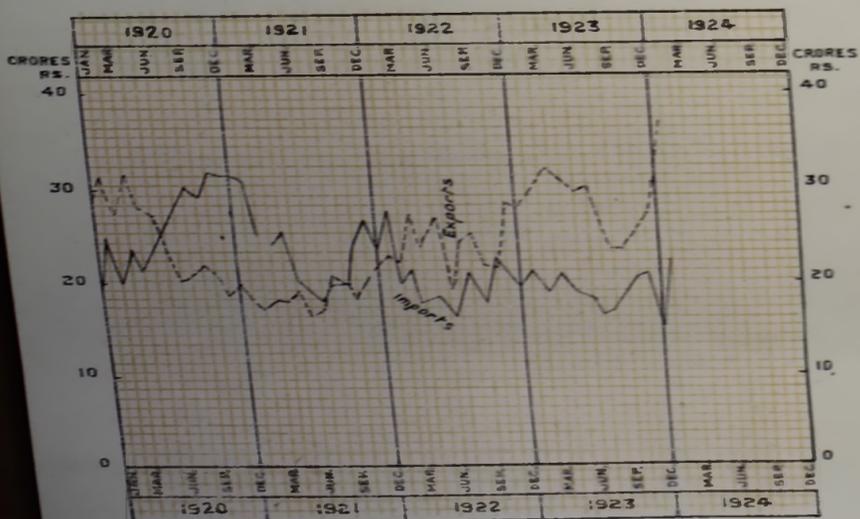


CHART NO 8

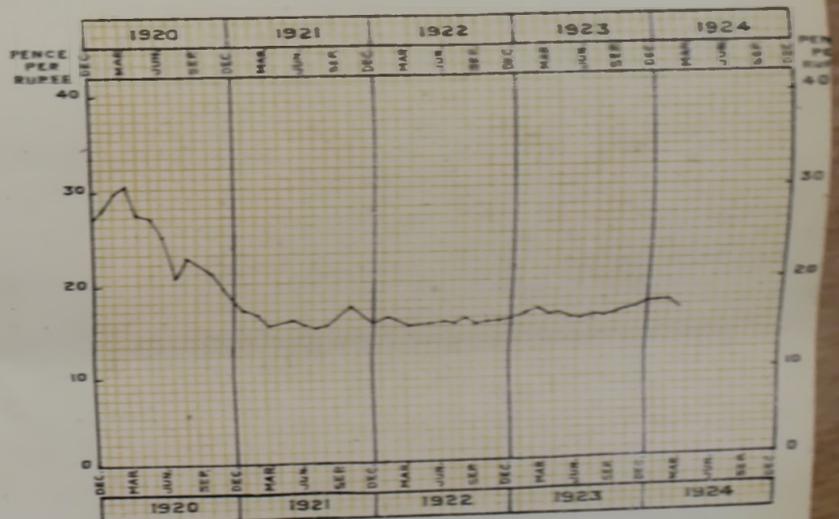
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA



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

CHART No. 10

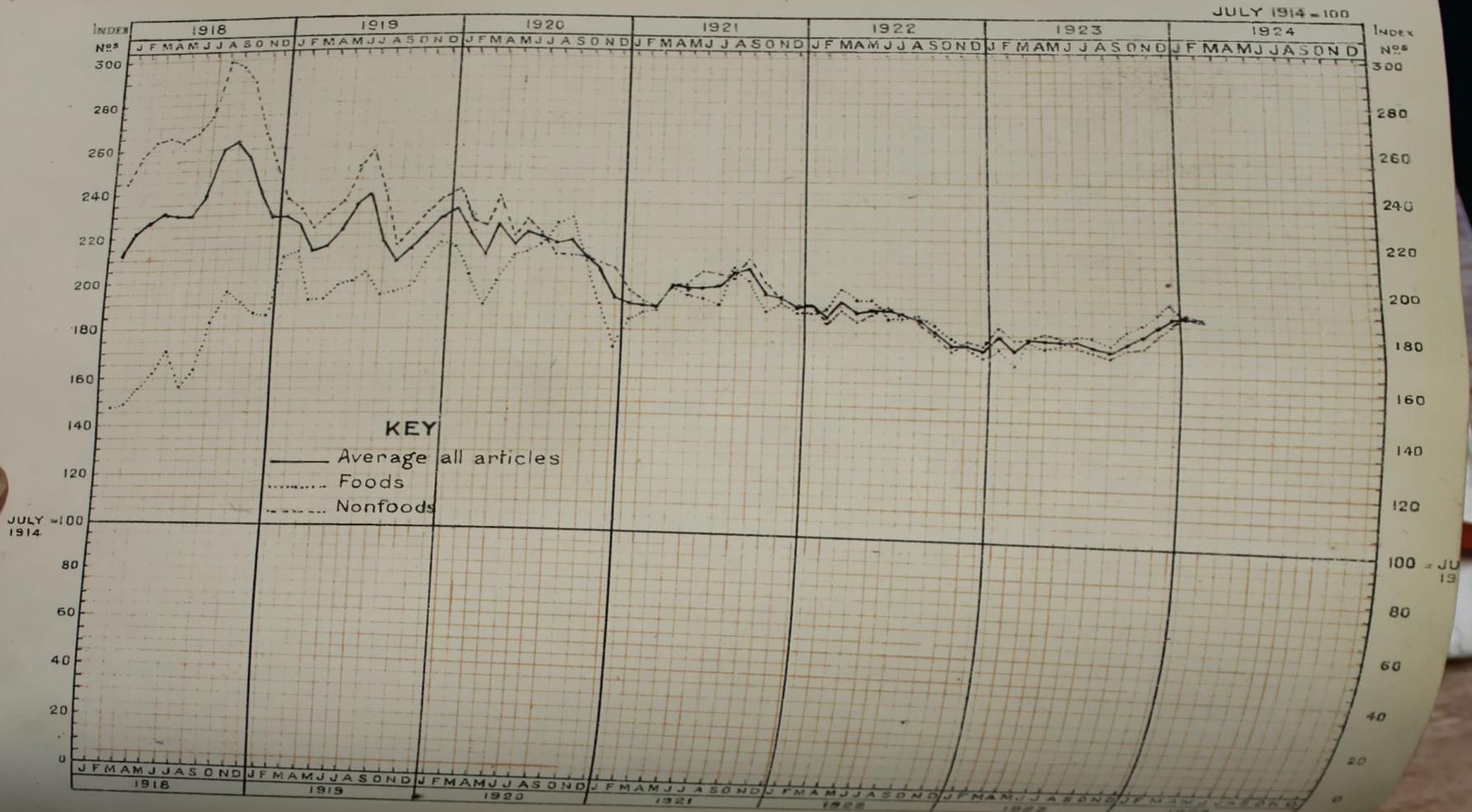
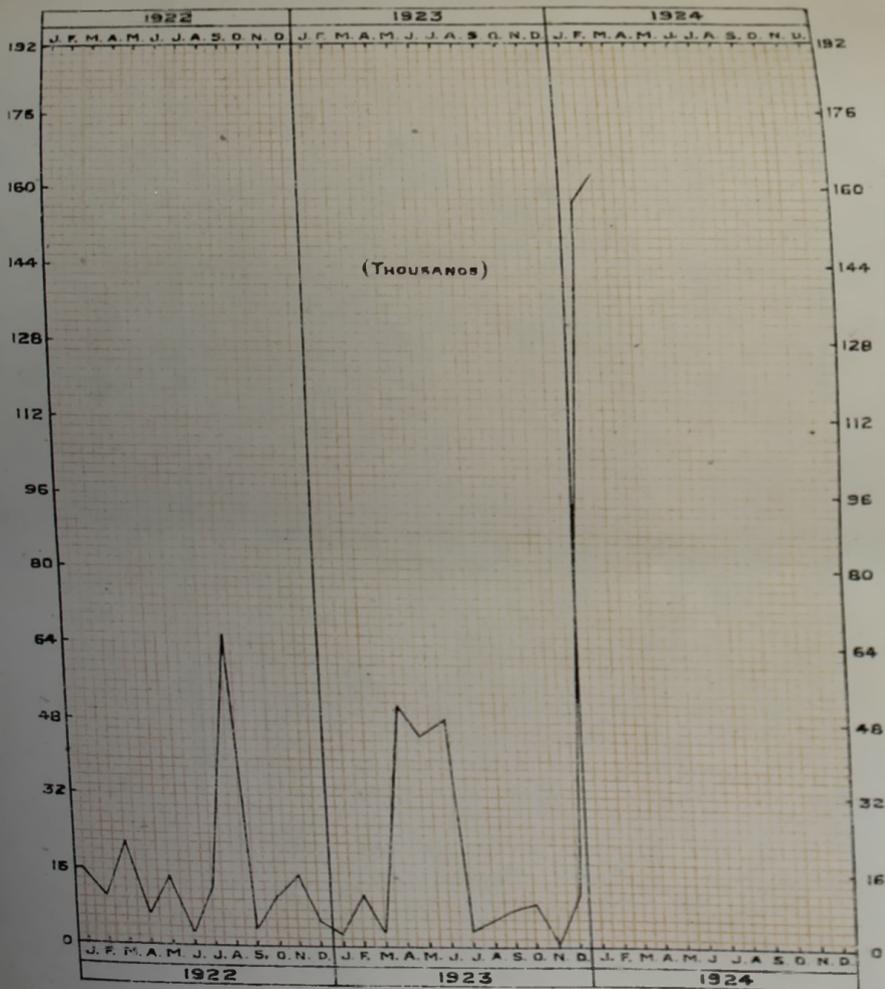


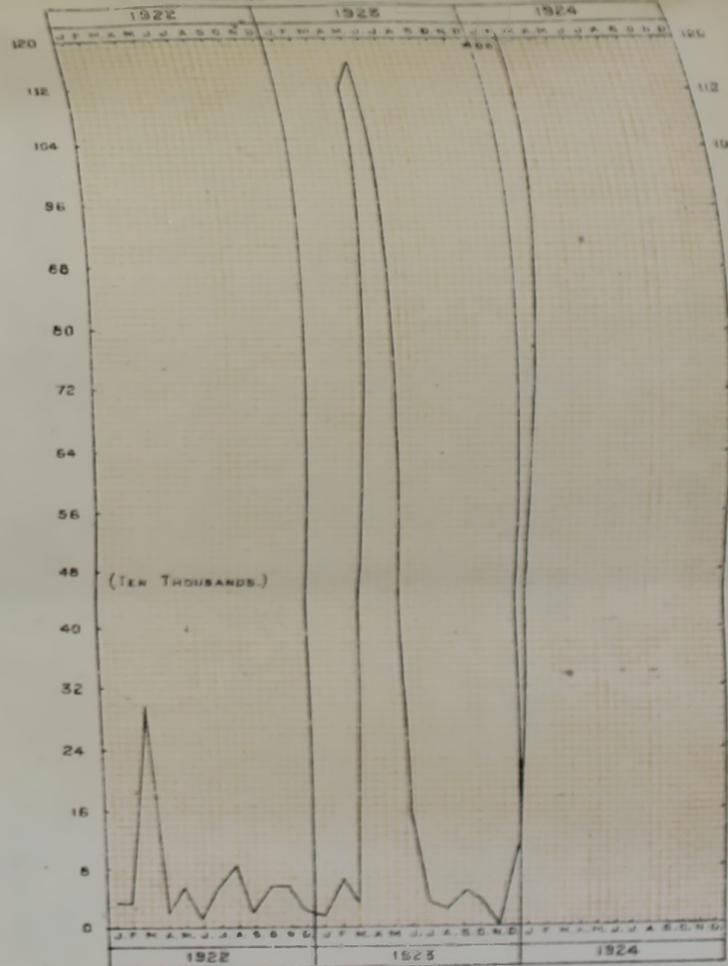
CHART No. 11.

NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED



NOTE - EACH SQUARE ABOVE = 2000.

NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST



- NOTE - (1) THE SMALL NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN JUNE 1922 IS DUE TO THE SHORT DURATION OF STRIKES
 (2) THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST IN APRIL 1923 IS DUE TO THE BIG GENERAL STRIKE IN AHMEDABAD COTTON MILLS.
 (3) THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST (40,53,000) IN FEBRUARY 1924 IS DUE TO THE GENERAL STRIKE IN BOMBAY COTTON MILLS
 (4) EACH SQUARE ABOVE = 10,000