

## 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 commences; 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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# Labour Gazette

Published monthly by the Labour Office, Government of Bombay

The "Labour Gazette" is a Journal for the use of all interested in obtaining prompt and accurate information on matters specially affecting labour.

VOL. III]

BOMBAY, JUNE, 1924

[No. 10

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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

**I**N BOMBAY CITY AND ISLAND the supply of labour was generally plentiful. The statistics regarding employment for the month ended 12th June 1924, showed an average absenteeism of 12 per cent, as compared with 14·7 per cent, in the month ended 12th May. Absenteeism was reported to be highest in spinning departments and lowest in weaving departments during the month under review.

In AHMEDABAD, the supply of labour was reported to be plentiful during the month under review except in two cases. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been received from representative mills in this centre. These reports showed an average absenteeism of 4·8 per cent, during the month as compared with 4·1 per cent, last month.

In SURAT, the supply of labour was adequate and absenteeism showed a slight improvement in the month under review. The average absenteeism was 14·8 per cent, in the present month as compared with 15·0 per cent, last month and 15·3 per cent, two months ago.

In BROACH, there was an improvement in the attendance of operatives, the figures being 7·6 per cent, in the present month as compared with 12·8 last month, and 10·2 two months ago.

### 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 16·99 per cent, in the month under review as compared with 14·3 per cent, last month and 16·22 per cent, two months ago.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism was 3·73 per cent, as compared with 4·12 per cent, in the preceding month and 4·5 per cent, two months ago. On the constructions of *chawls* (tenements) at Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Sewer absenteeism remained on the level of last two months, 4 per cent. On the construction of *chawls* at Work, there was no change in the average absenteeism which was 8 per cent, in the month under review as well as in the last two months. The supply of

unskilled labour employed for loading, removing, stowing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was plentiful. The percentage of absenteeism was 23·4 in the month under review, as compared with 24 in the preceding month and 19·6 two months ago. The increase was due to the seasonal exodus of labourers to their villages for agricultural purposes during the monsoon. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply of labour was plentiful and an improvement in absenteeism was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism was 10·39 as compared with 11·21 last month and 12·21 two months ago.

In KARACHI, the supply of all types of labour was greater than the demand. The average absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshops of the Karachi Port Trust recorded a slight improvement in the month under review, the figure being 9·3 per cent, as compared with 10 per cent, in the preceding month and 7·8 per cent, two months ago.

### COST OF LIVING

In May 1924, the cost of living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was the same as in 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 130 for all articles and 143 for food articles only. There was a fall of more than 3 per cent, as compared with this time last year and a fall of 22 per cent, from the high water mark (October 1920) in the general cost of living index. There was a fall in the prices of rice, sugar, salt and onions and a rise in those of potatoes, turdal and kerosene oil.

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

THE WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

In May 1924 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 181, as compared with 184 in the previous month, showing a fall of nearly 2 per cent. There was a rise of 2 per cent. in the prices of food and a fall of 3 per cent. in those of non-food articles. The index number for food grains only was 117 as compared with 114 during the previous month. The general index of all the articles in a mean of the price relatives of all the articles included in the index and is obtained by dividing the sum of the index numbers by the number of articles for which quotations are available and not by finding the mean of the general indexes for food and non-food articles. The fluctuations in the prices of foods, non-foods and all articles will be seen in the following table:—

—	No. of items	Increase per cent. over July 1914				
		January 1924	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924
Food	11	30	37	45	52	51
Non-food	25	30	30	30	32	37
All articles	36	30	33	37	42	44

SECURITIES INDEX NUMBER

In May 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities was 138 showing a fall of more than one per cent. as compared with the previous month. Industrial Securities also registered a fall of 2 points owing to a fall of 9 points in cotton mill shares. Railway stock and the shares of Electric Undertakings and Cement and Mangnese Companies registered a rise of nearly 6 per cent. in May. Miscellaneous shares stand at 5 points above the prewar level. Government and Corporation Securities and Bank shares remained stationary during the month.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were two industrial disputes in progress during May 1924 as compared with four in the preceding month. Both these disputes began in the month and the number of work-people involved was 250 as compared with 568 in the preceding month and 44,894 in May 1923. The aggregate duration of all disputes during May 1924 was about 390 working days as compared with 2,717 in April 1924 and 1,169,930 in May 1923.

COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

Cotton mill production in April 1924, as compared with the corresponding period of the two preceding years, is shown in the following table.

The production of yarn in Bombay was less as compared with the two preceding years while that of woven goods remained on the level of the last year. In Ahmedabad the production of both yarn and woven goods recorded a slight increase as compared with April 1922. The small amount of production in April 1923 was due to the general strike in the cotton mills in this centre.

Month of April

—	Millions of Rs. of yarn spun			Millions of Rs. of woven goods produced		
	April			April		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay total	27	26	20	16	15	15
Ahmedabad	7	1	3	7	4	3
Other centres	5	5	4	2	3	1
Total, Province	39	32	27	25	22	19

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

—	Net rate per lb. in annum		
	May 1923	April 1924	May 1924
Langkesh	—	204	224
T. Chols	—	19	214
Chaudhri	—	19	201

THE OUTLOOK

The index number of wholesale prices declined by nearly 2 per cent. in May, owing to a noticeable fall in the price of silk, reaching the level of January of last year. Food grains are now only 17 points above the prewar level. This is an average of rice, wheat, jowari, barley, bajri, gram and tural. The general average of foods is 71 per cent. above the prewar level, mainly owing to the high prices of sugar, turmeric and ghee. The average of non-foods is 87 per cent. above the basic period, raw cotton being 138 per cent. above prewar. Security prices are still decreasing due to a fall in the quotations of cotton mill shares and miscellaneous shares. Fixed interest bearing securities, on the other hand, are rising steadily. The Bank rate decreased from 8 per cent. to 7 per cent. on 29th May and to 6 per cent. on 19th June. The rate of exchange in Bombay on London on the 2nd June was 1s. 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. as against 1s. 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d. on the 1st of May. India's foreign trade in May showed a slight decline in exports as compared with the previous month.

The monsoon has broken but rainfall has not been general all over the country. The prospects for a satisfactory monsoon, however, are good. According to a report issued by the Director General of Observatories, Simla, on 6th June 1924 there will probably be some delay in the establishment of the Arabian Sea monsoon, particularly in north-west India. In the rainfall of the Peninsula an excess may be expected. The indications for north-west India are conflicting, but in spite of heavy snowfall the rains there are likely to be normal or in

access. As the monsoon is a vital factor in the trade of India, the outlook may be said to be normal. In Bombay, a seasonal slackening in business is noticeable both as regards the major industry, the cotton mill industry, and business generally. In Ahmedabad, it is reported that one mill will shortly close down owing to financial difficulties. A decline in business in the cotton mill industry took place during May as compared with the preceding month.

In Great Britain, the general conditions are unchanged and there are no signs of any noteworthy setback. Markets are generally quiet and conditions are uncertain as a result of conditions—both economic and political—on the Continent. The output of pig iron and steel in March was, however, the highest for nine months.

In the United States, according to cable information received by the American Trade Commissioner, Calcutta, production of steel, automobiles, textiles, coal and lumber continues to slacken. Prices are generally downward and wages are gradually lowering. The demand for money is slight.

LABOUR LEGISLATION

On pages 19-20 of this issue is published a Bill to provide for iryrenqu into and settlement of trade disputes which will come before the Legislative Council at its next meeting. The Bill, which is the first of its kind in India, follows, in the main, the Industrial Courts Act of 1919 of Great Britain. Spare copies of the Bill may be obtained on application to the Labour Office.

The Bill to provide for the collection of statistical information for public purposes, published in the May issue of the *Labour Gazette*, has received the formal sanction of the Governor General.

THE BALANCE OF TRADE

During May 1924, the visible balance of trade including securities in favour of India amounted to Rs. 250 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1923 was a favourable balance of Rs. 727 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below:—

—	In lakhs of rupees.					
	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924
	Exports (speciate merchandise)	36,94	36,75	35,64	41,35	30,19
Imports do.	15,42	22,61	18,19	18,31	20,27	20,60
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 15,52	+ 14,34	+ 17,45	+ 22,04	+ 10,42	+ 8,65
Balance of transactions in treasure (private)	- 57	- 4,55	- 4,56	- 4,05	- 5,56	- 4,99
Visible balance of trade including securities	+ 12,27	+ 9,82	+ 12,89	+ 17,92	+ 4,86	+ 3,66

Bombay

—	In lakhs of rupees.					
	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924
	Exports (speciate merchandise)	6,81	15,96	15,76	15,36	11,50
Imports do.	6,12	8,85	7,06	7,78	7,57	7,91
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 2,69	+ 7,11	+ 8,70	+ 7,58	+ 4,50	+ 61
Imports of treasure	2,00	4,13	4,24	3,82	3,06	3,00
Exports of treasure	1,50	—	—	3	4	40
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 50	- 4,13	- 4,24	- 3,79	- 3,02	- 4,00

Karachi

—	In lakhs of rupees.					
	December 1923	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924
	Exports (speciate merchandise)	2,85	4,57	5,80	5,64	2,30
Imports do.	1,12	1,90	1,44	1,69	1,97	2,09
Balance of Trade in merchandise	+ 1,73	+ 2,67	+ 4,36	+ 3,95	+ 41	+ 2,19
Imports of treasure	3	9	6	10	10	—
Exports of treasure	—	—	—	—	—	—
Balance of transactions in treasure	- 3	- 9	- 6	- 10	- 10	—

NOTE.—Plus (+) signifies net exports and minus (-) signifies net imports.

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

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

Month	Year	Rate
July	1923	1 1/2
August	1923	1 1/2
September	1923	1 1/2
October	1923	1 1/2
November	1923	1 1/2
December	1923	1 1/2
January	1924	1 1/2
February	1924	1 1/2
March	1924	1 1/2
April	1924	1 1/2
May	1924	1 1/2
June	1924	1 1/2

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 24th June exchange on London was s. 1 d. 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>.



In the four weeks of May 1924, the Bank clearings in Bombay and Karachi remained on the level of the preceding month, while the clearings in Calcutta and Rangoon recorded a fall of Rs. 3 crores. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees*				
	March 1924	April 1924	May (a) 1924	Total January to April 1924
Bombay	60	48	48	265
Karachi	3	3	3	17
Calcutta	82	65	62	337
Rangoon	10	10	7	48
Total (four parts)	155	126	120	667

\* 1 Crore = 10 millions or 100 lakhs. (a) Total of four weeks.

The percentage of gold and silver in the Paper Currency Reserve for the whole of India at the close of the month of May 1924 was 56.72 as against 55.04 in April and 55.06 in March 1924.

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

June 1923	Rs. 1,042	December 1923	Rs. 1,005
July "	1,123	January 1924	924
August "	1,007	February "	908
September "	995	March "	896
October "	983	April "	881
November "	998	May "	841

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

### Workmen's Compensation Act.

#### APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

On page 26 of the May issue of the *Labour Gazette* a reference was made to the appointment of Commissioners under the above Act. The Government notification concerning these appointments is republished below for information.

No. 4486.—Under section 20 (1) of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to appoint Mr. N. M. Patwardhan, B.A., LL.B., Barrister-at-Law, to be the Commissioner for Workmen's Compensation on probation for one year, for Bombay, Bombay Suburban District, and the districts of Ahmedabad, Broach, Surat, Sholapur and Khandesh,

and to appoint the following officers as ex-officio Commissioners under the Act:—

(a) Judges of the Small Causes Courts at District Head-quarters—for Karachi and Poona Districts.

(b) First Class Subordinate Judge at Nadiad—for Kaira District.

(c) Second Class Subordinate Judges of the Local Courts—for Hubli and Gadag.

(d) Second Class Subordinate Judges at District Head-quarters—for Districts of Panch Mahals, Kolaba, Larkana, Thar and Parkar and Upper Sind Frontier.

(e) Second Class Subordinate Judge at Naushahro—for Nawabshah District.

(f) First Class Subordinate Judges at District Head-quarters—for other districts.

The Director of the Labour Office, Mr. G. Findlay Shirras, I.E.S., M.L.C., proceeds on leave after the Legislative Council Session. Mr. L. J. Sedgwick, I.C.S., who was Provincial Superintendent of Census, Bombay, at the 1921 Census and now Collector and District Magistrate of Nawabshah will officiate as Director in his absence. Mr. Findlay Shirras is granted one year's leave of which four months are study leave. The study leave will be spent at the Ministry of Labour and the Board of Trade, London, and at the International Labour Office, Geneva.

### Employment of Children in Persia

Important reforms in respect of labour legislation have been introduced in Persia. The Persian Government has informed the International Labour Office that in accordance with a decision of Government, the Governor of the Province of Kerman has issued a Decree dated 17th December 1923 which confirms, and in some respects extends, measures previously applied for the protection of women and children employed in the carpet weaving industry. The measures originally taken were adopted as a consequence of friendly representations made to the Persian Government by the International Labour Office.

The new decree provides for a maximum working day of eight hours, a minimum age of eight years for boys and ten for girls, separate workplaces for boys and for girls with forewomen to supervise those for girls, prohibition of the employment of workers suffering from contagious disease, prohibition of underground or damp workshops, the provision of windows facing south, disposition of the weaving frame and worker's seat so as to give the best possible working position for the young worker, and monthly sanitary inspection of workshops. The police authorities are instructed to enforce these requirements, any infringement of which is punishable by a fine or imprisonment for a period not exceeding twenty days.



## The Cost of Living Index for May 1924

### Stationary prices

All articles .. 50 per cent.

Food only .. 43 per cent.

In May 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 the same as in the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was 150 in April and May 1924. The general index is 22 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 9 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922 and 3 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1923. The index has now reached a level approximating to that of July 1918.

The retail food index remained stationary during the month. There was a decline of one point in the cereals group owing to a fall in the price of rice. Turdal showed a rise of one point as compared with the price of the previous month. In 'other food articles' there was a fall of 23 points in sugar, 40 points in onions, and 28 points in salt. There was on the other hand a seasonal rise of 26 points in potatoes. The price of kerosene oil is rising gradually. The clothing group registered a fall of 3 points during the month.

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

—	1918		1919		1920		1921		1922		1923		1924	
	Per cent.													
January	34	82	83	69	73	56	58							
February	34	76	81	62	65	55	56							
March	36	72	77	60	65	54	53							
April	44	67	72	60	62	55	50							
May	47	68	73	67	63	53	50							
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 April and May 1924 as compared with that for July 1914, which is taken as 100. The levels are calculated from the prices of articles per standard (or railway) maund or seer on page 8.

Articles.	July 1914.	April 1924.	May 1924.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in May 1924 over or below April 1924
Rice	100	125	123	- 2
Wheat	100	111	111	....
Jowari	100	131	131	....
Bajri	100	114	114	....
Gram	100	112	112	....
Turdal	100	112	113	+ 1
Sugar (refined)	100	273	250	- 23
Sugar (raw)	100	153	153	....
Tea	100	202	203	+ 1
Salt	100	182	154	- 28
Beef	100	158	158	....
Mutton	100	215	205	- 10
Milk	100	191	191	....
Ghee	100	193	196	+ 3
Potatoes	100	133	159	+ 26
Onions	100	270	230	- 40
Cocoanut oil	100	115	113	- 2
All food articles (weighted average)	100	143	143	....

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 Great Britain

Mr. Snowden, replying to Mr. Penny (Kingston-on-Thames, U.), said it was estimated that a reduction in the retail prices of the commodities affected, fully equivalent to the reductions in duties, would, if the prices of other commodities remained unchanged, entail a reduction in the Ministry of Labour cost-of-living figure by between 3 and 3½ points. He did not think any useful estimate could be made at this stage of the resulting effect upon the revision of the Civil Service cost-of-living bonus in September next.

LABOUR GAZETTE  
Bombay Cost of Living Index



Article	Unit	Annual Expenditure (Rs.)	Total Expenditure			
			July 1914	April 1924	May 1924	Weighted Average
Food and Average-Cereals	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food and Average-Pulses	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food and Average-Other food articles	...	...	...	...	...	...
Food and Average-All food articles	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fuel and lighting-Cumulative	...	...	...	...	...	...
Fuel and lighting-Fuel and lighting	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clothing-Clothing	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clothing-Shirts	...	...	...	...	...	...
Clothing-T. Cloth	...	...	...	...	...	...
House-rent	Per month	10	11'302	18'700	18'700	113'02
Grand Total and General Average	...	100	150	150	1,251'07	1,871'46

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 May 1924 at May price levels was Rs. 1,871'96 i.e., an increase of 50 per cent. (Rs. 1,251'07 = 100; Rs. 1,871'96 = 150).

LABOUR GAZETTE  
Bombay Cost of Living Index



B

Alternative method of presentation.

Article	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914	Index Number (July 1914 = 100)		Weight × Index Number	
		April 1924	May 1924	April 1924	May 1924
...	31.4	125	125	3,925.0	3,925.0
...	9.4	111	111	1,044.6	1,044.6
...	3.5	114	114	399.0	399.0
...	2.1	112	112	235.2	235.2
Total and Average Index No.	46.7	122	121	5,703.8	5,643.8
...	3.1	112	112	347.2	347.2
...	1.3	112	112	145.6	145.6
Total and Average Index No.	4.4	112	112	492.8	492.8
...	1.2	223	226	267.6	284.8
...	4.2	133	133	558.6	558.6
...	0.1	202	202	20.2	20.2
...	0.9	182	184	163.8	163.8
...	0.7	138	138	96.6	96.6
...	1.1	213	213	234.3	234.3
...	10.3	191	196	1,957.3	2,019.6
...	6.1	191	196	1,155.1	1,197.6
...	4.0	133	133	531.6	531.6
...	4.0	120	111	480.0	441.0
...	1.0	113	113	113.0	113.0
Total and Average Index No.	30.6	180	181	5,492.7	5,531.3
...	1.8	106	122	190.8	219.6
...	3.0	107	107	321.0	321.0
...	0.1	107	107	10.7	10.7
Total and Average Index No.	4.9	104	106	501.5	512.3
...	1.3	218	216	283.4	284.8
...	1.3	240	247	312.0	330.1
...	1.7	241	238	409.2	387.6
Total and Average Index No.	4.3	240	237	998.1	976.5
House-rent	9.1	163	163	1,501.3	1,501.3
Grand total of weights	100				
General Average of Cost of Living Index (July 1914 = 100)	...	150	150	14,992.2	14,990.8



### Wholesale Prices in Bombay

A FALL OF 3 POINTS

In May 1924, the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 81 per cent. above the level in July 1914 as against 84 per cent. in the previous month, thus showing a fall of nearly 2 per cent. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have risen by nearly one per cent., the general index being the same as the twelve-monthly average of 1923. The general index has fallen by 31 per cent. from the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and stands at the same level as in January of last year.

The index number for food articles stands at 71 points above the pre-war level which shows a rise of more than 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month. The general index for food grains was 117 in May and 114 during the previous month, thus showing a rise of nearly 3 per cent. This is due to a general rise in the prices of all the cereals included in the index and gram. There was a fall of more than 2 per cent. in the sugar group.

In comparison with the previous month, the non-food index showed a fall of more than 2 per cent. owing chiefly to a fall of 17 per cent. in the price of silk. Metals registered a fall of one per cent. and other raw and manufactured articles of 2 per cent. The prices of raw cotton remained stationary during the month.

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 May 1924 as compared with	
		the preceding month (April 1924)	the corresponding month of last year (May 1923)
1. Cereals .. ..	7	+ 2	+ 1
2. Pulses .. ..	2	+ 5	....
3. Sugar .. ..	3	- 2	....
4. Other food .. ..	3	+ 5	- 15
Total, food .. ..	15	+ 2	+ 3
5. Oilseeds .. ..	4	+ 3	....
6. Raw cotton .. ..	4	....	+ 26
7. Cotton manufactures .. ..	6	....	+ 9
8. Other textiles .. ..	2	- 17	- 2
9. Hides and skins .. ..	3	+ 2	- 7
10. Metals .. ..	5	- 1	- 9
11. Other raw and manufactured articles .. ..	4	- 2	- 3
Total, non-food .. ..	28	- 3	+ 3
General average .. ..	43	- 2	+ 1

\* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on pages 34-36.

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

100 = average of 1923

Groups.	May 1923	Aug. 1923	Nov. 1923	Feb. 1924	Apr. 1924	May 1924
I. Cereals .. ..	99	96	100	100	98	100
II. Pulses .. ..	97	93	99	97	92	97
III. Sugar .. ..	111	90	102	105	97	95
IV. Other food .. ..	88	107	114	108	87	91
Total, food .. ..	98	98	106	104	93	96
V. Oilseeds .. ..	93	98	103	102	95	98
VI. Raw cotton .. ..	92	94	135	111	115	115
VII. Cotton manufactures .. ..	99	95	107	106	108	107
VIII. Other textiles .. ..	101	101	97	90	119	99
IX. Hides and skins .. ..	108	93	108	106	98	100
X. Metals .. ..	102	98	96	96	93	92
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles .. ..	102	99	94	95	101	98
Total, non-food .. ..	100	97	102	103	105	103
General average—all articles .. ..	99	97	103	104	102	100

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

#### The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles.	Index Nos.	July 1914.		May 1924.	
			Total Numbers.	Average.	Total Numbers.	Average.
1	Cereals (Rice, wheat, jowari, barley and bajri).	7	700	877	125	
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal).	2	200	175	88	
3	Sugar (Refined and raw).	3	300	636	212	
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3	300	878	293	
5	Total, all food .. ..	15	1,500	2,566	171	
6	Oilseeds (Linseed, rapeseed, poppyseed and gingelly)	4	400	523	131	
7	Raw cotton .. ..	3	300	774	258	
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chudders, etc.)	6	600	1,414	236	
9	Other textiles (Silk)	2	200	381	191	
10	Hides and skins .. ..	3	300	446	149	
11	Metals (Copper braziers, steel bars, tinplates, etc.)	5	500	841	168	
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (kerosene and coal)	4	400	663	166	
13	Total, non-food .. ..	27	2,700	5,042	187	
14	General Average .. ..	42	4,200	7,608	181	



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
Five-monthly .. ..	176	189	184

#### Comparative Retail Prices

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

Bombay prices in April 1924 = 100.

Articles.	Bombay.	Karachi.	Ahmedabad.	Sholapur.	Poona.
Cereals—					
Rice .. ..	100	102	127	109	127
Wheat .. ..	100	77	99	96	102
Jowari .. ..	100	66	62	79	84
Bajri .. ..	100	86	102	85	103
Average—Cereals .. ..	100	83	98	92	104
Pulses—					
Gram .. ..	100	75	118	85	84
Turdal .. ..	100	101	102	106	136
Average—Pulses .. ..	100	88	110	96	110
Other articles of food—					
Sugar (refined) .. ..	100	94	102	106	105
Jagri (Gul) .. ..	100	82	102	76	64
Tea .. ..	100	88	132	113	104
Salt .. ..	100	65	59	97	97
Beef .. ..	100	123	74	74	74
Mutton .. ..	100	84	84	70	77
Milk .. ..	100	43	57	76	91
Ghee .. ..	100	79	81	81	76
Potatoes .. ..	100	94	100	134	68
Onions .. ..	100	77	83	120	41
Cocconut oil .. ..	100	105	122	115	115
Average—Other articles of food .. ..	100	85	91	97	83
Average—All food articles .. ..	100	85	93	95	91

On page 38 will be found statistics of food prices in April and May 1924 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.

#### Securities Index Number

A FALL OF TWO POINTS

In May 1924 the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities taken in the Labour Office Securities Index Number was 138 as compared with 140 during the previous month, which shows a fall of more than one per cent. Government and Corporation Securities and Bank shares remained stationary. The noticeable feature during the month was a fall of 9 points in cotton mill shares as a result of which Industrials showed a fall of 2 points although Railway Stock and the shares of Electric Undertakings increased by nearly 6 per cent. Cement and Manganese shares which fell in value from September of last year to April showed a rise of nearly 6 per cent. in May. Miscellaneous Companies now stand only 5 points higher than the pre-war level. It is interesting to note that the only securities which show stability



the Government and Co-operation Societies and Bank shares. An examination of the table on page 42 will show that Government and Co-operation Societies are improving since January but that Industrials are gradually falling in value.

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

The Construction of the Index

No.	Description	Index No.	1923		
			Jan	July	1924
1	Government and Co-operation Societies	1	100	100	100
2	Bank	2	100	100	100
3	Industrial Companies	3	100	100	100
4	Cotton Mills	4	100	100	100
5	Other Companies and Firms	5	100	100	100
6	Government and Co-operation Societies	6	100	100	100
7	Bank	7	100	100	100
8	Industrial Companies	8	100	100	100
9	Cotton Mills	9	100	100	100
10	Other Companies and Firms	10	100	100	100

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

Group	Annual Movement			
	1923	1924	1925	1926
Government and Co-operation Societies	100	100	100	100
Bank	100	100	100	100
Industrial Companies	100	100	100	100
Cotton Mills	100	100	100	100
Other Companies and Firms	100	100	100	100

Cost of Living Index for Ahmedabad

It is proposed shortly to publish a cost of living index for Ahmedabad similar to that which has been published recently for Bombay. The articles for which prices are at present collected by the Investigative of the Labour Office are those articles used by working class people in the following areas—

- (1) Navapur
- (2) Kalyani
- (3) Navrangpur, and
- (4) Ahmedabad bazaar.

The articles include rice, wheat, bajra, gram, tur dal, sugar, oil, tea, salt, ghee, sesamum oil, potatoes and onions; mustard and dhotis; firewood and kerosene oil; house rent. It will be seen, therefore, that there are no groups for food, fuel and lighting, clothing and sex groups for food, fuel and lighting, clothing and sex statistics are based on the rents collected by him. The articles will be weighted according to the results obtained from family budgets which have been collected during the past year. It is important to know how much is the proportional expenditure on each of the articles mentioned above. The base period will be as in the case of the Bombay Index—July 1914.

Seamen's Recruitment

Mr. Charles James, replying to Mr. K. Ahmed's question regarding the cause of the delay in giving effect to the recommendations of the Seamen's Recruitment Committee, said that the delay was due to the fact that references have had to be made to the Governments of Bombay and Bengal on the subject. The recommendations of the Seamen's Recruitment Committee involve changes of a far-reaching character and require very careful consideration in consultation with Local Governments. The Government of India are at present awaiting the reply to a reference made to the Government of Bengal in March last.

Wage Census in the Cotton Mill Industry August 1923

The Committee of the Bombay Millowners' Association have appointed an Expert Sub-Committee to assist the Labour Office in connection with technical and other matters relating to the Enquiry held into the Wages and Hours of Labour in the Cotton Mill Industry in August 1923. The following gentlemen are members of this Sub-Committee—

- Mr. S. D. Sakdaval of Moses, Tam Sons Ltd., and Chairman, Bombay Millowners' Association.
- Mr. F. Stokes, O.B.E., of Moses, E. D. Sassoon, United Mills, Ltd.
- Mr. T. Wain of Moses, Currimbhoy Elrabim & Sons Ltd., and Mr. T. Maloney, Secretary of the Bombay Millowners' Association.



Wages in Agriculture in the Bombay Presidency

In criticising the Report on an Enquiry into Agricultural Wages in the Bombay Presidency, the *Times of India* in its leading article of the 26th June 1924 wrote as follows:—"The facts disclosed are interesting in themselves and of considerable value economically if correct, but we must confess that before we can accept them as absolutely accurate we should like a little more information as to the method of collection and the correctness of the figures. Thus it must be obvious that those for 1920 cannot have been specially collected for the purposes of this inquiry, but must have been drawn from past records; how far then can this accuracy be guaranteed, especially with regard to the differentiation between the two classes of field and ordinary labour? It is clear that it must be difficult in any case to distinguish between these two classes, and in 1920 the difference in their daily wages, we are told, was only 6 paise per day; again, there are many sub-classes of this so-called 'ordinary labour'; have figures been collected for all the sub-classes separately and an average struck or have lump figures been compiled for 'ordinary labour' as a class without differentiation? In the latter case they will hardly be worth much. The same question might be asked with regard to 'skilled labour'. Here again there are many subdivisions and it is hardly possible that the same rates of wages can prevail all through the several classes; indeed, several of the subdivisions, such as the leather-workers for example, can hardly be said to be 'wage-earners' at all, as they are independent men who buy skins and make them into leather which they sell wholesale. Has care been taken to distinguish between these various sub-classes and have statistics been collected for all of them? In short, we should like a little more information as to the foundation for the conclusions drawn. Nothing is easier than to draw graphs and compile statistical statements, but unless the basis is secure they are comparatively worthless and merely illustrate once more the positive, comparative and superlative of the aphorism, the last factor of which is 'statistics'."

Method of the Collection of Information

In connection with the question regarding the method of collection and the correctness of the figures, paragraph 8 of the Report states:—"After the monthly statistics were collected, the first step was to scrutinise and then to tabulate the figures month by month and year by year. These were compared with figures in neighbouring districts in the same homogeneous circle, and no statistics were allowed to pass without fullest investigation. These statistics are collected by an experienced clerk in the office of the Mamdar or the Chief Revenue Administration Officer of each Taluka in the Presidency."

\* 1924. Superintending Government Printing and Stationery Press, Bombay Presidency.

and forwarded to the office of the Director of Agriculture. The latter examines the figures furnished by the various talukas and calls for explanations in cases where the figures supplied do not appear to be correct. The Director of Agriculture has two permanent Inspectors who continually tour throughout the Presidency to verify the quotations returned by the Mamdars.

Classification of Workers

Most hand labour outside the labour specifically employed in industry and commerce may conveniently be divided into three main classes, viz., (1) field labour, (2) ordinary labour, and (3) skilled labour. Field labour includes all workers who are engaged in agricultural pursuits and are actually employed on wages in occupations such as ploughing, sowing, transplanting, weeding, and reaping. These occupations vary according to the season and a field labourer ordinarily does all this class of work at different times of the year. Ordinary labour comprises that large reserve of general labourers from which labour is drawn for the ordinary coolie work on roads and railways, for employment in harbours and dockyards, for canal cutting and building construction, for the lower strata of domestic service and for all the work which demands either a little more intelligence or more strenuous exertion than the work done by a field labourer. This class of labour, outside centres and towns of commercial and industrial importance such as Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad and Poona, can be engaged at rates which are fairly level for one particular centre during any particular month or year. In agriculture the 'ordinary labourer' is engaged on earth-work and embanking, canal silt clearing, well digging and for doing all that miscellaneous work for which a higher rate of wage than that paid to the general field labourer is given. The term 'skilled labour' in cities such as Bombay and Ahmedabad includes the well paid artisan who works as a pattern maker or a tool maker. Ordinarily, the term 'skilled labour' in agricultural areas comprises second class carpenters, blacksmiths, masons and moolas or leather workers—not the master craftsmen who work on their own material but those chiefly agricultural artisans who do work for daily wages at making or repairing a bullock cart, forging or sharpening a ploughshare, building the wall of a well or repairing the leather bags used in artificial irrigation. These three classes of agricultural labourers have existed in all provinces in India from time immemorial. There is no necessity in agricultural wages as in the case of industrial wage statistics of further subdividing them three main classes except as regards a subdivision into men and women workers.

Method of recording the data

The wages paid to these three different classes of labourers have been recorded month by month, for the 1st and the 15th days of every month, for each of the 190 talukas towns in the Presidency proper and for the 61 talukas towns in Sind from the year 1900 to the present day. The information is collected in a form which is known as Taluka form No. XVIII and the figures contained in the monthly returns have been recorded in special registers kept for this purpose. A history of this form has been given in the Report in Appendix A.

Care taken to ensure accuracy

The figures given for the wages paid in each of the talukas originally selected were compared with the figures shown for the wages paid in adjoining talukas. Local conditions were examined for each year from the Land Revenue Administration Reports, Settlement Reports, Factory Reports and Season and Crop Reports in order to ascertain the effects of famines and the demands made on the local labour markets on account of building operations, railway construction, etc. Thus all doubtful figures were carefully looked into and faulty figures were rectified if necessary, but only after a searching enquiry had been made. Rough charts were prepared to show the increases in wages for each class of labour in the headquarters town and in one or two rural towns in each district of the Presidency. These rough charts were forwarded with observations on the figures which appeared to be faulty to all Collectors of Districts and opinions were invited as to the choice of the rural taluka town to be selected for inclusion in the final tabulations. It will be seen, therefore, that every possible care was taken not only to procure full and complete statistics but also to procure correct statistics.

Examination of the data

The figures for 1900 were collected in the same way and in the same form as the figures for the year 1922 or 1923. In the majority of cases the wages shown for ordinary labourers in a particular centre in any one year were higher than the wages of field labourers in the same centre for the same year. In cases where this was not so the fullest enquiries were made into local conditions at the time to ascertain the reasons for this. For instance, it was found that in one district the field labourer earned one anna more than the ordinary labourer. The reason for this was a considerably increased demand for harvesting due to bumper crops in the district. Although field labour and ordinary labour may overlap each other in certain functions, these are two distinct types of labour which cannot, under any circumstances, be mixed up together.

Ordinary Labourers

If reference is made to paragraph 16 of the Report it will be seen that the occupations classified as 'ordinary

labour' for the purpose of ascertaining changes in numbers as between 1911 and 1921 included wood cutters, be collectors, dock workers, porters and messengers, etc. It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to enumerate the exact number of 'ordinary labourers' engaged in pure agriculture and in the sense in which this term is used in the Report, but it is fairly clear as to what the ordinary labourer does in agriculture and as to what he does in the market where the demand for his labour is the greatest and where the wages offered are the best. The figures given as the wages for 'ordinary labour' are the wages paid in the reporting centre to men of the coolie type engaged in general agricultural work and do not represent the wages paid to the different classes of ordinary labourers included in the report for purposes of enumerating their number. The information for the wages paid to general labourers in towns has been collected by the Labour Office from different municipalities in the Presidency and the results of this enquiry are to be published shortly.

Skilled Labourers

With regard to skilled labour, it has already been stated that the wages shown for skilled labourers are the rates paid for a day's work to village artisans. In urban areas the rates represent the wages earned by artisans who do not necessarily confine themselves to hiring themselves only for agricultural work but who also sell their labour at daily wages for general town work as well. It has not been necessary to take into consideration the earnings of the master craftsman who buys their own raw products and sell the produce of their industry at their own prices because it would be absolutely impossible to ascertain the earnings of such artisans. It should always be borne in mind that in any enquiry into earnings the information collected is for the remuneration paid for a given piece of work—job work—and not for the profits earned by a manufacturer big or small such as a master craftsman. The rates are cash daily rates for casual labour.

The improvement of the form in which wage statistics in agriculture are shown for talukas is now under the consideration of Government. The statistics for the year 1923 will be summarised in a subsequent issue of the Labour Gazette.

Labour Disputes in Great Britain

During the first three months of 1924, the stoppages of work owing to trade disputes have involved approximately 288,000 workers, as compared with 125,000 workers involved in disputes in the first three months of 1923. The aggregate duration of the stoppages from January to March, 1924, has been nearly 2,100,000 working days, as compared with about 1,200,000 days in the corresponding period of 1923.

Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in May

2

On page 49 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during May 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 May 1924.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in May 1924			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in May 1924	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in May 1924
	Strikes in May	Strikes in May	Total		
Trades	..	2	2	20	80
Explosives	..	..	..	..	..
Miscellaneous	..	..	..	..	..
Total May 1924	..	2	2	20	80
Total April 1924	..	1	3	4	56

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

There were 2 industrial disputes in progress in May 1924, both of which occurred in cotton mills. The number of workpeople involved was 280 and the working days lost (i.e., the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 390 which, it will be seen, is a considerable decrease on the April 1924 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results January to May 1924

	January 1924	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924
Number of strikes and lock-outs	7	3	4	4	2
Disputes in progress at beginning	..	1	1	1	..
Total disputes in progress	7	2	3	3	2

Workpeople involved

280

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results—contd.

	Number of strikes and lock-outs	Number of workpeople involved	Aggregate duration in working days	In favour of employees	In favour of employers	Compromised
Disputes in progress at end	..	1	1	..	..	..
Number of workpeople involved	..	15,821	163,980	16,820	88	280
Aggregate duration in working days	..	56,226	4,062,879	2,894,861	2,717	390
Disputes—						
In favour of employees	..	3	..	..	1	..
In favour of employers	..	1	1	1	..	..
In favour of both	..	2	..	1	2	2
In favour of neither	..	..	..	..	..	..
Others	..	1	2	2	1	..
Results—						
In favour of employees	..	..	2	1	1	..
Compromised	..	1	..	..	..	1
In favour of employers	..	1	..	2	3	1

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

III.—Industrial Disputes

Month	Number of strikes and lock-outs	Aggregate duration in working days	Proportion settled			
			In favour of employees (Per cent.)	In favour of employers (Per cent.)	Compromised (Per cent.)	In progress (Per cent.)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
May 1923	11	1,169,830	67	9	..	9
June 1923	7	159,837	57	..	20	14
July 1923	6	55,363	67	..	..	33
August 1923	11	25,704	53	7	20	20
September 1923	8	55,014	63	..	37	..
October 1923	8	86,179	60	..	13	..
November 1923	7	762	71	20	..	..
December 1923	9	120,965	79	11	..	11
January 1924	7	105,770	72	..	14	14
February 1924	5	4,062,879	..	67	..	33
March 1924	4	2,894,861	50	25	..	25
April 1924	4	2,717	25	25	..	..
May 1924	2	390	50	..	50	..
Total in Table I to 5th Average	64	6,170,197	58	17	13	12

**A GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES**

During May 1924, there were two industrial disputes in the Presidency as compared with four in the preceding month. Both these disputes were due to personal grievances. One of these was compromised and the other was settled in favour of the employers.

**Bombay**

During May 1924, there was in Bombay one industrial dispute. The services of the Head Jobber of the Ring Weft Department in the E. D. Sassoon Mill, who during the general mill strike went away to his home in the Ratnagiri District, were dispensed with when he returned to resume work on the 9th of May 1924. Thereupon the hundred men formerly working under him struck work and demanded his reinstatement. About 85 operatives resumed work unconditionally while the others were re-placed by new hands. The strike terminated on the 14th May.

**Ahmedabad**

In Ahmedabad, 150 operatives of the Throstle Department in the Aryodaya Ginning and Manufacturing Company's Mill struck work on the 29th May 1924, demanding the dismissal of a Jobber on account of misconduct. The strike ended on the same day after a warning had been given to the Jobber.

**Industrial Disputes in other Provinces**

**MADRAS**

According to the Labour Commissioner, Madras, 86 scavengers of the Cuddayah Municipality struck work on the 1st of April 1924, as a protest against a reduction in the establishment effected from the same date. Sixty new hands were imported from Nellore and employed by the Municipality from 7th April. At the request of the strikers the Municipal Council resolved to re-employ them on monthly wages of Rs. 11½ per male scavenger and Rs. 9 per female scavenger on condition of their consenting (1) to pay one month's wages to each of the new hands employed and to refund their Railway fare, (2) to work with only two men for each rubbish cart without a driver, and (3) to pay a monthly contribution of eight annas towards a security deposit of Rs. 10 per head to be invested in fixed deposits in the co-operative District Bank, Cuddayah. The strikers having agreed to these terms were taken back to duty on the 4th May 1924.

On the 20th of April 1924, 1,629 scavengers of the Corporation of Madras struck work demanding an increase in wages of Rs. 2 per head and the supply of rice to the value of Rs. 4 per mensem at 4 heaped measures instead of at 4 cut measures. They resumed their duties on the 22nd being assured that their grievances, if any, would be redressed after due consideration.

On the 8th May 1924, about 600 boatmen of the Port of Cuddalore, South Arcot District, Madras, struck work as a protest against Messrs. Perry and Company's refusal

to give cargo to a certain private boat owner. They also demanded more pay. The strike ended on the 12th May. The men agreed to work on the old rates of pay pending a decision, and the private boat owner was to be given a share of work.

**A Census of Industrial Wages in India**

**COLLECTION OF STATISTICS BY PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS**

The Government of India have recently addressed all Provincial Governments on the question of the collection of statistics in connexion with industrial wages. It is recognised that before a successful census of wages can be completed, two conditions must be satisfied. In the first place adequate provision must be made for a staff of sufficient strength and competent supervision. All compilations of wages statistics involve a large amount of labour and require a considerable degree of aptitude from the workers to whom the task of tabulating the data is entrusted, and the work, moreover, demands capable supervision at every stage. "Satisfactory results cannot be expected from the employment of a few untrained clerks working under an officer who has many other important duties." In the second place, "there must be a guarantee that returns will be received in sufficient numbers to give the final results a sound statistical basis. Figures gathered from a few establishments in each industry are of practically no value; and they can only yield statistics which will be always unreliable and frequently misleading."

**NO GUARANTEES FOR ENFORCING RETURNS**

The Government of India point out that "there is no guarantee that, even if an adequate staff is employed, completed statistical returns will be forthcoming, except in one or two isolated cases. Where the employers of an industry in a particular centre are strongly organised, they are occasionally anxious to encourage a census, and their combined support makes success possible. But in most cases it is questionable if returns can be procured without statutory powers. The Government of India are inclined to think that it may be necessary . . . . . to take steps by legislation to secure statistics of this kind."

**SYMPATHETIC CONSIDERATION TO PROPOSALS FOR STATUTORY POWERS**

The Government of India recognise the value of legislation for the purpose of assisting in the collection of complete data and are of opinion that "if in any Province, the Local Government are prepared to undertake work of this kind on an adequate scale, and if they are anxious to secure statutory powers for this purpose the Government of India will be ready to give sympathetic consideration to any proposals that may be made."

These remarks (quoted with the permission of the Government of India) are of special interest in view of the Statistics Bill which comes up for discussion at the July meeting of the Bombay Legislative Council.

**Trade Unions in the Presidency**

**Quarter ending June 1924—an increase in membership**

The previous review of trade unions in the Presidency was published in the March 1924 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The latest information for the second quarter of the present year is summarised on pages 43-45 of this issue and shows in Table I on pages 43-44 that as compared with the last quarter, the number of unions has remained the same while the membership increased by 1827. There are at the moment 10 unions with a membership of 27,888 in Bombay City and Island; 7 unions with a membership of 15,850 in Ahmedabad and 6 unions with a membership of 8,391 in the rest of the Presidency. The total for the Presidency is thus 23 unions with 52,129 members as compared with 23 unions with 50,302 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 MEMBERSHIP**

In Bombay City and Island, the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union records an increase of 925 members and the Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union an increase of 600 members. On the other hand, the Port Trust Workshop Union shows a decrease of 1,000 members and the Clerks' Union a decrease of 450 members.

In Ahmedabad, the Labour Union reports an increase of 200 members in the Weavers' Union and 50 members in the Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Association shows an increase of 1,515 members.

In Sholapur, the Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union reports a slight decrease of 13 members. No other changes in membership took place in the quarter under review. The table below shows the position as regards unions and membership since June 1922, the month in which these quarterly reviews were first published by the Labour Office.

Summary table showing the membership of the Unions

Quarter ended	No. of unions	Membership at end of quarter	Percentage increase (+) or decrease (-) on previous quarter
June 1922	23	57,914	-
September 1922	23	57,776	- 0.24
December 1922	23	51,472	- 11.26
March 1923	23	48,969	- 4.85
June 1923	23	51,276	+ 4.70
September 1923	23	41,646	- 18.77
December 1923	23	46,037	+ 10.54
March 1924	23	50,302	+ 9.26
June 1924	23	52,129	+ 3.53

There has thus been an increase of 3.63 per cent. in the membership of the Unions in the Presidency as

compared with the immediately preceding quarter but a decrease of 9.90 per cent. as compared with the corresponding quarter of the year 1922. It is noticeable that during the present quarter no new unions were formed whereas four new unions were reported in the previous quarter.

**THE BOMBAY UNIONS**

The two Unions in Bombay City and Island which show a decrease in membership, *viz.*, the Port Trust Workshop Union and the Clerks' Union, have already been referred to. The decrease in the former is due to the exclusion from the books of the union of those members who have not paid their subscriptions regularly. The decrease in the latter is due to the lack of support received from its members owing to the unemployment among clerks in Bombay. The union does not appear to be active at the moment, and it is doubtful if the remaining members are regular dues-paying members. The total membership—500—is very small as compared with the number of eligible persons in the City. The increase in the members of the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union is due to a large increase in the membership at the Jhansi branch of the Union. A new branch consisting of 75 members has recently been opened at Jubbulpore. The membership of the union now stands as under:—

Station	Number of members
Wadi Bunder (Bombay)	434
Administrative Office (Bombay)	542
Saloon	800
Bhoomval	200
Conavla	250
Poona	150
Maramal	250
Shahabad	150
Sholapur	75
Chand	150
Ahmednagar	150
Barsi	150
Barsi	1,000
Jubbulpore	75
<b>Total members</b>	<b>5,118</b>

The Union is stated to be waiting for the introduction of the proposed legislation for the registration and protection of trade unions as it finds it difficult to conduct its affairs without formal recognition by the Company. Moreover, the union expects to receive recognition when the administration of the railway reverts to Government at the end of next year. The Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union has doubled its membership during the present quarter and at present it is receiving considerable support. The Saloon, Hammankhana Owners' and Barbers' Union has been very active in Bombay in connexion with the recent Municipal regulations concerning the licensing of barbers' shops. The President of the union recently submitted a protest to the Bombay Municipality against the licensing of these shops on the



grounds that these licenses would be an incentive to corruption which would add an additional levy on the public. The union asked for a further six months' extension before any action was taken against the barbers who had not secured licenses. This protest was not, however, favourably received by the Municipal Corporation. No Unions of cotton mill operatives are reported in Bombay.

**THE AHMEDABAD UNIONS**

The unions under the Labour Union in Ahmedabad record practically no changes in the present quarter. The B. B. & C. I. Railway Employees' Union shows a present membership of no less than 5,000 members which is a large increase over the previous figures. This number, however, is the total number on the books of the union—the number of regular dues-paying members being smaller. The members of the union are at different stations on this railway and subscriptions are collected locally at these stations. The union states, therefore, that the total membership is only approximate. The Post and Railway Mail Service Association which is shown to have 200 members is almost inactive at present. The members do not pay subscriptions and only a small cash balance is with the Secretary of the Union.

**REST OF THE PRESIDENCY**

The Secretary of the N. W. Railway Union at Sukkur states that propaganda is being carried on to enlist the Traffic and Carriage Staff of stations on this railway and the union has hopes of securing additional members. The Barsi Light Railway Employees' Union, the membership of which shows a small decrease, does not appear to be well supported by the employees of this railway. At Broach, the two new unions which were formed during the preceding quarter, have received a setback owing to the recent strike in this centre ending in favour of the employers.

**ACCOUNTS OF THE UNIONS**

Table II on page 45 shows the financial position of the unions so far as the monthly income and expenditure is concerned. It will be seen that in the case of the unions in Bombay City and Island, no union has an income sufficient to provide adequate reserve funds. The expenditure in most cases closely approximates the income. The rates of subscription are in the majority of cases small and in no cases do these exceed eight annas per member per month. With a large membership, such as in several of the unions under the Labour Union at Ahmedabad, this small subscription provides sufficient funds for the management of the union, but in the case of the smaller unions little active work is possible.

**QUASI UNIONS**

The following quasi unions or associations are excluded from the list of trade unions as these are regarded as welfare associations and not 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.

Nos. (1) and (2) above are the two most active associations. Details concerning (2) were published in the previous review on trade unions. Nos. (3) and (4) are usually active at the time of a general strike in Bombay so that at the moment it may be said that they are almost in a state of inaction.

**CONCLUSION**

The outstanding features of the present quarter are (1) an increase of 1,827 or 3.65 per cent. in membership as compared with the previous quarter; and (2) the continued complete absence of unions of cotton mill workers in Bombay City and Island.

**Trade Unionism in Australia**

The Australian Federal Bureau of Statistics shows that, out of 1,291,303 workers in Australia of 20 years of age and over, 702,938 are trade unionists. Of 1,041,915 male workers, 616,886 (59.2 per cent.) and of 249,388 women workers, 86,052 (34.5 per cent.) are trade unionists. There are 387 unions affiliated with 27 central labour organisations.

**Danish Trade Union Movement**

On May 16th and 17th the Executive Committee of the Danish National Trade Union Centre held its ordinary meeting at Copenhagen. The report for the year 1923 showed that on December 31st, 1923, the Centre consisted of 50 unions with 2,184 local branches and a total membership of 233,116 (38,050 of whom were women). Membership had increased during the year by 542. 57,659 kronen had been expended in relief work for German children, and 366,000 kronen had been sent to the Norwegian trade unions. This, however, represents only a fraction of the sums which week by week have been paid out by the Danish unions to the Norwegian unions during this period of their fierce conflict with the employers, the payments being made in virtue of the Mutual Contracts existing between the trade union organisations of the two countries.

**Amalgamation in British Trade Unions**

On July 1st three unions will amalgamate, namely, the National Amalgamated Union of Labourers, Municipal Employees and the National Union of General Workers: the resulting union will contain more than 400,000 members.

Negotiations for amalgamation are making progress in other groups, such as the moulders and ironfounders (with the Amalgamated Engineering Union): bricklayers, plasterers and joiners: and the woollen textile groups, etc.

This tendency is increased by the efforts of the General Council of the Trades Union Congress.



## Industrial Disputes

### Proposed new Legislation

A Bill to provide for enquiry into and settlement of trade disputes was published in the *Bombay Government Gazette* dated 30th May 1924. The Bill will come up for discussion at the coming session of the Bombay Legislative Council. A copy of the Bill together with a statement of objects and reasons is reproduced below. The origin of the bill dates back to the 30th July 1921 when the Bombay Legislative Council passed a resolution recommending to the Governor in Council to appoint a Committee "to consider and report on the practicability or otherwise of creating machinery for prevention and early settlement of labour disputes". As a result of this, a Committee under the Chairmanship of Sir Stanley Reed, Kt., was appointed in November 1921. The Report of this Committee together with the legislation proposed was published in the April 1922 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. His Excellency the Governor at the opening of the Legislative Council on the 18th February referring to the general strike said "The Industrial trouble in Bombay City has been a source of grave concern to my Government and I cannot too strongly urge the need for early settlement of the misunderstandings and disagreements between owners and workmen. . . . It would appear that in view of the present and past experience in similar disputes, it is necessary for Government to provide some machinery which has for its object, by investigation of the causes of industrial disputes such as this, the prevention of interruption of work which has so disastrous an effect on the welfare of the City and of the Community, or which will at any rate bring such disputes to an earlier conclusion. Government have accordingly considered an early introduction of legislation which will, it is hoped, effect this purpose". Most other countries of industrial importance have legislation providing for conciliation and arbitration in industrial disputes. Extracts from some representative enactments containing the chief provisions of these Acts were reprinted in the November 1921 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Conciliation Act of 1896 and the Industrial Courts Act of 1919 of Great Britain were reprinted in the March 1924 issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

The following is the full text of the Bill:—

**Bill No. XV of 1924**

*A Bill to provide for enquiry into and settlement of trade disputes*

Whereas it is expedient to provide for enquiry into and settlement of trade disputes; and Whereas the previous sanction of the Governor General required by sub-section (3) of section 80-A of the Government of India Act has been obtained for the passing of this

Act: It is hereby enacted as follows:

1. *Short title.*—This Act may be called the Bombay Industrial Disputes Act, 1924.

2. *Extent.*—It extends to the whole of the Bombay Presidency including Sind.

3. *Commencement.*—It shall come into operation in the first instance in the cities of Bombay and Ahmedabad, but the Governor in Council may, by notification in the *Bombay Government Gazette*, direct that it shall come into operation in any other local area on such date as may be specified in the notification.

4. *Definitions.*—In this Act, unless there is anything repugnant in the subject or context—

(a) "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 conditions of labour, or the terms of employment of any person;

(b) "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, 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 or labour, but does not include any person working in the capacity of a member of His Majesty's forces or employed by the Government of India or a Local Government.

**Part I—Courts of Enquiry**

5. *Enquiry into trade disputes.*—Where the Governor in Council is satisfied that a trade dispute exists or is apprehended, he may refer any matters appearing to be connected with or relevant to the trade dispute, to a court of enquiry, appointed for the purpose of such enquiry: and such court shall, either in public or in private, enquire into the causes and circumstances of such trade dispute and the matters referred to it and shall submit a report thereon to the Governor in Council.

6. *Court of Enquiry.*—(1) A Court of Enquiry appointed under the last preceding section shall consist of a chairman and of such number of members as the Governor in Council sees fit to appoint, or may, if the Governor in Council thinks fit, consist of one person appointed by the Governor in Council.

(2) If the services of the Chairman or of any other member of a Court of Enquiry so appointed are not available at any time for the purposes of the enquiry, or if during the course of the enquiry, the Chairman or any other member is unable to continue to attend the same, the Governor in Council shall appoint another chairman or may appoint another member, as the case may be, and the enquiry shall be proceeded with before the court so reconstituted.



7. *Vacancy.*—If a vacancy occurs among the members of a Court of Enquiry the continuing members may act as if no vacancy has occurred.

8. *Rules of Procedure.*—The Governor in Council may make rules regulating the procedure to be observed in an enquiry into a trade dispute, including rules as to the summoning of witnesses and the production of documents relevant to the subject matter of the enquiry and in the case of a Court of Enquiry as to the number of members necessary to form a quorum and the appointment and constitution of Committees.

9. *Production of books, papers, etc.*—Any Court of Enquiry may, subject to such rules as may be made by the Governor in Council in this behalf, by a written order require the production of any books, papers and other documents relating to the subject matter of the enquiry and may, by a like order, require any person who appears to have any knowledge of the subject matter of the enquiry to furnish in writing or otherwise such particulars relevant thereto as the court may require.

10. *Evidence on oath.*—Any Court of Enquiry may, when necessary, require any person to attend the enquiry and to give evidence on oath or solemn affirmation and may administer or cause to be administered an oath or solemn affirmation for that purpose.

11. *Obligation to produce books, etc., and to attend and give evidence.*—Every person who has been ordered under this Act to produce any book, paper or other document or to furnish any particulars, or to attend before a Court of Enquiry and to give evidence touching any matter relevant to the trade dispute shall be legally bound to produce such book, paper or other document, and to furnish such particulars, and to attend as directed.

12. *Interim reports.*—A Court of Enquiry appointed to enquire into a trade dispute may submit interim reports.

13. *Publication of information obtained or conclusions arrived at by Court.*—The Governor in Council may publish or cause to be published from time to time in such manner as he may think fit, any information obtained or conclusions arrived at by a Court of Enquiry :

Provided that nothing in this section shall authorise the Governor in Council or Court of Enquiry or any person concerned in such enquiry to publish any information as to any trade union, or as to any individual business (whether carried on by a person, a firm or a company) which is not available otherwise than through evidence given at the enquiry. But such publication may be made with the consent of the Secretary of the Trade Union, or of the person, firm or company in question.

14. *Rules as to appearance by Counsel or Solicitor.*—

(1) The Governor in Council may make rules providing for the occasions and manner in which persons may be represented by counsel or solicitor before a Court of Enquiry appointed under this Act.

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(2) Except as provided for by such rules no person shall be entitled to be represented by counsel or by solicitor before a Court of Enquiry appointed under this Act.

#### Part II—Conciliation and Arbitration.

15. *Reference of disputes to arbitration.*—Where a trade dispute exists or is apprehended, the Governor in Council may—

(1) take such steps as may seem expedient for the purpose of enabling the parties to the dispute to meet together with a view to the amicable settlement of the difference ; or if both parties consent.

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

(3) 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 Governor in Council and, for the purpose of facilitating the nomination of persons to act as members of a board of arbitration, panels of persons suitable so to act shall be constituted.

16. *Rules of procedure.*—The Governor in Council may make rules regulating the procedure to be followed in cases where matters are referred for settlement to arbitration of one or more persons appointed by the Governor in Council.

17. *Rules as to appearance by Counsel or Solicitor.*—(1) The Governor in Council may make rules providing for the occasions and manner in which persons may be represented by counsel or solicitor before a Board of Arbitration appointed under this Act.

(2) Except as provided for by such rules no person shall be entitled to be represented by counsel or by solicitor before a Board of Arbitration appointed under this Act.

#### OBJECTS AND REASONS

The provision of some machinery which has for its object the prevention or settlement of industrial disputes has been found necessary in view of past experience in industrial disputes in this Presidency. A Committee was appointed by Government on the recommendation of the Legislative Council " to consider and report on the practicability or otherwise of creating machinery for the prevention and early settlement of industrial disputes." In their unanimous report legislation was proposed. This bill follows closely the provisions of the Industrial Courts Act, 1919 (9 & 10 Geo. 5, Ch. 69).

#### Child Labour in France

A large number of children below the statutory age of 13 are now being employed in theatres, variety entertainments, etc. The Minister of Education has, in view of the evidence of this fact, requested the Minister of Labour to give the strictest instructions to factory inspectors to



stop these illegal practices. By law children may only be employed when special permission has been obtained in respect of some specific representation, and even then they must not be under nine years of age.

#### Welfare Work in Mills THE TATA GROUP OF MILLS

The following table gives the details of the diseases and the number of female operatives treated by the Lady Doctor at the mills controlled by Messrs. Tata Sons, Ltd., during the month of April 1924:—

Diseases.	Number of cases treated.
1. The Alimentary System (Stomatitis, Dyspepsia, Diarrhoea, Constipation, Dysentery and Intestinal Worms)	87
2. Muscular and Articular Systems	27
3. The Nervous System (Headache and Neuralgia)	16
4. The Respiratory System (Bronchitis, Asthma and Broncho-pneumonia)	19
5. The Blood, lymphatic and ductless glands	14
6. Eye, Ear, Throat and Skin	53
7. Infectious nature (Malaria)	36
8. Gynaecological diseases	5
9. Injuries	9
Total	266

#### Hospital accommodation in Presidency Towns

On page 7 of the December 1923 issue of this Journal, a reference was made to the question of medical relief for working and other classes in Bombay City and Island. In this connexion, it is of interest to compare the total number of hospitals, beds and patients in 1920 in the Presidency towns of Bombay, Madras and Calcutta. The table below contains the data:—

	Bombay.	Madras.	Calcutta.
Number of hospitals—			
State public	7	7	8
Local Fund	20	8	3
Private aided	1	6	8
State Railway and non-aided	8	—	4
Total	36	21	23
Number of patients treated during the year 1920	252,891	470,243	482,110
Percentage of patients to population in 1921	21.5	89.2	36.3
Number of beds available	1,886	1,754	2,495
Number of beds per 1,000 of the population	1.6	3.3	1.9

Although the number of hospitals in Bombay is greater than in either of the other two cities, the number of beds per 1,000 of the population in Bombay is less than in Madras and Calcutta. The percentage of patients to total population in Bombay is 21.5 as against 36.3 in Calcutta and 89.2 in Madras.

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#### Labour Conditions in Assam

Mr. N. M. Joshi, M.L.A., General Secretary of the Bombay Social Service League, recently visited Assam with a view to examining the question of the employment of labourers on the tea gardens. It will be remembered that in 1921 the Government of Assam appointed a Committee to enquire into the conditions of labourers in Assam, the terms of reference of which were published on page 19 of the December 1921 issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Report of this Committee was published in 1922. Mr. N. M. Joshi in an article published in the "*Servant of India*" describes the difficulties existing in the present methods of employment on the tea gardens and suggests means whereby these may be removed. The following is a short summary of the article:—The total area of Assam is 61,000 square miles and the population 79,00,000, giving an average of 130 persons per square mile. There are about 880 tea gardens with a total area of 14,00,000 acres of land, of which about 4,00,000 acres are at present under tea. The total annual production of manufactured tea is about 23 crores of pounds, yielding to the planters an annual income of about Rs. 8 crores. The total population on the tea gardens is 9,16,000, out of whom 6,51,000 are actual workers and 2,65,000 are dependants. Of the people on the tea gardens 3,30,000 persons were born in Assam. Most of them live on the gardens ; only about half a per cent. do not live on the gardens. As regards the economic condition of the labouring population exact figures of the average wages for the province are not available. But the average maximum wage may be estimated at between Rs. 8 and Rs. 10 per month for an adult male, between Rs. 6 and Rs. 8 for an adult woman and about Rs. 4 for a working child. Concessions in the form of free housing, cheap rice, free medical treatment, land for private rice cultivation may be estimated to give each family an additional average monthly income of about Re. 1 or about four annas per head per month. The average annual cost of housing a family, say, of four persons is estimated at between Rs. 10 and Rs. 20. In leisure time each family on an average cultivates two-fifths of an acre of rice-land giving an annual income of Rs. 12 or Re. 1 per family per month or four annas per month for each working member. The labourers also do not pay for grazing their cattle if they have any and also for fuel which they themselves gather in their leisure time from the garden forest. But the aggregate total value of these concessions cannot exceed the figure given above.

#### The question of employment

There are three legislative measures on the Statute Book which can compel a workman to work for an employer, with whom he has made an agreement for service, and which in case of his refusal to serve can subject him to imprisonment as a criminal offender. The Assam Emigration Act (VI of 1901 as amended later) is one of

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such legislative measures. Some sections of this Act, notably the section giving power to the planter to arrest a labourer, have been withdrawn by executive notification. The operation of the Act is well as of some of its sections is also restricted to certain areas. Unfortunately these notifications are so numerous that it is very difficult to say what the exact position of this particular law is. It is true that at present very few agreements are signed under its provisions, and in practice it is only used to give the Local Government power to inspect the gardens. But the Act still remains on the Statute Book and it is still within the power of the Government to cancel the notifications and revive the most objectionable features of the Act without the sanction of the Legislature.

The second class of legislation of a similar nature is the Workmen's Branch of Contract Act (XIII of 1859) as amended in 1920. Under this Act the government for service can specifically be enforced by sending a labourer to jail if he has taken an advance of money. This advance is given and is always allowed to remain with the labourer in order to keep him under the operation of this Act. Concerning the true nature of the advance a judicial officer has stated: "The cases that have come before me were always cases where the employer had given an advance with the object of reducing him (the employee) to a state of slavery." As the Government of India have now admitted that this Act is against the modern spirit and agreed to repeal it before 1922, further comment is unnecessary.

The third legislative measure which serves the purpose of maintaining the hold of the employer on the employee is section 462 of the Indian Penal Code. This section is not yet used on the tea gardens, but the danger is in Mr. Jash's view that if the Workmen's Branch of Contract Act is repealed, this section of the Penal Code may be put in force.

#### Mr. Jash's Recommendations\*

The writer, after explaining the effects of these legislative measures, explains that the labourers have no means of freeing themselves from their serfdom, and they have no education to be self-reliant. No attempts have been made for organising unions among them and they are mostly illiterate. He, therefore, suggests that the following measures should be taken to ameliorate the present conditions of the labourers—

(1) "The first thing necessary to be done is the simultaneous repeal of the threefold legislation mentioned above. The repeal of only the Workmen's Branch of Contract Act contemplated by the Government of India will still make it possible for the evil to revive. Along with the repeal of this law it will be necessary to enact legislation on the lines of the Indian Factories Act to regulate the conditions of life and work on the tea gardens and enable Government to inspect these conditions. The Assam Labour Enquiry Committee has emphasised the need for better inspection.

\*The Labour Office accepts no responsibility for the opinions expressed.

(2) Legislation may also be necessary to declare the agreements signed by the members of the Planters' Association and putting restrictions upon the employment of labourers, as being illegal on the ground of public interests and public morals. As long as the agreement exists labourers on the tea gardens cannot be really free.

(3) It is also necessary to declare all residential areas on the tea gardens and the roads leading thereto to be open to the public in order that the labourers on the garden may be freely approached by people unconnected with the garden and may thus be brought into real contact with outside civilising influences and their organisation may become possible.

(4) Moreover, it is necessary to put a stop to the system of allowing large estates to be placed under single proprietorship. The present estates must be divided into small allotments to be owned by the labourers themselves who should be free to sell the leaves to any factory which gives the best price for manufacturing them into tea. The best plan will be to place these factories in the hands of Co-operative Societies of the labourers themselves. These Societies may even be encouraged to own the gardens themselves.

(5) Even when the above mentioned proposals are adopted, the condition of the labourers will not be really improved unless vigorous steps are taken for their education. A small cess may be levied on the tea gardens for the creation of the Labourers' Welfare and Education Fund in order that the necessary financial resources be made available. The industry, being well established, can easily bear the imposition of such a cess.

(6) It is also necessary to give the labourers a larger representation on the Legislatures, the representatives being elected by the labourers themselves through their organisations, which also must be brought into existence without delay. It must be admitted that the present state of ignorance of the workers makes such organisation difficult, but the representation of labourers through their own organisations even when the latter are not solid, will be better than the present method by which even an employer could be nominated to represent the employees.

(7) Steps must also be taken to fix the minimum wage from time to time and to make, by legislation, adequate provision against old age, sickness and unemployment. The present peculiar position of the labourers on the tea gardens as immigrants into a new province makes the adoption of those measures in their case more urgent than in the case of the workers in the country as a whole. The Assam Labour Enquiry Committee has fully endorsed the need for better provision in this matter. Sympathetic planters have even now taken some steps in this direction, but what is wanted is a system made applicable to all by legislation.

(8) Lastly, it is necessary to stop the system of recruitment by individual planters. The work of recruitment should hereafter be undertaken by Government agencies in order to enable the emigrant to return without difficulty to his home if he finds the conditions on the gardens unsuitable for him. He should at the time of recruitment be provided with a pass to travel back to his home free. The tea industry as a whole should be asked to contribute towards the expenses of recruitment.

### Delhi Boiler Explosion

In regard to the accident at The Birk Mills at Delhi on June 1st, in which 18 boiler cleaners lost their lives, it is of interest to note that the Agents of these mills have made arrangements for the payment of compensation to the dependants of the victims. Life pensions and allowances to minor children have, it is understood, been granted on terms more generous than those provided in the Workmen's Compensation Act which comes into force on 1st July next.

At a meeting of the Delhi Factory Owners' Association held on June 2nd, a resolution was passed approving the prompt action taken by the Agents of the mills in regard to the grant of compensation.

### White Lead in Painting

#### GOVERNMENT DECISION REGARDING USE

The Government of Bombay have recently issued the following press note in regard to the use of white lead in painting for the guidance specially of public and semi-public bodies—

"The following recommendations prepared in accordance with the Convention relating to the use of white lead in painting, adopted by the Third Session of the International Labour Conference, 1921, of which India is a member, are published for the guidance of all users of white lead and sulphate of lead in paint. The officers of the Public Works Department, the Inspector of Factories, the officers of the Public Health Department and other Government officers concerned should in the course of their duties see that the recommendations are strictly observed by Government and other institutions coming under their supervision. All public and semi-public bodies are requested to take steps to give effect to the recommendations by issuing the necessary instructions to their employees—

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

**Definition.**—In these recommendations "lead paint" means any paint, filling or painters' material containing more than 2 per cent. of lead, expressed in terms of metallic lead when present as white lead or sulphate of lead.

#### For Employers

**Recommendation 1.**—(a) White lead, sulphate of lead or products containing these pigments should not be

used in painting operations except in the form of paint or paint ready for use.

(b) Lead paint should not be stored, unenclosed or used otherwise than in receptacles tightly marked as containing "lead paint". But this provision shall not apply to receptacles (i) for mixing paint for immediate application, (ii) for special use at the place of painting.

**Recommendation 2.**—(a) Lead paint should not be used in the internal painting of buildings.

(b) Measures should be taken to prevent danger from the application of lead paint in the form of spray.

**Recommendation 3.**—Surfaces painted with lead paint should not be rubbed down or scraped by a dry process.

**Recommendation 4.**—(a) They should be provided for the use of persons employed in filling or painting with lead paint a sufficient supply of water, soap, nail brushes and towels.

(b) An interval should be allowed to each such person for washing before each meal time and before leaving work.

**Recommendation 5.**—Suitable arrangements should be made to prevent clothing put off during working hours being soiled by lead paint. Where practicable the accommodation so provided shall be outside the apartment in which painting is carried on.

**Recommendation 6.**—Cases of lead poisoning and of suspected lead poisoning should be reported to the Chief Inspector of Factories, Old Custom House, Bombay, or to the nearest Civil Surgeon.

**Recommendation 7.**—Males under 18 years of age and all females should not be employed in lead painting work of an industrial character; except that apprentices might be employed with a view to their education in the trade.

**Recommendation 8.**—The employer should inform each workman when he is engaged of the steps to be taken to prevent lead poisoning.

#### For Workmen

**Recommendation 9.**—(a) Suitable clothing should be worn by working painters using lead paint during the whole of the working period, and should be washed at least once a week.

(b) Every painter coming into contact with lead paint should carefully clean and wash his hands before each meal time and before leaving work.

(c) All painters should deposit their clothing put off during working hours so as to prevent it being soiled by lead paint.

**Note.**—The attention of paint users is directed to a water proof sand paper which has recently been invented. Its use considerably facilitates the wet rubbing down of painted surfaces with the consequent elimination of dangerous dust. The Chief Inspector of Factories, Old Custom House, Bombay, will give any further information required."

## Accidents and Prosecutions

## STATISTICS FOR MAY 1924

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 41 and 42 of this issue, contain details of accidents reported during the month of May in Bombay City and Island, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During May, in Bombay City and Island there were in all 168 factory accidents of which 4 were serious and the remainder 164 minor accidents. Of the total number 39 or 23·2 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 76·8 per cent. to other causes. By far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the proportion in different classes of factories being 67·8 per cent. in workshops, 28·6 per cent. in textile mills and 3·6 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad, there were in all ten accidents, all of which occurred in cotton mills. Of these ten three were serious and the remaining seven minor accidents.

In Karachi, there were seven accidents, six of which occurred in railway workshops. Three of the seven accidents were serious and the remaining four minor. Two were due to machinery in motion and five to other causes.

In other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 25, of which seven were in textile mills, sixteen in workshops and two in miscellaneous concerns. Seven accidents were due to machinery in motion and 18 to other causes. Of these 25 accidents, two were serious and the rest minor.

## PROSECUTIONS

During May 1924, there were in the Bombay Presidency no less than seven prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act. One of these was in Bombay, one in the Bombay Suburban District, four in Ahmedabad and one in Kaira.

## Bombay

The proprietor of a Metal Factory was prosecuted and fined Rs. 200 under Section 41 (g) for breach of Section 18 (3). The amount of fine was paid in full as compensation to the injured person.

## Bombay Suburban District

The Manager of a Match Factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) for breach of Section 24 (a) and of sub-sections (a) and (b) of Section 23. He was convicted and fined Rs. 320.

## Ahmedabad

The Managers of two Cotton Mills and the Agent of a third one were prosecuted under Section 41 (a) of the Indian Factories Act. Convictions were secured in all three cases and the amounts of fines imposed varied from Rs. 400 to Rs. 1,200. A cotton press factory was prosecuted under Section 41 (b) and the Manager was convicted and fined Rs. 150.

## Kaira

The Manager of a Ginning Factory, who was prosecuted under Section 41 (a) and Section 41 (h), was fined Rs. 100 for breach of Section 24 (a) and Rule 75, and Rs. 10 for breach of Section 35.

## General Principles for the Organisation of Factory Inspection

The full text of the Recommendation concerning the general principles for the organisation of factory inspection adopted at the fifth session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in October 1923 was published in the March 1924 issue of this Journal (pages 26-28). The Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour have now addressed all Local Governments and Administrations a circular letter No. L.—1166, dated 17th March 1924, dealing with the points in which the Indian system of factory inspection is not in accord with this Recommendation. The letter is printed below:—

"I am directed to address you regarding the Recommendation adopted at the fifth session of the International Labour Conference held at Geneva in October 1923. A copy of the Recommendation\* is appended to this letter. The only item on the agenda was, in English, 'General Principles for the organization of Factory Inspection' and in French 'Inspection du Travail'. It is obvious that the French phrase has a very much wider scope than the English one and it is not surprising that some confusion should have arisen in consequence. In formulating their opinions for the benefit of the International Labour Office and in giving instructions to their official delegates the Government of India confined themselves to the subject of factory inspection. While a certain amount of ambiguity prevailed throughout the discussions at Geneva, in general the main problem kept in view was that of factory inspection. In the Recommendation finally adopted the subject is left designedly vague. The Government of India therefore consider that the Recommendation should be regarded as applying particularly to factory administration and they doubt if it is necessary or advisable to give it any wider scope so far as India is concerned. They desire that the system of factory inspection prevailing should be studied in the light of the recommendations made by the Conference.

2. The Recommendation, when studied in detail, will be found to conform closely to the accepted principles of factory administration in India. The great majority of the suggestions made have already been embodied in the law and practice in force in this country. I am therefore to deal only with the few points in which the Indian system of factory inspection is not in complete accord with the Recommendation, or in which further developments of existing principles may prove possible.

\* Note.—Not published in this issue.

3. The principles underlying paragraph 7, which relates to accidents, deserve special attention. All but trivial accidents are already reported and the Government of India doubt if any real advantage would be gained by modifying section 34 of the Act to cover accidents which result in less than two days incapacity. Apart from this, they are in complete accord with the suggestions made. It should be added that this paragraph was framed with particular view to the more modern movements, which are frequently independent of Government action, for the education of employers and employed in safety work. I am to suggest that its provisions should be brought to the notice of all Factory Inspectors and that, wherever possible, they should be given facilities for acquainting themselves with modern methods on this subject. A large amount of literature is produced by such organisations as the National Safety Council of the United States of America and the British Industrial Safety First Association. The Government of India appreciate the efforts made by a few of the leading employers to tackle this question and they recognise that the illiteracy of the great majority of workmen makes advance in this direction particularly difficult in India. But they believe that the introduction of the Workmen's Compensation Act will stimulate practical interest in this question, and will thus make it easier for inspectors to initiate or encourage work on the prevention of accidents.

4. The latter part of paragraph 9 proposes a system of conferences of supervising inspectors, i.e., Chief Inspectors of Factories. A similar suggestion was thrown out in the letter of the Department of Industries and Labour No. L.—1068 of 6th June 1923. The Government of India will consider this proposal shortly. If a Conference is convened and if useful results are obtained the experiment can be repeated.

5. The requirements of paragraph 11, which deals with the employment of medical, engineering, electrical and other scientific experts, are to a certain extent met by the existing organisation in India. The Government of India recognise that, even if financial considerations permitted the employment of large expert staffs, many provinces could not find sufficient work to justify their retention. They would, however, again invite attention to the importance of the employment of whole-time medical officers wherever possible. Since the issue of the Department of Industries letter No. L.—943 of 5th April 1921, at least one more appointment of this type has been made but there is still room for further advance. Another question raised in the letter to which reference has just been made was the appointment of women inspectors of factories, which forms the subject of paragraph 12 of the Recommendation. The Government of India earnestly trust that in the larger provinces it will shortly prove possible to make an advance in this direction.

6. The principles embodied in paragraphs 19 and 20 contain nothing which the Government of India are not ready to endorse. But at present little assistance

is forthcoming from workers who in frequent instances are only too ready to connive at the evasion of the law. At the same time the Government of India have noticed the beginnings of a tendency on the part of factory operatives to take their stand on the provisions of the Act and they hope that, with the spread of education, the value of sound factory administration will be more readily recognised by employers and workers. The Government of India value the interest taken by a few of the important organizations of employers in factory law and administration, and they are anxious that every encouragement should be given to workers' organizations to take an active interest in these questions.

7. The concluding section of the Recommendation relates to Inspectors' Reports. The provisions of paragraph 21 which lays stress on early publication of the annual reports are already in force in India, but the Government of India desire to take this opportunity of emphasizing the importance of prompt preparation of provincial Factories Reports. The latest date at present fixed for the submission of these reports is the 1st July of the year following that to which they relate. But in recent years it has invariably been the case that while the majority of reports were promptly submitted, delay in one or two provinces has held up for many months the publication of the combined statistics. The Government of India think it inadvisable to introduce an earlier date, but they would be glad if an endeavour could be made, whenever possible, to submit reports in advance of the date fixed, and if steps could be taken in those provinces responsible for delay to remove the causes that have led to that delay in the past.

8. As regards paragraph 22, I am to say that in the annual "Note on the working of the Factories Act" published by the Government of India with "Statistics of Factories", reference is made to all legislative changes within the year. Chief Inspectors of Factories might be asked in their Reports to allude to the more important statutory notifications issued in their provinces. The concluding paragraph deals with the further details to be included in Inspectors' Reports. As regards clause (a) reference is usually made at present to the personnel of the full-time staff. I am to suggest that the report might show the strength of (i) the full-time staff, including certifying surgeons and (ii) *ex-officio* Inspectors. The details required by clause (b) are already furnished so far as the classes given are recognised by the Indian law. As regards clause (c) the existing returns show the number of inspections made, but do not give the numbers employed in the establishments inspected. The Government of India doubt if the labour involved in preparing such a statement can be justified. The aim should rather be to eliminate the need of such a return by ensuring at least one inspection of every establishment. The statistics mentioned in clause (d) are already supplied. As regards clause (e), fairly full statistics of accidents are already collected, but these are not usually

classified according to industries in the published returns, nor are regular returns made of occupational diseases. The Government of India are reluctant to impose the necessity for collecting further statistics under the Factories Act at present. They are considering the issue of a notification under section 16 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, and, subject to any suggestions that they may receive, they are inclined to think that any extension of the collection of statistical information would be better effected under that provision than by extending the scope of the Factories Act or the duties of Factory Inspectors.

9. The Government of India do not require any reply to this letter, but they will be glad to consider any suggestions that may be made by local Governments in this connection. Further, in view of a possible Conference of Chief Inspectors of Factories, they would be glad if these officers would examine the Recommendation in detail in the light of the opinions expressed in this letter.

### Questions in the Legislature

The following questions asked in the Council of State and the Legislative Assembly at the last sessions on matters specially affecting labour are re-published. The answers given to the questions will be found below each question.

#### COUNCIL OF STATE

Question by the Honourable Dr. Sir Deva Prasad Sarvadikary :—

(a) Has the attention of the Government been called to a printed appeal to members of the Indian Legislature and the public of India from the Jamshedpur Labour Association?

(b) Would the Government please state if it is a fact (as is mentioned in the appeal) that in many cases 2, 3 and 4 families have to live in quarters meant only for one family and that instances of 6 to 8 persons living in one small room of 10 ft. x 8 ft. are very common, and that there are undesirable facilities for sale of liquor to labourers?

(c) Would the Government please state to what extent these and other complaints, mentioned in the appeal, are well-founded and what steps have been taken and will be taken for remedying the same?

Reply by the Honourable Mr. A. H. Ley :—

(a) Yes.

(b) and (c) Government have no definite information on this point, but will enquire.

#### LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Question by Mr. N. M. Joshi :—

(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they consult the Workers' Organisations in the Country before they send their replies to the questionnaire sent to them by the International Labour Office

regarding subjects to be discussed by the International Labour Conference?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, do Government propose to start hereafter the practice of such consultation? If not, why not?

(c) Will Government be pleased to explain the procedure which they follow in forming their opinions and gathering facts on the above-mentioned questionnaire?

Reply by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra :—

(a) and (b) The answer is in the negative. The questionnaires are issued with the object of placing the International Labour Office in possession of the preliminary views of the Governments concerned and the answers are not intended to represent the views of either the employers or the workers, who receive separate representation at the Conference.

(c) The Government of India normally form their opinion on the facts available to them at the time. When time permits and the importance of the subject demands such a course Local Governments are consulted. But it should be added that the views expressed are purely provisional and do not commit the Governments to the adoption of any particular line when the subject is finally discussed at the Conference.

Question by Mr. N. M. Joshi :—

(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they had recently made an inquiry regarding the effects of the system of delaying the payment of monthly wages to employees in organised industries by a large number of days?

(b) If the answer to (a) be in the negative, do they propose to ask for reports from Local Governments on this matter?

Reply by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra :—

(a) No.

(b) The matter is one which is primarily the concern of Local Governments, and the Government of India do not consider it necessary to move in the matter. They understand, however, that the Government of Bombay have already taken up the question.

Question by Mr. N. M. Joshi :—

(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether there is a special law regulating the system of the payment of wages within a fixed period after they become due? If so, what that law is?

(b) If there is no such law on the Statute Book, do Government propose to undertake legislation on the subject?

Reply by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra :—

(a) No such law is in force.

(b) Government have no such proposals under consideration.

Questions by Mr. N. M. Joshi :—

Will the Government be pleased to state whether they or any of the Local Governments have made any efforts

### Union of South Africa

#### A REPORT ON CENSUS OF PRODUCTION IN 1921-22

(BY A CORRESPONDENT)\*

It is satisfactory to notice that the value of having a Census of Production is very slowly but steadily recognised by the more progressive and prosperous countries of the world. A careful and accurate compilation of such production, either annually or periodically, is of the highest importance to a country that is keen on developing its national resources. The census, in reality, is an index to the wealth of a nation. On the full data furnished by it, statisticians can readily compute the progress the people of a country may make from time to time in agriculture, trades and industries and of the services which contribute to profitable production. In the United Kingdom such a census was first taken as far back as 1907. It was the first of its kind and therefore not free from imperfections. Recently, the President of the Board of Trade has announced his determination to take a census of production, in all its manifold details, in order that the result may be published to show how far the country had advanced or receded or remained stationary in respect of the annual production. Some Oversea British Dominions, too, have for some time past followed the example set by the mother country. Perhaps the most active and prompt in this respect is the Union of South Africa which commenced its publication in 1909. The Labour Office has received a copy of its Seventh Industrial Census reviewing the details of the production for the year 1921-22. The Report contains statistics of factories and productive industries excluding mining, and it is published under the authority of the Minister of the Interior for presentation to the Union Parliament. A short summary of the principal facts contained in the Report is given below. They will be found extremely interesting and suggestive, and it would be highly creditable to the Government of Bombay were they to follow the good example of the Union of South Africa, and make an early beginning to compile statistics on a similar line, highly instructive and useful such a publication is sure to be to all interested in the greater material prosperity of this the most advanced Presidency in all India.

It may be observed, at the outset, that the Report under review comprises the production of all the four divisions under the direct jurisdiction of the Government of South Africa, namely, (a) Cape Peninsula, (b) Port Elizabeth, (c) Durban and (d) Witwatersrand.

As was the case all over the world, 1921-22 was a year of considerable trade depression in South Africa, still the gross output was satisfactory. Compared with the value of production in 1920-21 it was, of course, less, the value in 1921-22 being £79½ millions as compared with £98½ in the previous year. The decrease was equivalent to 19 per cent. This decline is attributed to a diminution

\* The Correspondent in question has for many years been a leading publicist and is interested in the improvement of Indian Statistics.

to persuade large employers of labour to introduce, voluntarily schemes for maternity benefits in their industrial undertakings? If so, will they be pleased to state what these efforts were? If not, why not?

Will Government be pleased to call for reports from Local Governments regarding schemes for maternity benefits which may be in existence at present in factories, mines and tea and coffee estates?

Reply by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra :—

I propose, with your permission, Sir, to answer this and the next succeeding question together. The question was examined by the Government of India some three years ago at various meetings between their officers and Chambers of Commerce, Employers' Associations, factory-owners, and other interested in the question. It was also discussed informally at a conference in Simla with representatives of associations concerned with the welfare and medical relief of women and children. As a result of these discussions the matter was brought to the attention of Local Governments who were asked to express their views in regard to the encouragement of voluntary systems of maternity benefits. Most Local Governments expressed their willingness to endeavour to persuade employers to start voluntary schemes for this purpose. The Government of India will ask Local Governments for further information on the subject, as desired by the Honourable Member.

Question by Mr. N. M. Joshi :—

(a) Will Government be pleased to state whether they had recently made an inquiry regarding the system of fines inflicted upon employees in organised industries by their employers by a reduction in wages?

(b) If the reply to (a) is in the negative, do they propose to ask for reports from the Local Governments on this matter?

Reply by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra :—

(a) No.

(b) The matter is one which is primarily the concern of Local Governments, and the Government of India do not propose to move in the matter.

Question by Mr. K. Ahmed :—

Will the Government be pleased to state

(i) what steps they have taken to include the Indian Seamen in the Workmen's Compensation Act of 1923 as promised by Sir Charles Innes on the 3rd February 1923, and

(ii) lay on the table all the correspondence that passed between them and the Secretary of State, the Board of Trade and others?

Reply by the Honourable Sir B. N. Mitra :—

I have nothing to add to the reply given by the Honourable Mr. Chatterjee to Mr. Joshi's question No. 175 on the 8th March 1924. The question of publication of the correspondence will be considered in due course.



in the price of commodities owing to the output having been larger in certain classes of goods than during the previous report. Another cause was the general fall in world prices. Thus, over-production and the general decline of prices, mostly owing to deflation rampant, brought down the diminution in the aggregate value of production.

The Report observes that the materials used in the production of commodities fell by 26 per cent. The percentage of the decline in value of indigenous products was 30 while that in articles imported from abroad was 23. It will be thus seen how international prices are contributory to a fall in the value of articles produced within a country. This fall must be regarded so far as raw materials were concerned. There was also a fall of 9 per cent. in the process of manufactures and this very closely corresponded to the diminution in the number of persons employed on the processes of various manufactures from raw materials. Thus, against the total value of £40,343,000 of manufactures in 1920-21 there was £36,623,000 in the year under review.

It is of interest to see how industries have developed during the last six years.

#### Index Numbers

(Basis—Figures for 1915-16 = 100 in each case)

	1916-17	1921-22
Number of Factories .. .. .	133	176
Value of Lands and Buildings .. .. .	118	170
Value of Machinery and Plant .. .. .	113	177
European Employers .. .. .	117	152
Other Employers .. .. .	126	180
European Salaries and Wages .. .. .	115	219
Other Salaries and Wages .. .. .	123	246
Cost of Fuel .. .. .	119	230
Value of Materials (Indigenous) used .. .. .	137	186
Do. do. do. imported .. .. .	116	197

The student of statistics will notice that the values of commodities and services are *per se* one part of viewing the production. The actual increase of factories which led to greater production and the necessary increase of persons employed and their wages is another thing. And in order that a correct inference may be drawn from a census of production it is always necessary to differentiate between the two classes of statistics.

But it is also useful to have a bird's eye view of the progress of the four areas which comprise what is known as the Union of South Africa. This is shown below:—

	Number of Establishments		
	1915-16	1921-22	Percentage increase
Cape .. .. .	1,970	3,028	53·7
Natal .. .. .	597	1,155	93·5
Transvaal .. .. .	1,157	2,356	103·6
Orange Free State .. .. .	274	516	88·3

The one economic aspect of these statistics which deserves notice is that the earliest areas, like the Cape and the Natal Colonies, show a smaller percentage of increase than the later ones, namely, the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. The increase in the Transvaal is, of course, owing to the mining operations there. Again, viewing the statistics from the point of the principal industries, the Report shows that Witwatersrand had the largest increase in the last six years, *viz.*, 104·5 per cent. The increases for the remaining provinces are, Durban 91·5 per cent., Port Elizabeth 54·0 per cent., and the Cape 40·7 per cent. In this way, too, the oldest have the least percentage of increase and the newest the largest, and this is quite natural. The earliest settlements have had other factories and other manufactures and establishments in a goodly number. The deficiencies to be supplied are necessarily not large. Unless some altogether new industry comes into vogue there can be no great scope for extension. Not so with the newer ones.

Turning to the increase in the establishments of industries, the report gives 17 classes, but the five most important are shown below. The increases are of great interest:—

	1915-16	1921-22
Food and Drink .. .. .	1,293	1,877
Metals .. .. .	486	868
Vehicles .. .. .	311	866
Clothing .. .. .	421	799
Building and Contracting .. .. .	275	664

The following table exhibits the percentage of the divisions of industrial organisations to the total:—

	1915-16	1921-22
Individuals .. .. .	55·6	55·3
Partnership .. .. .	17·7	17·7
Joint Stockeries .. .. .	20·2	21·6
Others .. .. .	6·5	5·4

It is obvious individuals and partnership establishments are stationary. There is no scope for additional enterprise by a single individual or by a limited number of partners. Joint Stock enterprises, however, show a slight increase. The following table shows the large increase of 'Fixed Capital' in the Union:—

	1915-16	1921-22
Land and Buildings .. .. .	£1,000	£1,000
Machinery .. .. .	11,775	20,008
	15,777	27,861



The largest amount of capital is invested in the following industries:—

	1915-16	1921-22
Food and Drink .. .. .	£1,000	£1,000
Heat, Light and Power .. .. .	7,212	11,793
Metals .. .. .	8,917	13,542
Chemicals .. .. .	3,245	6,324
Buildings .. .. .	2,903	4,113
	480	1,362

There are many other tables of a most interesting and varied character, such as those of salaries and wages to Europeans and non-Europeans; also of such salaries and wages as distributed among various class of industries and establishments. These furnish ample food for reflection to Indian students of economics and inform them how a comprehensive census of production can be compiled if one is to get as near as possible to the realities of national wealth in a given year. What is badly wanted at this juncture in India, when there is such a lively industrial awakening all over the country, is that a calm, sober and accurate survey may be taken as to how and in what direction production of a variety of character can be increased on sound and healthy lines which may be contributory to a great addition to national wealth from time to time. It is much to be wished Government may now mark time and accelerate the collection and compilation of their first Census of Production more or less on the lines of the Government of South Africa, so far as possible.

#### Emigration to British Guiana

##### COLONISATION SCHEME

Towards the end of January 1924, a deputation from the Colony of British Guiana consisting of Sir Joseph Nunan, Kt., and the Honourable Mr. J. C. Luckoo, K.C., arrived in India to reaffirm the scheme of colonisation which these gentlemen had submitted to a Committee of the Imperial Legislative Council in February 1920 and which that Committee had generally approved. They brought proper credentials from the Government of the Colony and were authorised to place this scheme before the Government of India and the Indian Legislature for consideration; the Government of India agreed to give the deputation facilities to meet the standing committee on emigration of the two houses of the Indian Legislature and this Committee met the deputation which had in the meantime been joined by representatives of the Hindu and Mahomedan sections of the resident Indian community on the 18th and 19th of March. The Committee fully discussed the scheme with the deputation, but decided to defer making any recommendations to the Government of India until their next meeting, which took place on the 26th May 1924. On this occasion the Committee had also the advantage of examining

Mr. Tewary, who was one of the members of the Committee appointed by the Government of India which visited British Guiana in 1922.

#### CONDITIONS IN COLONY

After full consideration, the standing emigration committee have now reported that while they would be inclined to view with favour the colonization scheme put forward by the deputation they would before making any definite recommendation like the Government of India to depute an officer to British Guiana to report on (a) the progress made in providing suitable land for prospective settlers, the steps taken to provide such settlers with materials and skilled assistance to put up residential accommodation and with loans for agricultural development and the measures instituted to improve the sanitary conditions of the colony, especially in respect of drainage and water supply; (b) the steps, if any, taken by the Government of British Guiana to provide facilities for repatriation of the Indians already settled in the colony; and (c) such other matters affecting the political or economical status of the resident Indian community as the Government of India may direct. The Government of India have this recommendation under consideration, but are not likely to reach any decision regarding the deputation of an officer until the results of the enquiry into the causes of the recent riots which is in progress are known.

#### Working Women

The International Federation of Trade Unions has published for the International Federation of Working Women a short report, entitled "Working Women in Many Countries" dealing with the past two years' work of the Federation, and its congress of 1923. The chief subjects discussed at this congress were the trade union organisation of women; the industrial conditions of homeworkers; and family allowances in addition to wages. The Federation has been in existence since 1919, and its chief work has been to stimulate women's work for trade unionism, and to express internationally their views on their own problems in industry.

#### World's Cotton Crop

The following table showing the world production of cotton in the years 1913, 1922 and 1923 is of interest:—

World production of cotton.  
(In thousands of bales of 500 lbs. gross.)

Country	1913 (pre-war)	1922	1923
United States of America .. .. .	14,156	9,762	10,081
British India .. .. .	3,862	4,048	3,919
Egypt .. .. .	1,565	1,170	1,213
Russia .. .. .	1,077	55	200
China .. .. .	649	1,300	2,000*
Other countries .. .. .	1,303	1,312	1,712
Total .. .. .	22,612	17,647	19,125

\* Approximate.



Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

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

(a) From 1914 to 1919 figures relate to second quarter. (b) First half of 1914. (c) Unofficial. (d) April 1914. (e) From 1915 to 1919 June figures are given. (f) June 1914 = 100. (g) Expenditure of a family of four persons. (h) Average 1913 is the base. \* In millions (000 omitted).

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

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

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

(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 (000 omitted).

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



Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Foods)

Table with columns for Article, Grade, Rate per, July 1914, May 1923, April 1924, May 1924. Rows list various food items like Rice, Wheat, Jowari, Bajri, Pulses, Sugar, etc.

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Table showing percentages of July 1914 prices for various food items in July 1914. Rows list Cereals, Pulses, Sugar, and Other food items.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay (Non-foods)

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1923.	April 1924.	May 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Oils— Linned Rapeseed Copoly	Bald Cawpore (brown) Do.	Cwt.	8 14 6	13 1 0	12 0 0	12 4 0
			10 14 0	9 7 0	9 11 0	12 0 0
			11 4 0	13 2 0	12 2 0	12 0 0
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Brush Onara Dharwar Khandah Bengal	White	Candy	251 0 0	515 0 0	585 0 0	605 0 0
			222 0 0	440 0 0	565 0 0	565 0 0
			230 0 0	.....	555 0 0	.....
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White muslin Shirtings Long cloth Chaddars	40S Fut 2,000 6,600 Lapmann's 1,500 Local made 36" x 37 1/2 yds. 54" x 6 yds.	Lb. Pices Lb.	1 11 0	1 14 6	1 14 6	1 14 6
			5 15 0	8 12 0	8 12 0	8 12 0
			4 3 0	25 8 0	28 8 0	28 8 0
			10 6 0	1 4 3	1 7 6	28 8 0
			0 9 6	1 3 0	1 4 9	1 6 9
			0 9 6	.....	.....	1 4 6

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Oils— Linned Rapeseed Copoly	Bald Cawpore (brown) Do.	.....	100	147	135	138
			100	118	121	127
			100	121	112	110
Average—Oils	.....	.....	100	131	127	131
Textiles—Cotton— (a) Cotton—raw— Brush Onara Dharwar Khandah Bengal	White	.....	100	205	233	241
			100	198	255	255
			100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Cotton—raw	.....	.....	100	212	271	278
			100	212	272	278
(b) Cotton manufactures— Twist Grey shirtings White muslin Shirtings Long cloth Chaddars	40S Fut 2,000 6,600 Lapmann's 1,500 Local made 36" x 37 1/2 yds. 54" x 6 yds.	.....	100	212	239	239
			100	219	236	236
			100	209	209	209
			100	246	275	275
			100	213	247	239
			100	200	218	216
Average—Cotton manufactures	.....	.....	100	217	237	236
Average—Textiles—Cotton	.....	.....	100	213	246	243

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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1923.	April 1924.	May 1924.
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Other textiles— Silk	Manchow Mathow Lari	Lb.	5 2 6	9 10 0	9 15 2	7 8 5
			2 15 1	6 0 0	7 12 6	6 14 9
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned Do. Do.	.....	1 2 6	2 0 9	1 12 1	2 0 2
			1 1 3	0 13 1	0 13 3	0 13 3
			1 4 0	2 14 1	2 9 11	2 7 1
Metals— Copper braziers Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	.....	Cwt. ..... ..... ..... .....	60 0 0	77 0 0	71 0 0	69 0 0
			4 0 0	8 0 0	7 0 0	7 0 0
			7 12 0	14 0 0	11 4 0	11 4 0
			9 0 0	18 0 0	16 2 0	16 0 0
			8 12 0	19 0 0	20 0 0	20 0 0
			.....	.....	.....	.....
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Do. Kerosene Do.	Bengal Imported Elephant Brand Chester Brand	Ton ..... 2 Tons Case	14 12 0	26 10 0	24 10 0	24 10 0
			19 11 6	27 3 6	32 1 11	27 5 7
			4 6 0	7 8 0	7 4 6	7 8 6
			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— Silk	Manchow Mathow Lari	.....	100	167	193	146
			100	203	265	235
Average—Other textiles	.....	.....	100	195	229	191
Hides and Skins— Hides, Cow Do. Buffalo Skins, Goat	Tanned Do. Do.	.....	100	177	152	174
			100	76	77	77
			100	230	210	195
Average—Hides and Skins	.....	.....	100	161	146	149
Metals— Copper braziers Iron bars Steel hoops Galvanized sheets Tin plates	.....	.....	100	127	118	114
			100	200	175	175
			100	181	145	145
			100	200	179	178
			100	217	229	229
			100	.....	.....	.....
Average—Metals	.....	.....	100	185	169	168
Other raw and manufactured articles— Coal Do. Kerosene Do.	Bengal Imported Elephant Brand Chester Brand	.....	100	181	167	167
			100	138	163	139
			100	171	166	172
			100	196	185	185
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	.....	.....	100	172	170	166
Total—Food Total—Non-food	.....	.....	100	176	167	171
			100	182	192	187
General Average	.....	.....	100	180	184	181





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

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1923.	April 1924.	May 1924.		
			Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.		
Hides—	Sind	Maud ..	21 4 0	11 0 0	18 0 0	18 8 0		
			Punjab ..	21 4 0	11 0 0		18 0 0	
Metals—	....	Cwt. ..	60 8 0	78 0 0	74 0 0	72 0 0		
			Copper Braziers ..	3 14 0	7 0 0		6 12 0	
			Steel Bars ..	4 6 0	7 12 0		8 0 0	
			Plates ..	4 6 0	7 12 0		8 0 0	
Other raw and manufactured articles—	1st Class Bengal	Ton ..	16 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0	35 0 0		
			Chester Brand	Case ..	5 2 0		9 14 6	9 6 0
				Elephant ..	2 Tins ..		4 7 0	7 2 6
			Coal ..	2 Tins ..	4 7 0		7 2 6	7 6 0

Expressed as percentages of July 1914

Prices in July 1914 = 100

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	July 1914.	May 1923.	April 1924.	May 1924.		
Hides—	Sind	Maud ..	100	52	85	87		
			Punjab ..	100	52		85	
Average—Hides	....	....	100	52	85	87		
Metals—	....	Cwt. ..	100	129	122	119		
			Copper Braziers ..	100	181		174	
			Steel Bars ..	100	177		183	
			Plates ..	100	177		183	
Average—Metals	....	....	100	162	160	155		
Other raw and manufactured articles—	1st Class Bengal	Ton ..	100	219	219	219		
			Chester Brand	Case ..	100		193	183
				Elephant ..	2 Tins ..		100	166
			Coal ..	2 Tins ..	100		166	161
Average—Other raw and manufactured articles	....	....	100	193	188	190		
Total—Food	....	....	100	134	119	125		
Total—Non-food	....	....	100	159	175	167		
General Average	....	....	100	149	153	150		

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

Months.	Cereals.	Pulses.	Sugar.	Other food.	Total food.	Oil-seeds.	Raw cotton.	Cotton manufactures.	Other textiles.	Hides and skins.	Metals.	Other raw and manufactured articles.	Total non-food.	General average.
<b>1921</b>														
May 1921	173	152	314	162	196	150	115	272	181	166	248	231	204	202
<b>1922</b>														
May 1922	180	160	218	220	193	149	190	250	191	139	186	189	191	191
June	169	129	220	231	187	152	202	256	192	136	191	191	194	192
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	179
December	129	105	216	266	170	135	185	220	192	122	186	181	178	175
<b>1923</b>														
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	248	284	176	131	205	217	195	161	185	172	182	180
June	128	91	234	302	179	134	211	212	195	144	186	166	180	180
July	127	90	215	317	178	132	217	211	196	139	182	169	178	178
August	120	85	202	343	176	131	210	209	195	138	178	168	176	176
September	124	85	209	354	182	136	211	215	196	149	177	162	178	179
October	122	85	214	368	185	133	211	217	192	153	178	169	179	181
November	125	90	228	365	189	138	203	235	187	161	174	158	185	186
December	125	91	243	375	194	141	286	229	187	146	167	162	185	188
<b>1924</b>														
January	127	92	244	340	188	138	273	236	182	157	166	160	189	188
February	125	88	236	348	187	136	248	234	173	158	174	160	188	188
March	123	84	220	263	165	129	244	238	235	140	171	164	190	181
April	122	84	217	279	167	127	258	237	229	146	169	170	192	184
May	125	88	212	293	171	131	258	236	191	149	168	166	187	181

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

## Retail prices of articles of food in Bombay in July 1914, April and May 1924

The prices quoted are for local weights and measures

Article.	Grade.	Rate per	Equiva- lent in tolas.	July	April	May	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in May 1924 over or below	
				1914.	1924.	1924.	July 1914.	April 1924.
Rice	Rangoon Small-mill	Paylee	210	5 10	7 4	7 3	+1 5	-0 1
Wheat	Prasi Seoni	..	202	5 10	6 3	6 3	+0 5	....
Jowari	Best Sholapuri	..	198	4 3	5 8	5 8	+1 5	....
Bajri	Ghati	..	200	4 7	4 11	4 11	+0 4	....
Gram	Delhi	..	200	4 4	4 10	4 10	+0 6	....
Turdal	Cawnpore	..	204	5 11	6 8	6 9	+0 10	+0 1
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	Seer by weight	28	1 1	2 11	2 8	+1 7	-0 3
Sugar (raw)	Sangli, middle quality	..	28	1 2	1 10	1 10	+0 8	....
Tea	Loose Ceylon, powder	Lb.	39	7 10	15 9	15 10	+8 0	+0 1
Salt	Bombay, black	Paylee	168	1 9	3 3	2 9	+1 0	-0 6
Beef	Crawford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	4 0	4 0	+1 6	....
Mutton	Average for sheep and goat	..	39	3 0	7 0	6 8	+3 8	-0 4
Milk	Medium	Seer by measure	56	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	....
Chee	Belgaum, Superior	.. by weight	28	7 1	13 9	13 11	+6 10	+0 2
Potatoes	Mettupalayam	..	28	0 8	0 10	1 0	+0 4	+0 2
Onions	Nasik	..	28	0 3	0 7	0 6	+0 3	-0 1
Cocunut oil	Middle quality	..	28	3 7	4 1	4 0	+0 5	-0 1



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 manganese companies. (4)	Electric undertakings. (2)	Miscellaneous companies. (21)	Industrial securities. (93)	General average. (100)
1914 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915 "	96	95	113	97	94	98	122	147	130	127
1916 "	87	112	102	138	118	245	190	158	158	151
1917 "	73	126	97	212	131	456	237	185	194	184
1918 "	74	126	107	216	126	627		210	216	206
1919 "	77	191							304	288
1920 January	66	185	95	389	145	632	330	250	304	288
February	65	167	92	368	170	588	295	244	291	275
March	63	168	91	415	170	594	304	245	311	294
April	63	167	90	476	168	582	285	234	301	284
May	65	171	89	403	167	536	299	222	292	276
June	65	172	89	388	167	534	263	229	313	296
July	65	174	91	438	168	505	246	224	307	291
August	65	165	92	434	167	467	227	218	296	281
September	64	163	90	380	186	413	198	205	277	262
October	60	156	89	383	183	400	198	200	276	261
November	59	153	89	376	163	395	183	200	270	255
December	58	152	87						277	262
1921 January	61	162	88	388	163	448	190	193	273	259
February	61	160	87	380	167	425	193	196	273	259
March	62	153	88	340	163	416	164	187	251	238
April	62	149	88	365	158	492	169	186	266	252
May	63	150	89	375	159	481	179	189	271	256
June	64	157	91	383	158	471	184	192	275	261
July	65	162	92	450	158	529	212	203	311	295
August	65	163	89	445	158	498	207	197	306	289
September	65	161	88	462	158	508	194	191	312	295
October	65	161	88	461	158	484	193	182	308	292
November	66	163	86	448	158	473	186	174	300	284
December	67	157	87	433	158	472	181	169	292	276
1922 January	66	158	85	409	157	438	164	167	278	263
February	63	152	86	384	160	413	159	159	265	251
March	63	152	85	391	160	407	157	161	267	253
April	62	151	85	379	158	387	160	156	259	246
May	64	156	88	381	158	433	169	160	265	251
June	64	158	91	401	163	465	188	165	277	264
July	63	157	94	406	163	413	175	163	267	253
August	63	153	94	388	163	404	168	160	267	253
September	64	150	92	373	163	385	160	157	257	244
October	64	147	92	344	163	367	154	153	243	231
November	65	147	92	298	163	363	144	147	221	210
December	65	145	91	283	163	313	142	144	210	201
1923 January	65	144	91	292	163	318	149	150	216	206
February	65	145	91	288	166	310	152	147	214	204
March	67	145	92	255	142	264	140	141	193	185
April	68	147	95	241	142	247	133	139	186	178
May	71	147	100	235	142	256	133	136	183	176
June	71	146	101	222	145	214	126	136	176	168
July	72	145	102	229	147	196	136	126	176	169
August	73	136	106	216	153	162	138	124	168	161
September	73	140	106	225	133	171	133	121	166	159
October	72	138	106	213	133	157	131	118	163	157
November	71	137	104	216	122	131	135	119	163	156
December	71	137	100	215	122	131	131	114	160	154
1924 January	71	136	100	196	122	128	126	110	151	146
February	73	139	103	192	122	118	127	105	148	143
March	74	137	100	189	122	112	128	108	146	141
April	74	138	102	188	119	109	130	104	145	140
May	74	138	107	179	120	115	137	105	143	138

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 May 1924\*  
1. Bombay City and Island

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.†		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to May 1924.	May 1924.	
	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.			
I Textile Mills—													
Cotton Mills	93	35	37	11	2	..	9	3	120	43	131	46	
Woolen Mills	2	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	4	2	4	2	
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Total	95	36	39	12	2	..	9	3	124	45	135	48	
II Workshops—													
Engineering	6	1	40	11	..	..	2	1	44	11	46	12	
Railway	33	1	527	100	1	..	1	..	558	101	560	101	
Mint	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	2	1	2	1	
Others	4	..	13	..	..	..	1	..	16	..	17	..	
Total	43	2	582	112	1	..	4	1	620	113	625	114	
III Miscellaneous—													
Chemical Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	
Flour Mills	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	
Printing Presses	2	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	5	1	5	1	
Others	6	1	11	4	1	..	1	..	16	5	18	5	
Total	9	1	16	5	1	..	1	..	24	6	26	6	
Total, All Factories	147	39	637	129	4	..	14	4	768	164	786	168	

2. Ahmedabad

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to May 1924.	May 1924.	
	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.			
I Textile Mills—													
Cotton	34	10	3	..	1	..	15	3	21	7	37	10	
Total	34	10	3	..	1	..	15	3	21	7	37	10	
II Miscellaneous—													
Match Factory	2	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	1	..	3	..	
Flour Mills	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..	
Total	2	..	2	..	1	..	1	..	2	..	4	..	
Total, All Factories	36	10	5	..	2	..	16	3	23	7	41	10	

\* 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 May 1924—contd.

3. Karachi

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to May 1924.	May 1924.		
	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.				
I Workshops—														
Railway and Port Trust...	4	1	14	5	—	—	3	2	15	4	18	6		
Engineering	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Total	4	1	14	5	—	—	3	2	15	4	18	6		
II Miscellaneous—														
Total	2	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	2	1		
Total All Factories	6	2	14	5	—	—	4	3	16	4	20	7		

4. Other Centres

Class of Factory.	No. of accidents due to				Nature of injury.						Total No. of persons injured.		Remarks.	
	Machinery in motion.		Other causes.		Fatal.		Serious.		Minor.		January to May 1924.	May 1924.		
	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.	January to May 1924.	May 1924.				
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills	26	7	8	—	1	—	5	1	28	6	54	7		
Others	2	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	1	—	5	—		
Total	28	7	9	—	3	—	5	1	29	6	59	7		
II Workshops—														
Railway	5	—	10	13	—	—	—	—	65	13	65	13		
Arms and Ammunition Works	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—		
Others	1	—	6	3	—	—	1	—	6	5	7	3		
Total	5	—	16	16	—	—	1	—	71	16	71	16		
III Miscellaneous—														
Canning and Preserving Factories	11	—	4	1	5	—	1	—	10	1	14	1		
Print Works	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—		
Others	1	—	3	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	4	1		
Total	11	—	7	2	5	—	2	1	13	1	16	2		
Total All Factories	44	7	32	18	6	—	8	2	112	23	126	25		



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, Free Road, Bombay.	S. A. Rehalla, Free Road, Bombay.
	2. The B. E. & C. I. Railwaymen's Union.	July 1920	2,000	Rai Sahib Chandrika Prasad of Ajmer.	S. H. Jhabwala, 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 Ajmer.	C. Bhaskar, Chairman, B.E. & C.I. Ry. Workshop, Fort, Bombay.
	4. The Port Trust Workshop Union.	March 1920	2,500	F. J. Givalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	5. The Clerks' Union.	April 1918	500	B. M. Anandoo, B.A. Malabar Lumbering Company, Bank Street, Fort, Bombay.	1. Anant Padmanabh, 53, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay. 2. S. Bhawanji Rao, Chalkbhai Building, Chappati, Bombay.
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers) Union.	April 1918	1,000	F. J. Givalla, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay.	S. H. Jhabwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	7. The G. I. P. Railway Staff Union.	May 1921	5,138	Motilal J. Mehta, Ag. Assistant Auditor, Audit Office, G. I. P. Railway, Bombay.	1. Swami Advaitanand, G. I. P. Railway Staff Union Office, Dacia, 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. Jhabwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.
	9. The Victoria Owners and Drivers' Union.	March 1924	1,200	S. H. Jhabwala, 123, Esplanade Road, Fort, Bombay.	V. D. Pantankar, Marunga.
	10. The Saloon, Hiranankhana Owners' and Barbers' Association.	January 1924	1,200	Do.	Chakrabarti Nani Murali, A. Dinn House, 126, Shop No. 6, Suparibung Road, Fort.
	Total Members, Bombay City		27,888		
2. Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union	February 1920	2,700	Anusuya Sarabhai, Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Sewa Galsani Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad.
	2. The Winders' Union	June 1920	150	Do.	Do.

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

Name of District.	Name of Union or Federation.	Date of formation.	Number of members.	Name and address of		
				President or Chairman.	Secretary.	
2. Ahmedabad— contd.	3. The Throttle Union	February 1920	5,000	Amrutsya Sarabhai, Sewa Ashram, Ahmedabad.	Gulzarji Lal Nanda, Labour Union Office, Ahmedabad. Assistant Secretary—Kishoribhai Kanetkar, Desai, Karamba, Ahmedabad.	
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	August 1920	2,400	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, Khaman, Ahmedabad.	M. V. Kothari, Rajpur, Ahmedabad.	
	7. The B. E. & C. I. Railway Employers' Association.	February 1920	5,000*	Do.	Do.	
		Total Members, Ahmedabad		15,850		
	2. Sukkur	N. W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	September 1920	3,574	Shahzade Miri, Carriage and Wagon Shop, Sukkur.	Tarokinath Kani, Station Road (Carrabad), Sukkur.
4. Karachi	N. W. Railway Union (Karachi District).	1920	3,500	Tharwaridas, Carriage Goods Office, Karachi.	Kazi Khuda Baksh, 32, New Haroon Building, Bander Road, Karachi.	
5. Sholapur	The Bari Light Railway Employers' Union.	March 1921	467	G. C. 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. Salgaol, 879, Shahuwar Peth, Poona City. 2. N. B. Parrohit, Gondwanekar Press, Poona City.	
7. Broach	1. The Fine Counts Mill Labour Union.	October 1923	360	Note	Dinkarrao Narbheram, Pindar, Broach.	
	2. The Sarawati Mill Labour Union.	October 1923	360	Do.	Do.	
	Total, rest of Presidency		8,391			
	Total Members, Presidency		32,129			

\* Approximate.

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

Name of District	Name of Union or Federation	Income per month	Fees paid per member per month	Expenditure
				per month
1. Bombay City	1. The Indian Seaman's Union	Rs. 500	Rs. 6 (per year)	Rs. 700
	2. The B.E. & C.I. Railwaymen's Union.	312	Fees 1 to 8 annas according to pay	115
	3. The C.I.P. Railwaymen's Union	339	Do. do.	120
	4. The Post Trust Workshop Union	250	Rs. 4 for those earning Rs. 50 and under per month; Rs. 8 for those earning above Rs. 50.	60
	5. The Clerks' Union	100	Rs. 4	30
	6. The Bombay Presidency Postmen's (including Packers') Union.	200	Rs. 8	80
	7. The C.I.P. Railway Staff Union	400	One day's pay per year	300
	8. The Bombay Telegraph Workmen's Union.	75	Rs. 4	30
	9. The Victoria Owners' and Drivers' Union.	125	Rs. 8 for owners; Rs. 4 for drivers	15
	10. The Saloon, Hamamkhana Owners' and Barbers' Association.	200	Rs. 8	25
2. Ahmedabad	1. The Weavers' Union	675	Rs. 4	175
	2. The Winders' Union	100	Rs. 2	12
	3. The Throttle Union	1,100	Rs. 4 per labourer; Rs. 2 per doffer; Anna 1 per full-day worker.	500
	4. The Card Room, Blow Room and Frame Department Union.	600	Rs. 4	226
	5. The Drivers, Oilmen and Firemen's Union.	175	Rs. 6 per oilman; Rs. 8 per driver or fireman.	14
	6. * The Post and Railway Mail Service Association.			
	7. The B.E. & C.I. Railway Employers' Association.	Exact amount not available.	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
2. Sukkur	The N.W. Railway Union (Sukkur District).	500	Subscription at the rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ 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 Bari Light Railway Employers' Union.	From 25 to 35.	An amount equal to one day's pay as drawn by a member on the 1st of January of each year.	From about 25 to 30
6. Poona	The Press Workers' Union	4	Rs. 2 to Rs. 3	About 2.
7. Broach	1. The Fine Counts Mill Labour Union	90	Rs. 4 per member	Nil (!).
	2. The Sarawati Mill Labour Union	90	Do.	Nil (!).

\* The members are not paying fees at present. † 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 April		
	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	6,104	5,724	3,911
Nos. 11 to 20 "	18,429	16,622	14,507
Nos. 21 to 30 "	13,148	8,543	12,045
Nos. 31 to 40 "	1,294	621	1,302
Above 40 "	158	112	341
Waste, etc. "	10	14	12
Total ..	39,143	31,636	32,118

## Bombay Island

Count or Number	Month of April		
	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	5,596	5,409	3,321
Nos. 11 to 20 "	12,964	13,544	9,182
Nos. 21 to 30 "	7,608	6,838	6,746
Nos. 31 to 40 "	530	432	609
Above 40 "	85	64	158
Waste, etc. "	1	4	3
Total ..	26,784	26,291	20,019

## Ahmedabad

Count or Number	Month of April		
	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds	83	4	237
Nos. 11 to 20 "	2,589	437	2,931
Nos. 21 to 30 "	4,112	425	4,101
Nos. 31 to 40 "	640	80	489
Above 40 "	54	18	145
Waste, etc. "	.....	.....	.....
Total ..	7,478	964	7,903



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

## Bombay Presidency

Description	Month of April		
	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—			
Khadi (a) Pounds	867	702	772
Chudders	7,165	4,065	6,149
Dhotis	724	743	877
Drills and jeans	120	33	77
Cambrics and lawns	474	316	423
Printers	8,014	6,633	8,579
Shirtings and long cloth	1,004	1,046	630
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	96	62	111
Tent cloth	1,377	1,544	543
Other sorts			
Total ..	19,841	15,144	19,154
Coloured piece-goods	5,361	6,238	6,891
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods	124	119	102
Hosiery	14	15	20
Miscellaneous	68	54	114
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool	9	13	3
Grand Total ..	25,417	21,583	26,284

## Bombay Island

Description	Month of April		
	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—			
Khadi (a) Pounds	499	425	540
Chudders	2,020	1,399	1,551
Dhotis	659	696	757
Drills and jeans	66	22	59
Cambrics and lawns	26	28	2
Printers	6,119	4,893	5,717
Shirtings and long cloth	889	894	475
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings	89	53	79
Tent cloth	1,013	1,133	206
Other sorts			
Total ..	11,380	9,543	9,910

(a) Included under "other sorts" prior to April 1924.

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

Description	Month of April		
	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	4,323	5,073	4,740
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	122	114	99
Hosiery ..	11	7	8
Miscellaneous ..	68	52	108
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	9	13	....
Grand Total ..	15,913	14,802	14,865

## Ahmedabad

Description	Month of April		
	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods— Khadi (a) Pounds ..	....	....	169
Chudders ..	317	246	411
Dhotis ..	4,107	1,684	3,469
Drills and jeans ..	55	15	42
Cambrics and lawns ..	42	6	11
Printers ..	317	145	288
Shirtings and long cloth ..	1,391	1,209	2,307
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	97	140	140
Tent cloth ..	....	4	20
Other sorts ..	185	222	214
Total ..	6,511	3,671	7,071
Coloured piece-goods ..	430	551	1,308
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	....	....	....
Hosiery ..	3	7	11
Miscellaneous ..	1	3	6
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..	....	....	1
Grand Total ..	6,945	4,232	8,397

(a) Included under 'other sorts' prior to April 1924.



## Principal Trade Disputes in progress in May 1924

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of work-people involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result
	Directly	Indirectly	Began	Ended		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
1. The E. D. Sassoon Mill, Chinchpogly, Bombay.	100	....	1924 9 May	1924 14 May	Demand for the reinstatement of the Head Jobber of the Ring Welt Department.	Work resumed unconditionally and new hands engaged.
2. The Aryodaya Ginning and Manufacturing Co., outside Premderava, Ahmedabad.	150	....	29 May	29 May	Demand for the dismissal of a Jobber on account of misconduct.	Work resumed, the Jobber having been warned.



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Bengkulu	Pandjaneing	Sourabaya
Boeng	Pekalongan	Sourabaya

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 BATAVIA INDIA—Calcutta, Bombay, Rangoon.  
 SHANGHAI—Shanghai, Hongkong.  
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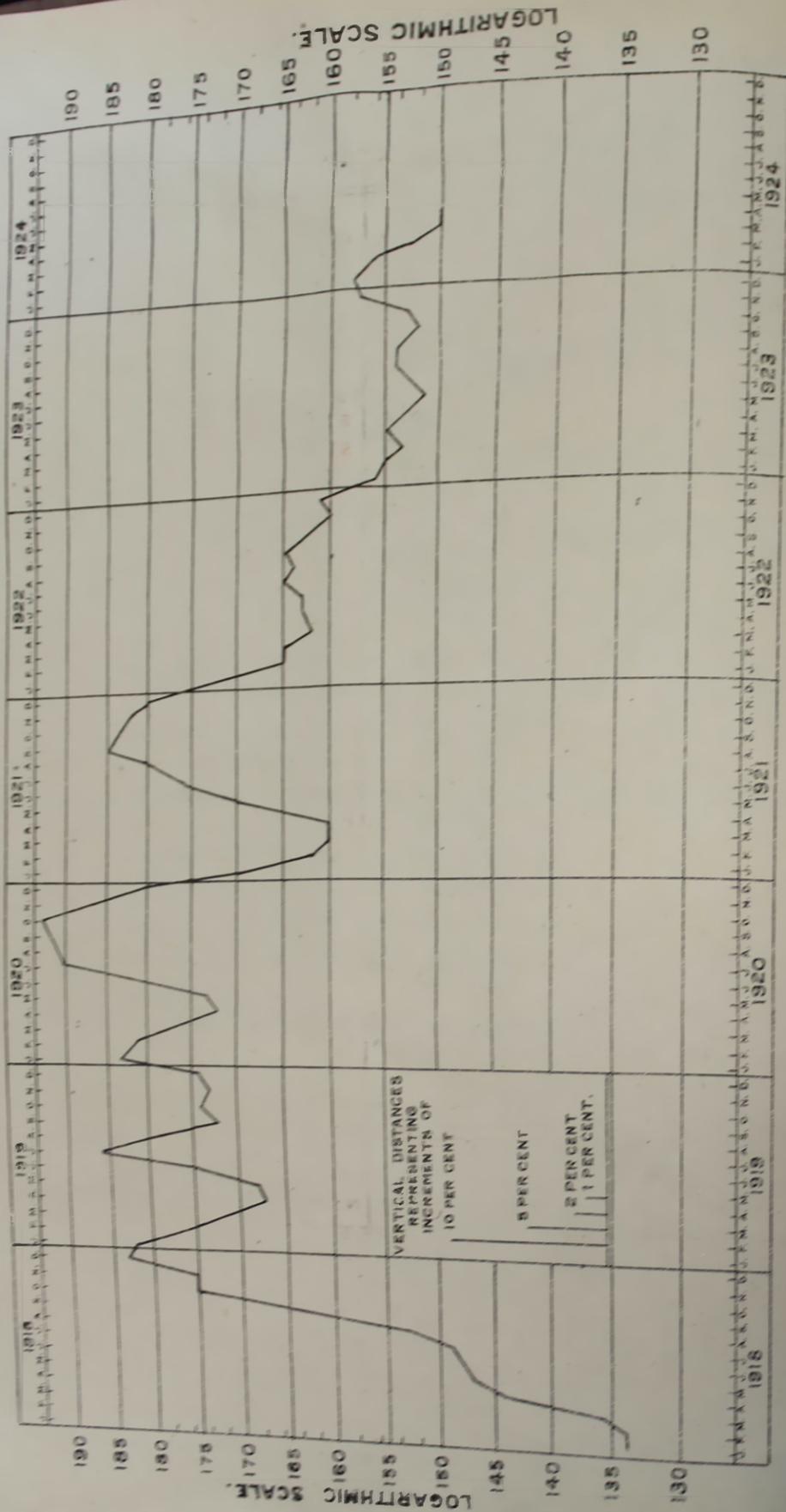
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**CHARTS**

1. Cost of Living in Bombay.
2. Progress of the Monsoon, 1923.
3. Securities Index.
4. Rainfall for the period June to November 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. Note the steadiness of the curve in 1922.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1923.

CHART No 2.

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

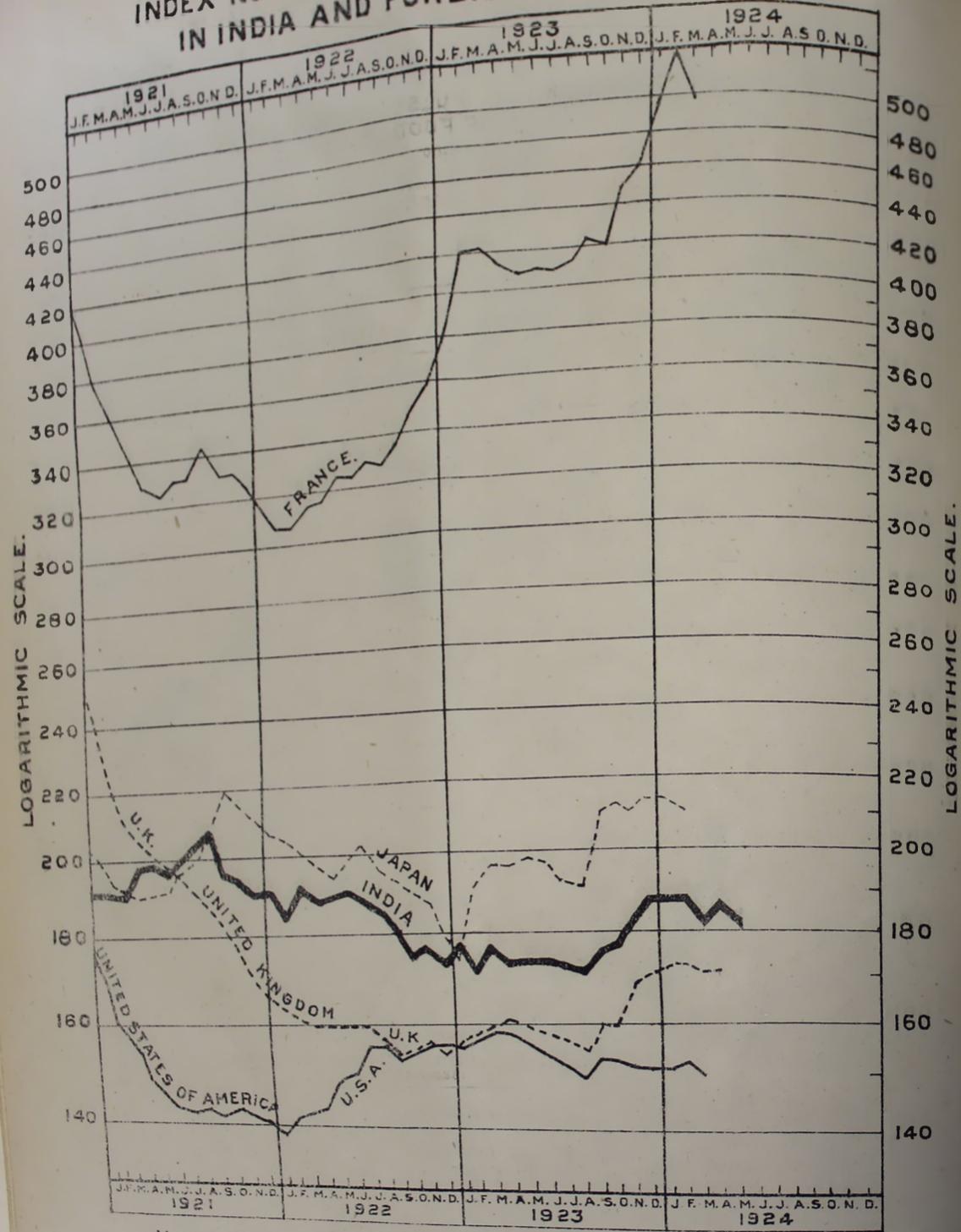
PROVINCE OR STATE	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER						
	6 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	20 <sup>th</sup>	27 <sup>th</sup>	4 <sup>th</sup>	11 <sup>th</sup>	18 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	1 <sup>st</sup>	8 <sup>th</sup>	15 <sup>th</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	29 <sup>th</sup>	5 <sup>th</sup>	12 <sup>th</sup>	19 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>	10 <sup>th</sup>	17 <sup>th</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	31 <sup>st</sup>	
<b>I BOMBAY PRESIDENCY</b>																							
1. SIND (RIVER RAINFALL)	F	F	N	N	N	F	F	F	F	F	F	F	EX	EX	EX	N	F	F					
2. GUJARAT		S	S	S	S	S	F	N	S	F	N	N	S	S	S	F	EX						
3. DECCAN	S	S	S	S	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	F	N	F	S	S	S	N	EX	N					
4. KONKAN	S	F	F	S	EX	EX	EX	N	F	EX	EX	N	F	S	S	EX	EX	F					
<b>II MADRAS PRESIDENCY</b>																							
1. MALABAR	S	N	N	EX	N	EX	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	S	EX	EX	N	F					
2. DECCAN	S	S	N	S	F	F	N	F	S	F	S	S	S	F	F	EX	S	F	S	S	S	EX	
3. COST NORTH	S	S	S	S	F	F	N	N	S	F	N	S	S	F	F	EX	EX	EX	S	S	S	N	
4. SOUTH EAST														F	F	F	S	F	EX	N	F	F	F
<b>III MYSORE</b>	EX	S	S	S	F	EX	EX	EX	S	S	EX	S	S	S	S	EX	N	S	S	S	F		
<b>IV HYDERABAD</b>																							
1. NORTH	S	S	S	S	EX	N	N	EX	S	F	N	F	S	S	EX	EX							
2. SOUTH	S	S	F	F	S	N	EX	N	S	S	F	S	F	EX	N	EX							
<b>V CENTRAL PROVINCES</b>																							
1. BERAR		S	S	S	F	N	S	EX	EX	S	EX	F	S	S	EX	EX	EX	EX	S				
2. WEST		S	S	S	N	N	N	EX	EX	F	EX	EX	EX	S	F	EX	N	EX	S				
3. EAST		S	S	F	S	EX	N	N	F	EX	N	EX	F	F	N	F	EX	EX	S				
<b>VICENTRAL INDIA</b>																							
1. WEST		S	S	S	F	EX	N	EX	EX	S	F	F	EX	S	EX	EX							
2. EAST		S	S	S	S	EX	F	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	F	S	S	EX	EX					
<b>VII BENGAL PRESIDENCY</b>	S	N	N	N	F	N	N	F	EX	N	F	EX	N	EX	N	N	F	S	EX	F			
<b>VIII ASSAM</b>	S	EX	EX	N	N	N	N	N	F	F	S	F	N	EX	EX	N	N	N	EX	F	S		
<b>IX BIHAR &amp; ORISSA</b>																							
1. BIHAR		F	S	N	N	S	EX	F	N	F	F	S	F	EX	F	F	S	N	EX				
2. ORISSA		S	S	F	S	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	F	N	F	F	N	EX	EX				
<b>X UNITED PROVINCES</b>																							
1. EAST			S	S	N	N	EX	N	N	EX	F	N	N	EX	S	S	EX	EX					
2. WEST					S	F	N	EX	F	EX	F	EX	F	N	S	S	EX						
<b>XI PUNJAB</b>																							
1. EAST & NORTH						EX	EX	EX	N	EX	F	EX	EX	S									
2. SOUTH & WEST									N	F	F	EX											
<b>XII RAJPUTANA</b>																							
1. WEST			S	S	EX	S	EX	EX	F	N	EX	F	S	S	S								
2. EAST			S	S	N	N	EX	EX	F	EX	F	E	S	S	F								
<b>XIII BURMA</b>																							
1. LOWER	EX	EX	N	EX	EX	N	F	EX	EX	EX	EX	N	F	F	F	N	N	EX	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 80-120 percent of the normal.  
Fair 40-79 percent of the normal.  
Scanty Less than 40 percent of the normal.  
Normals for Divisions are means of Normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations.  
The Daily Weather Report gives the complete list of stations.
- 3 The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon, and are based on information supplied by the Director-General of Observatories. Lettering outside the green lines is omitted as rainfall in these places is less important.  
Within the green lines (ie 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.

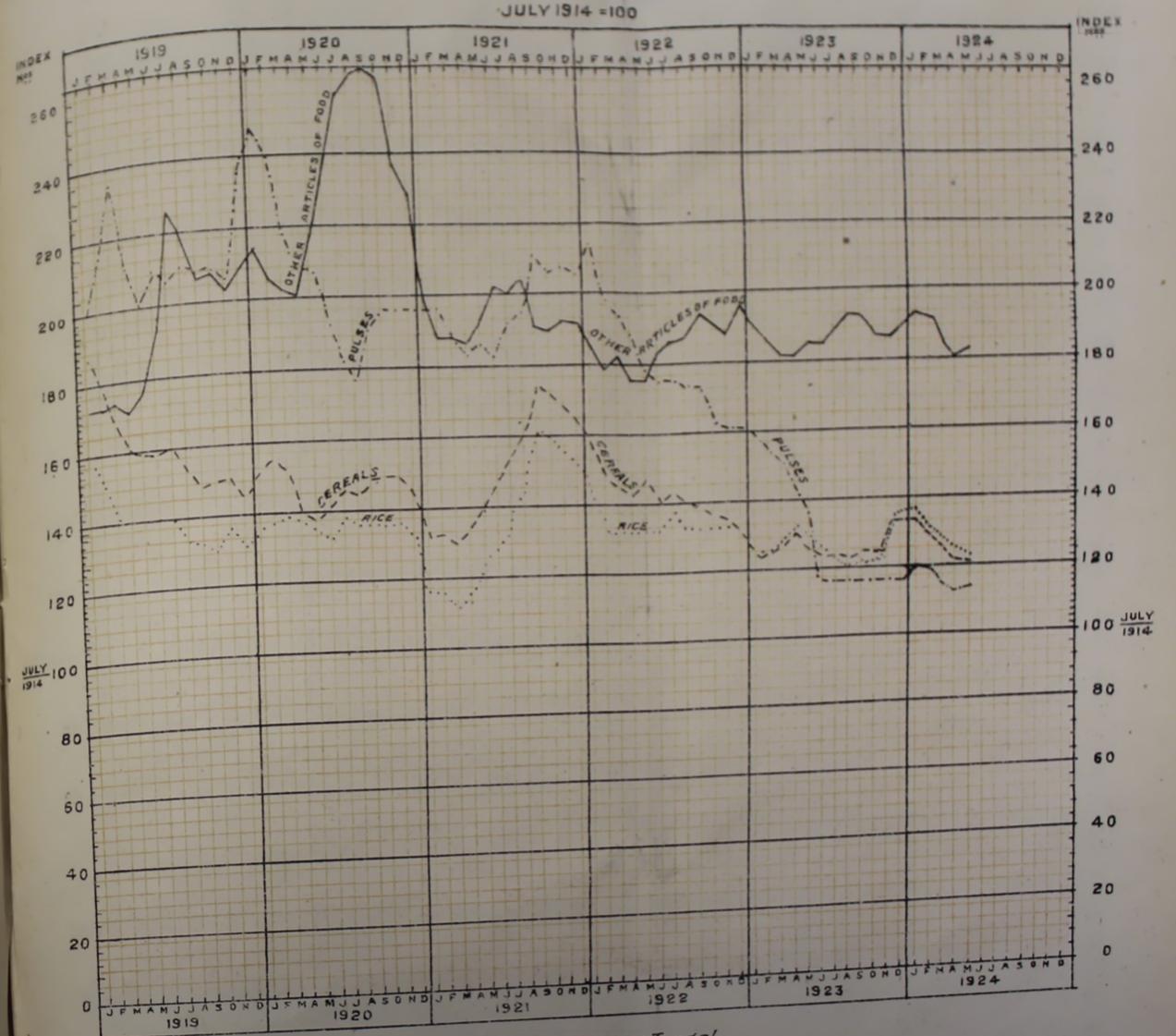


### CHART N<sup>o</sup> 5 INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES



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

### Chart N<sup>o</sup> 6 RETAIL PRICES OF RICE, PULSES, CEREALS AND OTHER ARTICLES OF FOOD IN BOMBAY.



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



# WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NONFOODS

CHART No. 10

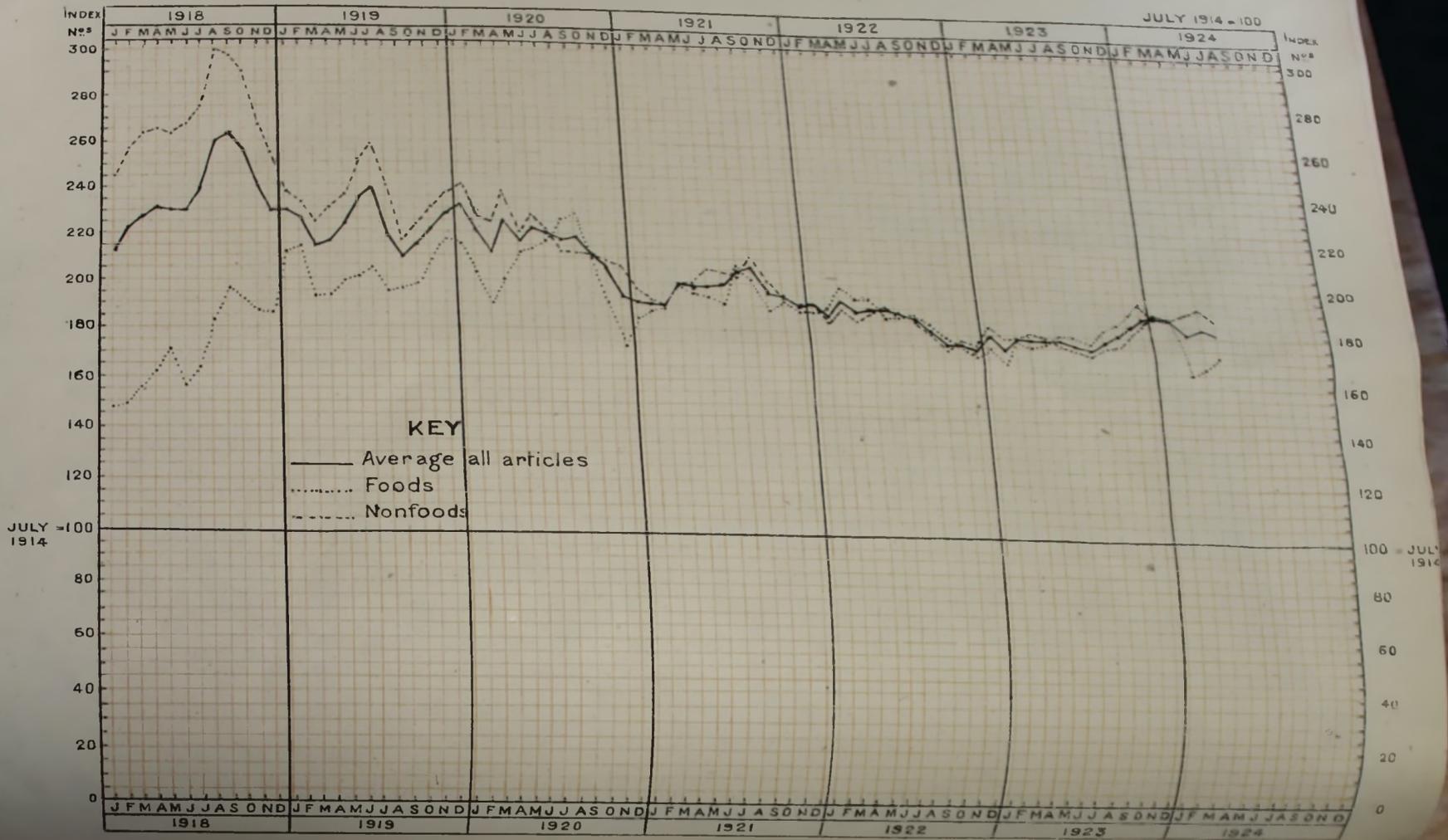
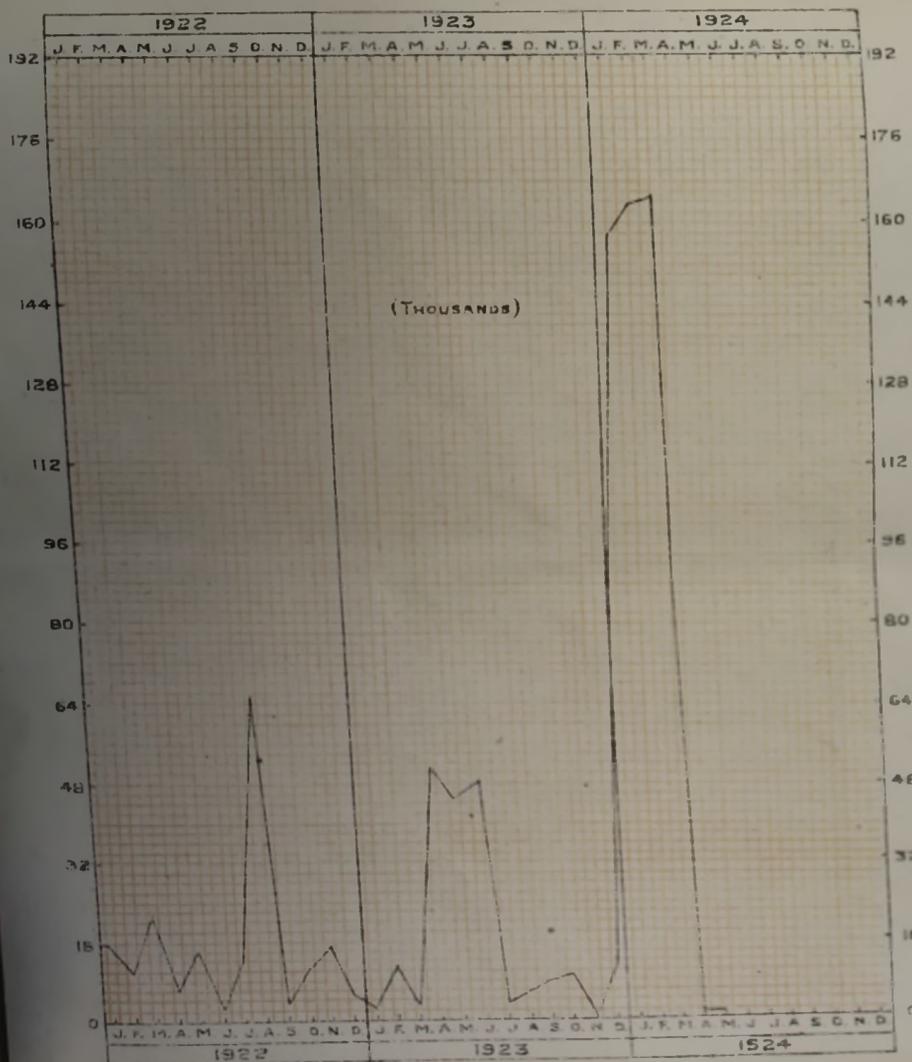


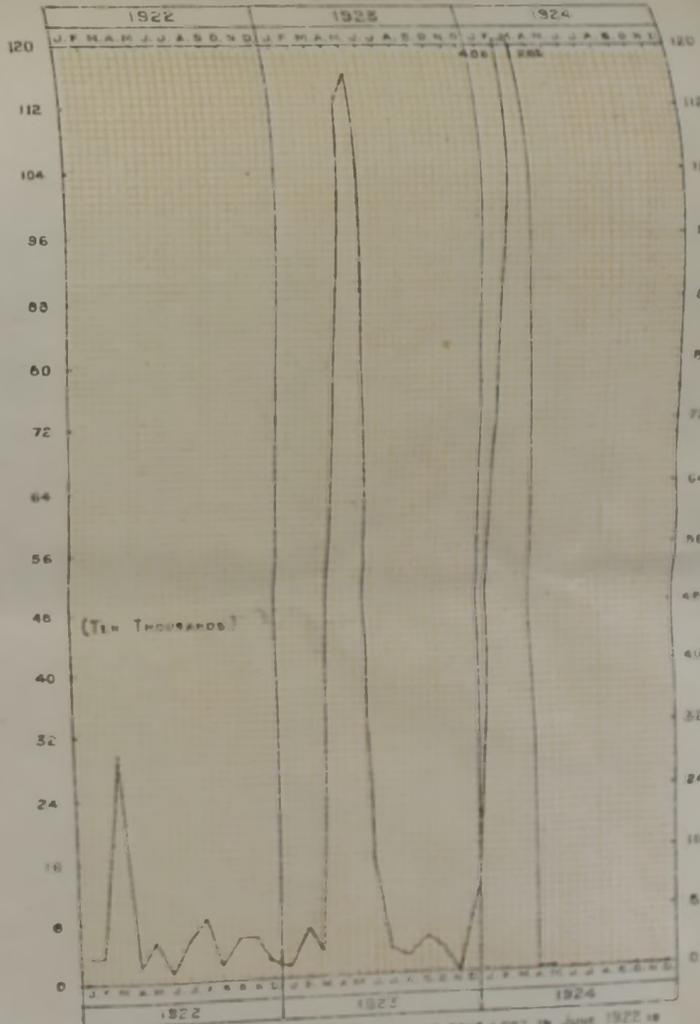
CHART No. 11

## NUMBER OF WORKPEOPLE INVOLVED



NOTE: EACH SQUARE ABOVE = 200.

## 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 ACHHARAD COTTON MILLS.  
 (3) THE LARGE NUMBER OF WORKING DAYS LOST (42,83,000) IN FEBRUARY AND (2,88,000) IN MARCH 1924 IS DUE TO THE GENERAL STRIKE IN BOMBAY COTTON MILLS.