

THE PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON, 1924

(See Chart No. 2.)

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

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

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

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Labour Gazette

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Editorial Note

This number of the "Labour Gazette" ends the third volume. It has been decided with effect from the September number to change the form from Demy 4to to Royal 8vo. This change is made mainly at the request of the Press, which represented that it has no other work in the same shape as the "Labour Gazette," but large amounts in the 8vo shape. At the same time opportunity will be taken to carry into effect an improvement which has been under contemplation for some time, namely the use of printed blocks for the charts instead of lithographed plates.

These changes may possibly cause some delay in the issue of the September number. Every effort will be made to bring the number out as usual. But this notice is inserted so that subscribers may know the reason in case the first number of Volume IV is delayed in the Press.

The Month in Brief

EMPLOYMENT—THE COTTON INDUSTRY

THE supply of labour was generally plentiful in the CITY OF BOMBAY. The statistics regarding employment for the month ended 12th August 1924, showed an average absenteeism of 11·7 per cent. as compared with 10·4 per cent. in the month ended 12th July. The increase in the percentage of absenteeism was due partly to the seasonal exodus and partly to ill-health. 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 one case. Detailed reports of absenteeism have been received from representative mills in this centre. These showed an average absenteeism of 4·2 per cent. during the month as compared with 3·6 per cent. last month and 4·8 per cent. two months ago.

In SHOLAPUR, the supply of labour was adequate and absenteeism showed a slight improvement in the month under review. The average absenteeism was 10·8 per cent. in the present month as compared with 11·4 per cent. last month and 14·8 per cent. two months ago.

In BROACH, there was a slight increase in absenteeism, the figures being 7·7 per cent. in the present month as compared with 6·5 per cent. last month and 7·6 per cent. two months ago.

On the whole, therefore, during the month, in the principal centres of the industry the supply of labour was plentiful but absenteeism increased except in Sholapur.

THE ENGINEERING INDUSTRY

In the Engineering Industry in Bombay the supply of labour was equal to the demand. The average of absenteeism in representative engineering workshops

(based on the returns from three large workshops) showed a decrease, the figures being 12·9 per cent. in the month under review as compared with 13·35 per cent. last month and 16·99 per cent. two months ago.

On the Marine Lines and Colaba Reclamations of the Development Directorate, the average absenteeism was on the level of the preceding month (4 per cent.) as compared with 3·75 per cent. two months ago.

On the construction of *chauls* (tenements) at Naigaum, DeLisle Road and Sewri absenteeism remained on the level of the last four months, viz., 4 per cent. On the construction of *chauls* at Worli, there was an increase in the average absenteeism which rose to 12 per cent. in the month under review from 10 per cent. in the last month. The supply of unskilled labour employed for loading, removing, storing and unloading cargo in the docks by the Bombay Port Trust was plentiful. The percentage absenteeism was 11·31 in the month under review as compared with 19·26 in the preceding month and 25·4 two months ago. The decrease was due partly to the return of labourers from their villages and partly to less illness. In the Chief Engineer's Department of the Bombay Port Trust the supply of labour was plentiful but a fall in the attendance was recorded. The percentage of absenteeism based on the attendance of monthly paid workers employed in the Engineering Workshops of the Karachi Port Trust recorded an improvement in the month under review, the figure being 10·1 per cent. as compared with 11 per cent. in the preceding month and 9·5 per cent. two months ago.



WORKING CLASS COST OF LIVING

In July 1924, the Working Class Cost of Living, as described elsewhere in the *Labour Gazette*, was 2 per cent. above the level of the preceding month. The average level of retail prices of all the commodities taken into account in the cost of living index for the City of Bombay (100 represents the level of July 1914) was 156 for all articles and 151 for food articles only. There was a rise of 2 per cent. as compared with this time last year and a fall of 19 per cent. from the high water mark (October 1920) in the general cost of living index. There was a general rise in the prices of all the cereals and pulses included in the index except turdal. The fuel and lighting group remained stationary during the month.

Each commodity has been given a relative importance roughly corresponding with the estimated aggregate annual consumption of that article in the whole of India in the quinquennium 1909-10 to 1913-14. No allowance is made for any change in the standard of living, because an index number for any given community purporting to combine movements in prices with movements in standards of living would present great difficulties in construction and interpretation. It has been decided to reconstruct the Index on the basis of the Working Class Budgets already obtained for Bombay City. This change, which has been under contemplation for some time, will be effected as soon as possible. In the meantime the present system will continue. A further reference to the Cost of Living Index will be found on page 7.

THE WHOLESALE INDEX NUMBER

In July 1924 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 184, as compared with 185 in the previous month, showing a fall of less than 1 per cent. There was a fall of one point in both food and non-food groups. The index number for food grains only was 133 as compared with 122 during the previous month. The general index of all the articles is 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 group Index Numbers 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:—

—	Number of items	Increase per cent. over July 1914				
		March 1924	April 1924	May 1924	June 1924	July 1924
Foodstuffs	15	65	67	71	75	74
Non-foods	29	90	92	87	90	89
All articles	44	81	84	81	85	84

Steps are being taken to revise the list of articles and reconstruct the Index.

SECURITIES INDEX NUMBER

In July 1924, the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities was 135 showing a fall of 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month. The continuous fall in industrial securities since July 1923 was arrested in June 1924 but they registered a further fall in the current month of 2 per cent. as compared with the previous month. Cotton Ginning and Pressing Companies remained stationary while Cotton Mill shares and Electric Undertakings registered a fall of 4 points each as compared with the previous month. Government and Corporation Securities remained stationary during the month.

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES

There were four industrial disputes in progress during July 1924, as compared with five in the preceding month. All these disputes began in the month and the number of workpeople involved was 2,104 as compared with 567 in the preceding month and 3,097 in July 1923. The aggregate duration of all disputes during July 1924 was about 3,661 working days as compared with 1,169 in June 1924 and 35,363 in July 1923. Two of these disputes arose over a question of pay and the remaining two were due to other minor grievances. The employees were successful only in one case while the remaining three cases were settled in favour of the employers.

COTTON MILL PRODUCTION

Cotton mill production in June and in the three months ended June 1924, as compared with the corresponding periods of the two preceding years is shown in the following two tables. In Bombay City there was a decline in the production of yarn as compared with the two previous years, while woven goods recorded no change in the production as compared with the preceding years. In Ahmedabad, the production of both yarn and woven goods remained practically on the level of 1922. The small amount of production in 1923 was due to the general strike in Ahmedabad:—

(1) Month of June

—	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun	Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced	June			June					
			1922			1923			1924		
			1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924			
Bombay City	29	27	26	16	16	16					
Ahmedabad	8	5	7	6	3	6					
Other centres	5	5	6	3	3	3					
Total, Presidency	42	37	39	25	22	25					



(2) Three months ending June

—	Millions of lbs. of yarn spun			Millions of lbs. of woven goods produced		
	Three months ended June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
Bombay City	86	81	73	49	47	48
Ahmedabad	23	7	23	21	9	22
Other centres	15	14	14	8	8	8
Total, Presidency	124	102	110	78	64	78

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

—	Net rate per lb. in annas		
	July 1923	June 1924	July 1924
Longcloth	20	23	23
T. Cloths	19	21½	21½
Chudders	19	20½	21

THE OUTLOOK

The index number of wholesale prices fell by less than 1 per cent. on the number for the previous month. Food grains, which were 14 per cent. above the pre-war level in April 1924 have shown a continuous rise since then and are now 33 per cent. above the pre-war level. This is an average of wheat (three quotations) and rice, jowari, barley, bajri, gram and turdal (one quotation each). The general average of all foods is 74 per cent. above the pre-war level mainly owing to the high prices of sugar, turmeric and ghee after the war. The average of non-foods is 89 per cent. above the basic period, raw cotton being 165 per cent. and cotton manufactures 132 per cent. above the pre-war level. The question of selecting a larger and more representative list of commodities for the Wholesale Prices Index is under consideration. Security prices which were steadily falling since July 1923 showed a stationary position in June 1924 but registered a fall of 3 points during the current month. This seems to imply that money has not yet commenced to flow into industrial investments in Bombay.

The Bank rate decreased to 4 per cent. on 31st July. The rate of exchange in Bombay on London on the 1st of August 1924 was 1s. 5⁷/₁₆d. as against 1s. 5d. on the 1st of July. But it fell a good deal thereafter. India's foreign trade in July showed a slight increase in imports but a large fall in exports as compared with the preceding month.

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK ON AUGUST 20

The following summary of conditions in this Presidency on 20th August was received from the

Director of Agriculture:—

The crop reports received from various Officers up till now go to show that there has been just sufficient rain in the south Konkan, in most parts of Gujarat and in the vicinity of the Western Ghats. Here the agricultural operations are proceeding smoothly and the crops are, on the whole, doing well. In the North Gujarat the rice crop has not been transplanted timely and this operation is still in progress. In the North Konkan the rain is sufficient for the development of the Kharif crops but more is badly needed for the transplantation of rice. In West Khandesh the cotton crop is withering for want of rain. In the Deccan and Karnatak except in places adjoining the Sahyadris, the situation is serious. The Kharif area is considerably restricted and what few crops are grown are dying owing to want of moisture. The cultivators have almost given up all hopes of Kharif crops and are looking forward to sow rabi. There is a temporary break in the monsoon especially during the last week which has aggravated the situation in the whole of the Deccan and Karnatak. If rain does not fall within a short period the whole of these tracts will suffer severely. The Konkan also demands more rain at an early date.

In other Provinces the outlook is fair to good, except in the Madras Deccan and parts of Hyderabad, where it is poor, and in the flood areas.

There is some probability of free movements of labour from the Deccan to industrial centres. But if the rabi rains are exceptionally good this probability would be lessened or even eliminated.

On the whole, the condition of British trade was better in July than the corresponding season last year. Bankers' advances to industry were greater than in the preceding month. There was an improvement in the cotton industry.

Unemployment in Great Britain remained practically unchanged. On July 21st, 1,041,800 workers were without employment. The cost of living of an average working class family rose slightly and on July 1st was 70 per cent. above the level of July 1914.

In France the returns of foreign trade for June show that exports decreased while imports remained stationary. The retail food index for Paris was stationary.

The absolute volume of trade in Germany had fallen very considerably. This was attributed to the exceptional shortage of capital and credit. Nor was there confidence in the buyers owing to instability of prices. The number of unemployed in Germany in the middle of May was about 243,000.

It is reported as likely that Austria will suffer from trade depression owing to a financial crisis which has just swept over Vienna. The crisis is declared to be the most serious since 1873, and is believed to be largely due to the taxation policy both of the State and the municipality of Vienna. The *Economist* is however inclined to the view that the chief blame attaches to the bankers and financiers themselves.

In most other countries such as South America, the Far East and the Dominions, the trade outlook was by no means discouraging. Only in South Africa were the conditions of trade unsatisfactory. It was estimated that between 30,000 and 40,000 workers were unemployed in the Union and various schemes were being considered by the new Union Cabinet for their absorption.



THE BALANCE OF TRADE

During July 1924, the visible balance of trade including securities against India amounted to Rs. 2.77 lakhs. The corresponding figure for 1923 was a favourable balance of Rs. 5.48 lakhs. The trade figures for the last six months for India, Bombay and Karachi are given below:—

India						
In lakhs of rupees.						
	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924	June 1924	July 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	35.64	41.35	30.69	29.05	29.01	25.93
Imports do. ..	18.19	19.31	20.27	20.60	18.82	19.98
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 17.45	+ 22.04	+ 10.42	+ 8.45	+ 10.79	+ 5.95
Balance of transactions in treasure (private) ..	- 4.56	- 4.03	- 5.56	- 4.99	- 4.31	- 2.99
Visible balance of trade including securities ..	+ 13.61	+ 17.52	- 1.85	+ 2.50	+ 3.67	- 2.77

Bombay						
In lakhs of rupees.						
	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924	June 1924	July 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	13.79	15.36	11.87	8.81	8.87	5.34
Imports do. ..	7.06	7.78	7.37	7.91	6.34	7.05
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 6.73	+ 7.58	+ 4.50	+ 90	+ 2.53	- 1.71
Imports of treasure ..	4.24	3.82	5.06	5.00	4.46	2.69
Exports of treasure ..	..	3	4	40	33	21
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	- 4.24	- 3.79	- 5.02	- 4.60	- 4.13	- 2.48

Karachi						
In lakhs of rupees.						
	February 1924	March 1924	April 1924	May 1924	June 1924	July 1924
Exports (private merchandise) ..	5.80	5.64	2.38	4.28	3.61	4.48
Imports do. ..	1.44	1.69	1.97	2.09	2.48	2.82
Balance of Trade in merchandise ..	+ 4.36	+ 3.95	+ 41	+ 2.19	+ 1.13	+ 1.56
Imports of treasure ..	6	10	10	..	..	7
Exports of treasure ..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Balance of transactions in treasure ..	- 6	- 10	- 10	..	..	- 3

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

BUSINESS CONDITIONS

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

	Rs.	d.		Rs.	d.
September 1923 ..	1	4 1/2	March 1924 ..	1	4 15/32
October ..	1	4 1/16	April ..	1	4 5/8
November ..	1	4 11/16	May ..	1	4 11/16
December ..	1	5 3/32	June ..	1	4 27/32
January 1924 ..	1	5 3/16	July ..	1	5
February ..	1	5 1/8	August ..	1	5 7/16

These rates are supplied by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay. On the 22nd August exchange on London was 1s. 5 7/32 d.

During July 1924, the Bank clearings in Bombay and Karachi recorded a fall of Rs. 2 crores and Rs. 1 crore respectively, as compared with the preceding month, while the clearings in Calcutta showed an increase of Rs. 4 crores. The figures for the last three months are as follows:—

In crores of rupees *				
	July 1924	May (a) 1924	June 1924	Total January to July 1924
Bombay ..	47	48	49	361
Karachi ..	3	3	4	24
Calcutta ..	67	62	63	467
Rangoon ..	10	7	10	68
Total (four ports) ..	127	120	126	920

* 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 July 1924 was 59.51 as against 58.53 in June and 56.72 in May 1924.

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

	Rs.		Rs.
August 1923 ..	1,007	February 1924 ..	908
September ..	995	March ..	896
October ..	983	April ..	881
November ..	998	May ..	841
December ..	1,005	June ..	821
January 1924 ..	924	July ..	817

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



The Cost of Living Index for July 1924

A rise of three points

All articles .. 56 per cent. Food only .. 51 per cent.

In July 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 three points above the level of the previous month. Taking 100 to represent the level in July 1914, the index was 153 in June and 156 in July 1924. The general index is 19 per cent. below the high-water mark reached in October 1920, 5 per cent. below the twelve-monthly average of 1922 and 1 per cent. above the twelve-monthly average of 1923.

The cost of living index, which showed a downward tendency during the early months of the year, has shown a definite upward tendency in June and July. Food-stuffs rose by nearly 3 per cent. during the month owing chiefly to a uniform rise in the prices of all the cereals and pulses included in the index. In 'other food articles' there was a rise of 4 per cent. in gul, 3 per cent. in salt, 15 per cent. in potatoes and 17 per cent. in onions, the last two being seasonal. The clothing group registered a rise of nearly 1 per cent. during the month.

All items : Average percentage increase over July 1914

	1918	1919	1920	1921	1922	1923	1924
January ..	34	82	83	69	73	56	58
February ..	34	76	81	62	65	55	56
March ..	36	72	77	60	65	54	53
April ..	44	67	72	60	62	55	50
May ..	47	68	73	67	63	53	50
June ..	48	74	81	73	63	51	53
July ..	49	86	90	77	65	53	56
August ..	53	79	91	80	64	54	54
September ..	65	72	92	85	65	54	54
October ..	75	74	93	83	62	52	52
November ..	75	73	86	82	60	53	53
December ..	83	74	81	79	61	57	57
Yearly average ..	54	75	83	73	64	54	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 all-India 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 June and July 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.	June 1924.	July 1924.	Increase (+) or decrease (-) of points in July 1924 over or below June 1924
Rice ..	100	120	132	+ 4
Wheat ..	100	109	111	+ 2
Jowari ..	100	137	139	+ 2
Bajri ..	100	120	128	+ 8
Gram ..	100	112	116	+ 4
Turdal ..	100	112	113	+ 1
Sugar (refined) ..	100	250	250	....
Sugar (raw) ..	100	160	167	+ 7
Tea ..	100	203	203	....
Salt ..	100	154	158	+ 4
Beef ..	100	163	158	- 5
Mutton ..	100	200	202	+ 2
Milk ..	100	191	191	....
Ghee ..	100	197	197	....
Potatoes ..	100	186	213	+ 27
Onions ..	100	230	268	+ 38
Cocoonut oil ..	100	113	113	....
All food articles (weighted average) ..	100	147	151	+ 4

The amount purchasable per rupee was less than the amount purchasable in July 1914 by the following percentage differences:—

Rice 24, Wheat 10, Jowari 28, Bajri 22, Gram 14, Turdal 11, Sugar (refined) 61, Sugar (raw) 40, Tea 51, Salt 37, Beef 37, Mutton 50, Milk 48, Ghee 49, Potatoes 53, Onions 63, Cocoonut Oil 11.

The purchasing power of the rupee being taken as 16 annas in July 1914 its purchasing power in the month under review was 10 annas 3 pies for all items and 10 annas 7 pies for food articles only.

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



LABOUR GAZETTE
Bombay Cost of Living Index
A

AUGUST, 1924

Articles.	Unit of quantity.	Annual consumption (Mass Units) (in crores).	Price per Unit of Quantity.			Price × Mass Unit.		
			July 1914	June 1924	July 1924	July 1914	June 1924	July 1924
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cereals—								
Rice	Maund	70	5.594	7.141	7.380	391.58	499.87	516.60
Wheat	"	21	5.594	6.104	6.188	117.47	128.18	129.95
Jowari	"	11	4.313	5.974	6.063	47.89	65.71	66.69
Bajri	"	6	4.313	5.167	5.500	25.88	31.00	33.00
Total—Cereals						582.82	724.76	746.24
Index Numbers—Cereals						100	124	128
Pulses—								
Gram	Maund	10	4.302	4.833	5.000	43.02	48.33	50.00
Turdal	"	3	5.844	6.537	6.620	17.53	19.61	19.86
Total—Pulses						60.55	67.94	69.86
Index Numbers—Pulses						100	112	115
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined)	Maund	2	7.620	19.641	19.641	15.24	39.28	39.28
Sugar (raw)	"	7	8.557	13.693	14.287	59.90	95.85	100.00
Tea	"	5	40.000	81.198	81.198	1.00	2.03	2.03
Salt	"	28	2.130	3.276	3.375	10.65	16.38	16.88
Beef	Seer	28	0.323	0.526	0.510	9.04	14.73	14.28
Mutton	"	33	0.417	0.833	0.844	13.76	27.50	27.85
Milk	Maund	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	128.77	246.16	246.16
Ghee	"	14	9.198	17.583	17.583	76.19	150.00	150.00
Potatoes	"	11	50.792	100.000	100.000	49.27	91.66	104.79
Onions	"	3	4.479	8.333	9.520	12.70	14.29	14.29
Cocoanut Oil	"	1	1.552	3.673	4.167	4.66	10.72	12.50
Total—Other food articles						381.18	708.60	728.07
Index Numbers—Other food articles						100	186	191
Total—All food articles						1,024.55	1,501.30	1,544.17
Index Numbers—All food articles						100	147	151
Fuel and lighting—								
Kerosene oil	Case	5	4.375	7.531	7.656	21.88	37.66	38.28
Firewood	Maund	48	0.792	1.281	1.281	38.02	61.49	61.49
Coal	"	1	0.542	0.906	0.833	0.54	0.91	0.83
Total—Fuel and lighting						60.44	100.06	100.60
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting						100	166	166
Clothing—								
Chudders	Lb.	27	0.594	1.281	1.313	16.04	34.59	35.45
Shirtings	"	25	0.641	1.521	1.521	16.03	38.03	38.03
T. Cloth	"	36	0.583	1.328	1.328	20.99	47.81	47.81
Total—Clothing						53.06	120.43	121.29
Index Numbers—Clothing						100	227	229
House-rent	Per month	10	11.302	18.700	18.700	113.02	187.00	187.00
Index Numbers—House-rent						100	165	165
Grand Total						1,251.07	1,908.79	1,953.06
Cost of Living Index Numbers						100	153	156



LABOUR GAZETTE
Bombay Cost of Living Index
B

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Articles.	Approximate percentage weight assigned to each article based on proportion to aggregate expenditure in July 1914.	Alternative method of presentation.						
		Simple Index Numbers of Prices in Table A.			Weight × Index Numbers.			
		July 1914.	June 1924.	July 1924.	July 1914.	June 1924.	July 1924.	
Cereals—								
Rice	31.4	100	128	132	3,140.0	4,019.2	4,144.8	
Wheat	9.4	100	109	111	940.0	1,024.6	1,043.4	
Jowari	3.8	100	137	139	380.0	520.6	528.2	
Bajri	2.1	100	120	128	210.0	252.0	268.8	
Cereals								
Index Numbers—Cereals	46.7				4,670.0	5,816.4	5,985.2	
Pulses—								
Gram	3.1	100	112	116	310.0	347.2	359.6	
Turdal	1.3	100	112	113	130.0	145.6	146.9	
Pulses	4.4				440.0	492.8	506.5	
Other food articles—								
Sugar (refined)	1.2	100	258	258	120.0	309.6	309.6	
Sugar (raw)	4.8	100	160	167	480.0	768.0	801.6	
Tea	0.1	100	203	203	10.0	20.3	20.3	
Salt	0.9	100	154	158	90.0	138.6	142.2	
Beef	0.7	100	163	158	70.0	114.1	110.6	
Mutton	1.1	100	200	202	110.0	220.0	222.2	
Milk	10.3	100	191	191	1,030.0	1,967.3	1,967.3	
Ghee	6.1	100	197	197	610.0	1,201.7	1,201.7	
Potatoes	4.0	100	186	213	400.0	744.0	852.0	
Onions	0.4	100	230	268	40.0	92.0	107.2	
Cocoanut oil	1.0	100	113	113	100.0	113.0	113.0	
Other food articles	30.6				3,060.0	5,688.6	5,847.7	
Index Numbers—Other food articles					100	186	191	
Fuel and lighting—								
Kerosene oil	1.8	100	172	175	180.0	309.6	315.0	
Firewood	3.0	100	162	162	300.0	486.0	486.0	
Coal	0.1	100	167	154	10.0	16.7	15.4	
Fuel and lighting	4.9				490.0	812.3	816.4	
Index Numbers—Fuel and lighting					100	166	167	
Clothing—								
Chudders	1.3	100	216	221	130.0	280.8	287.3	
Shirtings	1.3	100	237	237	130.0	308.1	308.1	
T. Cloth	1.7	100	228	228	170.0	387.6	387.6	
Clothing	4.3				430.0	976.5	983.0	
Index Numbers—Clothing					100	227	229	
House-rent	9.1	100	165	165	910.0	1,501.5	1,501.5	
Index Numbers—House-rent					100	165	165	
Grand Total	100.0				10,000.0	15,288.1	15,640.3	
Cost of Living Index Numbers					100	153	156	

European Cost of Living Index

A FALL OF TWO POINTS

ALL ITEMS - - - - - 62 PER CENT.
FOOD ONLY - - - - - 60 PER CENT.

A description of the scope and method of construction of the index relating to families living in Bombay in European style was published on pages 13-15 of the Labour Gazette for April 1924.

Certain changes have been made on the present occasion. It has been found necessary to cut out the sample item "Poultry" because owing to its violent seasonal fluctuations of price it upset the results. An attempt was made to obtain prices for a fish which is in season all the year round, or is liable to only moderate fluctuations. But this was found to be impossible. So the sub-group Fish has been cut out altogether and the figures recalculated back for all past periods.

Secondly, the "summary" and "alternative method of presentation" which appeared in the May issue have been omitted, mainly in order to save space.

The items shown in the Tables now presented are samples of articles and services. The prices in the price columns are quoted for the "Unit of Quantity" in column 2. The prices are then multiplied by the figures in column 3 "Annual number or quantity required" in order to give to the various articles their relative importance. The resulting expenditure figures for the sample articles are shown in the last three columns. The group and general index numbers are the index numbers of the figures in the last three columns, and are not simple index numbers of the sample prices.

It is important to emphasize that the figures presented are not intended to be a complete budget. They are merely samples of articles and services, selected mainly because it was possible to get information for their price movements. The idea underlying the whole enquiry is that these samples are fair samples, and that the index number obtained from them would approximate to the index number which would be obtained on any given individual budget, were it possible to ascertain the past and present prices of every particular article or service appearing in that budget.

The newspaper criticism on the index previously published attacked especially the rates for "Servants' wages" and "Rents". These two items are being made the subject of special enquiries, the results of which will be published in due course.

It is necessary again to emphasize that the index is only applicable to cases where the standard of living remains unaltered. As a matter of fact the standard of living does not remain unaltered, but normally moves upward in all strata of society. This movement is probably not measurable in arithmetic terms, but allowance should be made for it by persons using the index. It is also necessary to remark that the effect of any deterioration or improvement in quality and durability

of the same article for different years cannot be shown. For example, shoes may possibly last a shorter time now than the same trade variety of shoe lasted in 1914. On the other hand types possibly last longer. Changes of quality would however affect mainly the "Weights" (*i.e.* "Annual number or quantity required") and their effect on the index number would be small.

As compared with April 1924, the general index number in July 1924 registered a fall of two points. The general index number is equal to the level of January 1924 and five points below the level of July 1923.

Group Fluctuations

The main changes by groups are shown in the table below (100 = the level in July 1914).

Group or Item.	Month and Year.			
	October 1923.	July 1923.	April 1924.	July 1924.
I Food—				
Bread	204	191	88	179
Sugar	216	186	80	161
All food	207	190	80	160
II Fuel and lighting	159	129	122	120
III Clothing	249	181	181	180
IV House-rent	132	163	163	163
V Miscellaneous—				
Servants	140	162	159	159
Conveyance	157	170	165	159
School fees, etc.	116	145	140	137
Passages	123	184	177	174
Income-tax	200	200	200	200
Household necessaries	168	130	125	125
Others	220	178	213	213
All miscellaneous	144	166	162	160
General Index No.	157	167	164	162

It will be seen that in July 1924 there has been a fall as compared with October 1920 in food, fuel and lighting, clothing, household necessaries and others. On the other hand, house-rent, servants, conveyance, school-fees and passages have increased.

General Index Number

The following are the available general index numbers for certain months in the years 1919, 1920, 1923 and 1924:—

July 1914 = 100		July 1914 = 100	
Month and Year.	Index No.	Month and Year.	Index No.
April 1919	151	October 1923	164
October 1919	146	January 1924	162
October 1920	157	April 1924	164
July 1923	167	July 1924	162

Bombay European Cost of Living Index

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual No. or quantity required in 1914	Prices per unit of quantity			Price % Annual No. or quantity required		
			July 1914	April 1924	July 1924	July 1914	April 1924	July 1924
Food—Bread								
Wheat	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Barley (for stock and brewing)	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mutton	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Kidney	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Poultry	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Chicken	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Eggs	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fish	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Milk	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Butter	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cheese	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Vegetables	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tomatoes	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Onions	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Carrots	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Index No.					100	100	100	100
Food—Sugar								
White	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Raw	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Index No.					100	100	100	100
Fuel and lighting								
Coal	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Electricity	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Matches	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Kerosene oil	100 lbs.	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Index No.					100	100	100	100
Clothing—Men								
Shirts	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Vests	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Socks	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Collars (stiff, white 4 fold)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Collars (soft, white)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cotton suit	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Wool suit	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Pyjamas, Suits	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Hats	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Shoes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Leisure suit	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Rain coat	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ties	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Total Index No.					100	100	100	100

Bombay European Cost of Living Index—contd.

Articles	Unit of quantity	Annual No. of quantity required per family	Prices per unit of quantity			Prices x Annual No. of quantity required		
			July 1914	April 1924	July 1924	July 1914	April 1924	July 1924
			Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Clothing—women and children—								
Woolens	yard	12 yards	9.750	1.000	1.000	9.00	12.00	12.00
Woolens	"	"	9.575	1.250	1.250	7.50	15.00	15.00
Woolens	"	"	7.500	12.500	12.500	56.50	155.00	155.00
Woolens	"	"	4.500	8.750	8.750	54.00	78.00	78.00
Woolens	"	"	4.500	5.500	5.500	5.75	10.75	10.75
Woolens	"	"	9.275	9.565	9.565	94.50	108.75	108.75
Woolens	"	"	10.500	18.750	18.750	30.00	62.00	62.00
Woolens	"	"	7.500	10.500	10.500	28.00	52.00	52.00
Woolens	"	"	14.000	31.500	31.500	318.75	534.38	534.38
						100	168	167
Total						660.33	1,194.18	1,189.18
Adjusting Total						100	181	180
House-rent	Per month	12 months	150.000	244.500	244.500	1,800.00	2,934.00	2,934.00
Miscellaneous								
Servants			25.000	40.000	40.000	300.00	400.00	400.00
Butler			25.000	40.000	40.000	300.00	400.00	400.00
Cook			18.000	26.000	26.000	216.00	312.00	312.00
Household			25.000	40.000	40.000	300.00	400.00	400.00
Wages			20.000	30.000	30.000	240.00	360.00	360.00
Dishes								
Total						1,332.00	2,112.00	2,112.00
Index No.						100	159	159
Conspicuous								
Wheat			40.000	70.000	70.000	400.00	840.00	840.00
Wheat			9.575	1.781	1.781	327.50	641.16	641.16
Wheat			5.500	5.500	5.500	42.00	66.00	72.00
Wheat			277.000	374.500	300.000	277.00	374.50	300.00
Wheat			67.000	55.000	55.000	67.00	55.00	55.00
Total						1,198.50	1,976.66	1,968.66
Index No.						100	165	159
School fees			124.531	173.825	170.000	1,494.37	2,486.92	2,040.00
Passages	One return	8	1,128.500	2,013.500	1,976.428	799.00	1,342.35	1,317.68
Income-tax	Per month	12 months	55.000	110.000	110.000	660.00	1,320.00	1,320.00
Alcohol—liquor—								
Port, table	Drama	40	27.500	45.000	45.000	4.13	6.75	6.75
Port, table	"	40	27.500	45.000	45.000	1.37	2.25	2.25
Port, table	"	20	19.500	45.000	45.000	5.85	13.50	13.50
Port, table	"	20	5.500	9.750	9.750	2.50	4.88	4.88
Port, table	"	20	25.000	52.750	52.750	4.83	8.79	8.79
Port, table	"	20	91.000	140.125	140.125	9.10	14.01	14.01
Port, table	"	20	5.500	9.750	9.750	60.00	78.00	78.00
Port, table	"	20	18.500	20.000	20.000	111.00	120.00	120.00
Total						198.78	248.18	248.18
Index No.						100	125	125
Others—								
Stationery	5 quires (paper)	4	9.265	1.000	1.000	2.25	4.00	4.00
Medicine	Months	12 months	8.925	18.417	18.417	103.50	221.00	221.00
Total						105.75	225.00	225.00
Index No.						100	213	213
Miscellaneous Total						5,748.40	9,310.19	9,171.47
AN Index Total						100	162	160
General Index No.						9,683.75	16,655.69	16,689.14
						100	144	142



Wholesale Prices in Bombay
A FALL OF ONE POINT

In July 1924 the general level of wholesale prices in Bombay was 84 per cent. above the level in July 1914 as against 85 per cent. in the previous month. This shows a fall of less than 1 per cent. In comparison with the corresponding month of last year, prices have risen by more than 3 per cent., the general index being 2 per cent. above the twelve-monthly average of 1923. The general index has fallen by 30 per cent. from the highest peak (263) reached in August 1918 and now stands at the level of April 1924.

The index number for food grains was 133 in July 1924 and 122 during the previous month. This shows a rise of 9 per cent. which is due to a general rise in the prices of all the cereals and pulses included in the index, except turdal which remained stationary.

The index number for food articles stands at 74 points above the pre-war level and one point below the previous month in spite of the 9 per cent. rise in food grains. This is due to a fall of about 19 per cent. in turmeric.

Out of the non-food articles (bebeads registered a rise of more than 9 per cent. and other raw and manufactured articles a rise of 5 per cent. but these were counter-balanced partly by a fall of more than 7 per cent. in other textiles and partly by a fall of more than 2 per cent. in metals. The slight advance in the prices of hides and skins was counterbalanced by a decline in the prices of cotton textiles. As a result of these changes the index number for non-food articles stands at 59 points above the pre-war level and one point below the level of the previous month.

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

100 = average of 1923

Group	July 1924	June 1924	July 1923	June 1923	July 1924	July 1923
I. Cereals	102	98	102	98	102	104
II. Pulses	99	95	100	95	100	108
III. Sugar	96	95	100	97	95	94
IV. Other food	90	105	106	97	91	91
Total food	90	100	105	95	98	97
V. Oilseeds	90	90	100	95	102	112
VI. Raw cotton	90	94	102	105	106	108
VII. Cotton manufactures	96	90	107	108	107	105
VIII. Other textiles	102	90	94	110	104	95
IX. Hides and skins	95	105	105	98	100	101
X. Metals	100	98	91	91	91	91
XI. Other raw and manufactured articles	100	100	95	101	94	98
Total non-food	98	98	104	105	104	104
General average—all articles	98	100	104	102	102	102

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

The Construction of the Index

No.	Articles	July 1914	July 1924	Average	
1	Cereals (Wheat, pearl, barley and turdal)	7 Index Nos.	700	1,000	140
2	Pulses (Gram and turdal)	2	200	176	98
3	Sugar (Refined and raw)	3	300	675	211
4	Other articles of food (Ghee, salt, etc.)	3	300	700	280
5	Total, all food	15	1,500	2,612	174
6	Oilseeds (Ground, rapeseed, poppyseed and linseed)	4	400	600	150
7	Raw cotton	3	300	794	265
8	Cotton manufactures (Long cloth, shirtings, chaddars, etc.)	6	600	1,393	232
9	Other textiles (Silk)	2	200	374	187
10	Hides and skins	3	300	450	150
11	Metals (Copper, lead, iron, steel, etc.)	5	500	832	166
12	Other raw and manufactured articles (Gum, resin, etc.)	4	400	665	166
13	Total, non-food	27	2,700	5,196	189
14	General Average	42	4,200	7,718	184

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay*

Group	No. of items	Increase (+) or decrease (-) per cent. in July 1924 as compared with	
		the preceding month (June 1924)	the corresponding month of last year (July 1923)
1. Cereals	7	+ 9	+ 13
2. Pulses	2	+ 7	+ 9
3. Sugar	3	- 1	- 2
4. Other food	3	- 11	- 18
Total, food	15	- 1	- 2
5. Oilseeds	4	+ 9	+ 14
6. Raw cotton	3	+ 2	+ 15
7. Cotton manufactures	6	- 3	- 5
8. Other textiles	2	+ 1	+ 8
9. Hides and skins	3	- 2	- 9
10. Metals	5	+ 1	- 2
11. Other raw and manufactured articles	4	+ 5	- 2
Total, non-food	27	- 1	+ 6
General average	42	- 1	+ 3

* Wholesale prices in Karachi will be found on page 34.



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

Table showing annual movements in food and non-food wholesale prices from 1918 to 1924, indexed to July 1914 = 100.

Comparative Retail Prices

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

Bombay prices in June 1924 = 100

Table comparing retail food prices in Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur, and Poona for June and July 1924.

Bombay prices in July 1924 = 100

Table showing Bombay prices in July 1924 = 100 for various articles like Cereals, Pulses, and other food items.

On page 37 will be found statistics of food prices in June and July 1924 for Bombay, Karachi, Ahmedabad, Sholapur and Poona.

Securities Index Number

A FALL OF THREE POINTS

In July 1924 the general average of the prices of 100 shares and securities taken in the Labour Office Securities Index Number was 135 as compared with 138 during the previous month, which shows a fall of more than two per cent. Government and Corporation (fixed interest) Securities and Cotton Ginning and Pressing companies remained stationary. The fall of 3 points in Industrials is due to a fall of 4 points in Cotton Mills Shares. The consistent fall in the level of the general index and in the index for Industrial Securities from July 1923 was partially checked during June 1924, but both these indexes have again fallen during the current month. It may be noted that, whereas Industrials fell by 6 points since



March 1924, Government and Corporation Securities have remained consistently steady. The construction of the index is shown in the following table :-

The Construction of the Index

Table showing the construction of the index with 10 categories like Government and Corporation Securities, Banks, Railway Companies, etc.

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

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

Table showing the annual movement for the important groups for July in each year and the monthly movement from July 1923.

* Also included in "Industrial Securities."

Municipal Reform in Bombay

We are in receipt of the Preliminary Report on Municipal Retrenchment and Reform by Sir M. Visvesvaraya, K.C.I.E., D.Sc., M.I.C.E., prepared in pursuance of a Resolution of the Municipality.

The report, which is of much interest, contains some contentious matter, which cannot be discussed in a Government organ. But we should like to quote in extenso the following passages which bear on the conditions of the labouring classes in the present and the future :-

"It is clear that housing accommodation in Bombay has not kept pace with the growth of population. Hence the extraordinarily high rents now ruling, which are (according to the Labour Office Cost of Living Index) approximately 80 per cent. higher than in 1914. This great rise has helped to some extent to give fictitious values to house property in the City, and the assessment is doubtless based, in the majority of cases, on such values (Appendix XV, Cols. 4 and 5). The obvious inference is that housing conditions in Bombay are abnormal, congestion intense, rents heavy and taxation high. These factors have contributed in no small measure to the high cost of living and its attendant handicaps to industry and trade." (pp. 17-18).

"There is perhaps no question connected with Bombay more urgently in need of solution than the housing problem, so that labourers whose wages are not beyond the subsistence line may be able to live in healthy surroundings and sanitariously built houses within a reasonable distance of their daily work. Till this is done, there will be much suffering among the working classes, and the principal industries on which the prosperity of the City depends will be working at a disadvantage. Government have had this object in view in all their schemes but much yet remains to be done." (pp. 19-21).

"The provision for parks and open spaces is far from adequate, more recreation grounds being badly needed in the crowded parts of the City. It is gratifying to notice that provision is being made for two parks in the Mahim Development Scheme. It is necessary to mark off and set apart, on a comprehensive plan of the City, lands needed for future parks and parkways, to help in the body-building and mind-clearing pastimes of the people, although the actual construction or laying out of these may be deferred till funds become available." (p. 21).

"I trust it will not be deemed unorthodox if consideration is urged to the necessity of providing a sufficient number of model lodging houses and hotels, especially for the middle and poorer classes of the population. Usually, the accommodation should be on a non-sectarian basis, but persons who have caste prejudices may be accommodated also, and charged slightly higher fees. In Glasgow the Corporation has erected modern lodging houses, both for males and females, the charge for accommodation being the equivalent of from 6 to 11 pence per night according to the class of lodging house. It should be possible to provide in Bombay similar but cheaper accommodation suited to the means of the local travelling population." (p. 21).

"There are numerous other requirements of a minor character necessary to improve the amenities of life in this City, such as, the provision of public libraries and the creation of agencies to promote the special wants and interests of industries and the industrial population generally, on which the prosperity of the City so largely depends." (p. 22).

We must apologize for extracting such long quotations from the Report. But the matters here treated are closely connected with the work of the Labour Office.

It may be noted that the Table Appendix I on page 49 is statistically open to objection. "Net rateable value per head of population" and "Incidence of Taxation per head of population" are calculated for 1903-04, 1913-14 and 1923-24. But whereas for 1903-04 and 1913-14, the population taken is the recorded census population of the census of 1901 and 1911, the population taken for 1923-24 is the Municipal Health Officer's mid-year estimate based on the 1921 census figure, but allowing for increase. If the 1921 census figure were taken for 1923-24 the value in column (5) would be 97 instead of 93 and the figure 21.7 in column (12) would presumably



be different also. In the alternative, estimated mid-year figures for the early years should be used as for the year 1923-24. In the case of 1903-04 a special error of larger magnitude is introduced by reason of the 1901 census figure having been disturbed by plague. In 1901 the population recorded was 776,006; but Messrs. Enthoven and Edwards estimated the correct figure (after restoring temporary plague refugees) at about 970,000; and the special municipal census in 1906 showed 977,822. If a figure for 1903-04 were adopted based on these estimates the proportions for that year in columns (5) and (12) would be very different.

In Appendix XV the census figure is adopted instead of the Municipal Health Officer's estimate. The rateable value is stated as the same as in Appendix I, but the year for which it is stated is changed from 1923-24 to 1924-25.

Bombay Development Directorate

We have received the Report on the Working of the Development Directorate for the year ending 31st March 1924 (Bombay, Government Central Press, Rs. 3).

From the point of view of the Labour Office the interest of the Report centres in the Housing Schemes and the Schemes for Provision for the expansion of Industries outside Bombay.

It is noted that the original Housing Scheme, which contemplated construction of 50,000 tenements, has been temporarily suspended, and no more land will be taken up for housing until the 16,880 tenements now under construction have been completed. In the finished chawls tenements let easily at Naigaon and De'Lisle Road, but not at Worli. This is presumably only a temporary phase. The demand for tenements must inevitably expand, and the Worli chawls will all be fully taken up in course of time.

The assistance of the Social Service League and other similar bodies has been enlisted by assigning complete blocks to them. From the details in the Report we gather that the chief difficulty in the way of sanitary living is the difficulty of accommodating to upper-story tenement conditions a population accustomed from countless centuries to life in huts and cottages with no upper floors.

The death-rate in Directorate chawls is stated as 6.66 against 31.11 for the whole city and 35.90 for municipal wards which contain working class chawls. Is this striking difference genuine? In other words are the death-rates absolute or specific death-rates? If the Directorate chawls contain an abnormal proportion of single males, or of families without children, the comparison is invalid. Perhaps this point will be cleared up in a later report.

The success of the movement to entice new Industrial concerns out of Bombay will mainly be determined by the results of the Ambarnath experiment. This, in the long run, is of more importance to the health and well-being of the Industrial workers than the provision of

tenements however admirable, in the confined area of Bombay Island. The movement in Western Countries is all towards isolated Factories standing in their own Garden suburb.

Housing Conditions in Ahmedabad

SANITARY ASSOCIATION'S REPORT

The Sanitary Association, Ahmedabad, has issued an interim report on housing conditions, mainly with reference to the housing of manual labourers in that city. The report contains some interesting statistical data, and affords a basis for future action. The investigation was conducted by the House Census Committee of the Association with the aid of paid assistants. In all 7,407 tenements inhabited by manual labourers (or 18 per cent. of the total of one-roomed tenements in Ahmedabad) were visited. The results of the investigation are summarized below.

Out of the 7,407 tenements inspected 5,853 (or 79 per cent.) were found to be insanitary. The word "insanitary" is not however defined in the Report.

Rental is tabulated and ranged in the city proper from Rs. 1 per month to Rs. 8 per month, with a few tenements in the "Paras" (suburbs) at more than Rs. 8. The commonest rental is Rs. 5, and the three classes Rs. 4, Rs. 5 and Rs. 6 constitute 65 per cent. of the whole. This is for the whole city including the Paras. For the different wards rentals vary. In Khadia and Shahpur Rs. 3 is the commonest rental for hired tenements.

The tabulation of "height" will cause surprise. The commoner height is 6 feet and larger numbers are only 5 or 4 feet.

Floor space begins at 8 ft. x 12 ft. and runs up to 13 ft. x 14 ft., with a balance unspecified. The larger majority of the tenements (77 per cent.) have no ventilation except through the door. Still more surprising is that in 71 per cent. of the tenements the occupants have "no sleeping accommodation" inside, and have therefore to sleep outside. This we do not at the moment understand. Cots and bedding are not generally regarded as fixtures, absence of sleeping accommodation inside would therefore not be part of the inherent character of the tenement, though it might be an indirect result of lack of space.

The further investigations of this very active Association will be awaited with much interest.

Electrical Power for Ahmedabad Mills

The Government of Bombay have granted a License to Messrs. Killick Nixon and Co., and the Calendar Cables Construction Company to supply electric energy to factories and for general purposes within the municipal limits of Ahmedabad. The License will be known as the Ahmedabad Industrial Power Supply Electric License, 1924. (*The Times of India Engineering Supplement, August 8th.*)



Industrial Disputes in the Presidency

Disputes in July

On page 43 will be found a statement of each dispute in progress during July 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 July 1924.

I.—Industrial Disputes classified by Trades

Trade	Number of disputes in progress in July 1924.			Number of workpeople involved in all disputes in progress in July 1924.	Aggregate duration in working days of all disputes in progress in July 1924.*
	Started before 1st July.	Started in July.	Total.		
Textile	..	2	2	1,574	1,574
Engineering	..	1	1	96	136
Miscellaneous	..	1	1	500	740
Total, July 1924	..	4	4	2,070	2,450
Total, June 1924	5	947	1,169

* *I.e.*, the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days, or allowances being made for workers replaced by others.

There were 4 industrial disputes in progress in July 1924, two of which occurred in cotton mills, one in an engineering industry and one in miscellaneous concerns. The number of workpeople involved was 2,104 and the working days lost (*i.e.*, the number of workpeople multiplied by the number of working days less workers replaced) 3,661 which, it will be seen, is an increase on the June 1924 statistics.

Table II shows the causes and results of the disputes.

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results March to July 1924

	March 1924.	April 1924.	May 1924.	June 1924.	July 1924.
Number of strikes and lock-outs	4	4	2	5	4
Disputes in progress at beginning	1	1	..	..	..
Fresh disputes begun	3	3	2	5	4

Workpeople involved .. 2,104

II.—Industrial Disputes—Results—contd.

	March 1924.	April 1924.	May 1924.	June 1924.	July 1924.
Disputes ended	1	4	1	1	4
Disputes in progress at end	1	..	..	..	..
Number of workpeople involved	14,825	36	20	90	1,104
Aggregate duration in working days	1,891,800	1,717	20	1,100	1,001
Causes—					
Pay	..	1	..	1	2
Hours	1	..	..	..	..
General	1	2	1	1	..
Lock-out and bonus	..	..	..	..	..
Others	2	1	..	1	2
Results—					
In favour of employees	1	1	..	..	1
Compromised	..	..	1	..	..
In favour of employers	2	2	1	1	2

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

III.—Industrial Disputes

Month.	Number of strikes and lock-outs.	Aggregate duration in working days.	Proportion settled.			In progress.
			In favour of employees (Per cent.)	In favour of employers (Per cent.)	Compromised (Per cent.)	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
July 1923	9	25,263	67	..	..	33
August 1923	10	25,244	55	2	20	25
September 1923	6	24,954	69	..	..	31
October 1923	6	26,178	67	..	13	20
November 1923	7	712	71	20	..	9
December 1923	9	120,963	70	11	..	19
January 1924	7	245,728	73	..	14	13
February 1924	3	4,862,870	..	67	..	33
March 1924	4	1,201,861	50	25	..	25
April 1924	4	2,717	25	75	..	..
May 1924	2	200	50	..	50	..
June 1924	5	1,169	100	..	..	..
July 1924	4	1,001	75	25	..	..
Totals in table to 7th August	87	7,204,226	61	18	20	11



A GENERAL REVIEW OF DISPUTES

During July 1924, four industrial disputes occurred in the Bombay Presidency as compared with five in the preceding month. Two of these disputes arose over the question of pay and the other two were due to some minor grievances.

Bombay City

In Bombay City there was only one dispute in the month under review. On the 17th of July, the boiler-makers in the Engineering works of the Alcock Ashdown and Company struck work against the piece system of payment which was introduced a few months ago. All the operatives returned to work on the 19th as the Agents promised to consider their grievances.

Ahmedabad

In Ahmedabad two industrial disputes took place in July 1924. On the 2nd of July one hundred and ten weavers of the Ahmedabad Fine Spinning and Weaving Company struck work against the introduction of the piece system for the operatives to go out while working in the mills. The strikers were paid off and new hands were engaged in place of them. The strike terminated on the 3rd July. Another strike occurred in the Ahmedabad Spinning and Weaving Company's mills on the 14th of July, when the ahnen and drivers of the mills struck work against the stoppage of the usual supply of oil for use in their lamps. The next day the strikers returned to work as the usual supply of oil was promised in them provided the labourers in the other mills under the same management had the same advantage. But on the 13th the ahnen and drivers went on strike again as they were not supplied with oil on the 12th and the strike continued till the 15th. On the 16th all the operatives resumed work unconditionally.

Surat

Five hundred sweepers (Bhangis) of the Surat Municipality struck work on the 3rd of July demanding an increase of pay from Rs. 14 to Rs. 20 per month. The strike lasted for five days after which all the sweepers resumed work unconditionally.

The Industrial Disputes Bill

His Excellency the Governor, opening the Session of the Bombay Legislative Council at Poona on the 21st July, referred to the Industrial Disputes Bill. He pointed out that the Government of Bombay had made preparations for introducing legislation to provide some machinery which would help to bring industrial disputes to an earlier conclusion. In the meanwhile, however, the Government of India, having engaged themselves on the preparation of a Bill on the same subject, asked the Government of Bombay to hold the matter in abeyance pending further communication. It is believed that the Government of India Bill is likely to be introduced in the Delhi Session of the Legislative Assembly.

Industrial Disputes in Italy, 1914-1923

We have received from Rome a volume containing very full and complete statistics relating to industrial disputes in the decennium just ended.¹

The following summarizes the conditions:—

Year	Number of		
	Disputes	Labourers involved	Working days lost
1914	792	171,003	2,000,000
1915	339	132,170	873,013
1916	310	125,070	737,303
1917	343	100,070	691,377
1918	303	100,070	906,471
1919	1,064	1,000,430	10,005,917
1920	1,001	1,267,954	10,290,227
1921	1,093	694,304	7,773,670
1922	932	492,771	5,306,243
1923	591	66,107	293,929

The figures in the columns for "Labourers Involved" and "Working Days Lost" are not absolutely complete, because in all years except 1918 and 1923 there was a small residue of disputes for which these figures could not be obtained. This residue was largest in 1920. In that year there were, as shown above, 1,001 disputes, and figures for the last two columns were not available for 32 out of the 1,001.

The most obvious point of contrast with our Bombay figures is the smallness of the number of working days lost compared with the large number of disputes. Thus in the worst year (1920) only 16½ million working days were lost from 1,049 disputes, whereas in Bombay Presidency in the two months February and March of this year 6,936,751 working days were lost from only 7 disputes. The table of duration of the disputes in the volume under review furnishes the explanation. The Italian strikes come to an end very quickly. Out of the 1,049 disputes in 1920, 12 per cent, ended in one day, 34 per cent, in 2-5 days, 22 per cent, in 6-10 days, 17 per cent, in 11-20 days and 7 per cent, in 21-30 days, leaving only 8 per cent, prolonged over one month.

On the face of it we should expect these short-lived strikes to show a high proportion settled in favour of the operatives. The table of Results does not, however, bear this out. Five categories are given:— "Completely favourable (to the strikers)", "Generally favourable", "Drawn (or not favourable)", "Generally unfavourable" and "Unfavourable" with a small residue for which results are not known. The 1920 disputes showed the following proportions:—Completely favourable 22 per cent, Generally favourable 31 per cent, Drawn 17 per cent, Generally unfavourable 11 per cent, Unfavourable

¹ *I conflitti del Lavoro in Italia nel decennio 1914-1923*. *Ministero dell' Economia Nazionale, Direzione Generale del Lavoro, Presidenza del Consiglio, Roma, 1924, 347 pp.*



10 per cent, Unknown 3 per cent. It is noteworthy that the years 1919 and 1920, in which disputes were most numerous, show by far the highest proportion of settlements favourable to the operatives. In 1922 only 10 per cent of the disputes fall in the first two categories, and no less than 43 per cent, fall in the category "Unfavourable". Taking the whole decennium this category "Unfavourable", which evidently means that the strikers got nothing, contains the highest percentages; and during the last three years from one-third to one-half of the strikes apparently failed. The years 1919 and 1920 were the most favourable to the operatives and the years 1922 and 1923 the least favourable.

This leads to a mention of the organization behind the strikes. "Leagues and Chambers of Labour" figures most prominently, with "Catholic Organizations" a good second until 1923. In this year a new force "Fascist Organizations" appears, and actually takes predominance, which is a curiously inverted position when we remember that the decline after 1920 must mainly be attributed to "fascism".

G. I. P. Railway Union

AUDIT STAFF'S GRIEVANCES

Under the auspices of the Administrative Offices Branch of the G. I. P. Railway Staff Union, an extraordinary meeting of the staff of the Chief Auditor and Accountant's Office was held in the Empire Theatre, Bombay, on Saturday afternoon, to consider what steps should be taken to acquit the administration with the grievances of the staff with regard to revision of pay, leave rules, etc. About 400 members attended the meeting and Mr. Purnoham Bajpai Rawalbaniker was voted to the chair. The following resolutions were passed unanimously and without much discussion:—

1. This meeting of the Audit Office Staff request the Agent and the Chief Auditor and Accountant to please expedite the introduction of the time scale of the pay of the Audit Office Staff, which it is believed is now under consideration, and to so arrange the revision of the grades as would admit of sufficient higher grades being provided than at present in order that the staff may not have to wait in one grade for several years and that every one of the staff will as far as possible get a higher grade than the one in which he is working at present.

2. This meeting passes on record its sense of profound regret that the new leave rules have not removed the causes of the complaints, that they are based on racial considerations and urges the administration to revise them again, in order that they may be in line with those of the Government.

3. This meeting wishes to bring to the notice of the Railway Board that notwithstanding representations to the Home Board, the interchange of free residential passes with the B. B. & C. I. Railway continues to exist on racial

basis and requests the intervention of the Railway Board with a view to removing the racial distinction.

This meeting regrets that there has been heavy reduction of staff in the statistical section and requests the Agent and the Chief Auditor and Accountant that the names of persons (mentioned in the resolution) who had rendered long and faithful service to the Company be registered and that they be re-engaged on the salaries last drawn by them as soon as vacancies occur in the Audit Department, Stores, Commercial or District Offices. (*The Times of India, July 7th, 1924*)

English Federation of Trades Unions on Unofficial Strikes

A lively discussion on unofficial strikes took place yesterday at the conference of the General Federation of Trade Unions, which opened at Bournemouth under the chairmanship of Mr. Alfred Stern, M.P. The Federation has an aggressive membership of affiliated organizations of 920,000 and the delegates represented over 40 unions.

The report of the Committee of Management, while declaring emphatically that the fault did not all lie with the men, condemned some of the recent unofficial strikes as examples of folly and selfishness rather than of solidarity and sympathy. So seriously had the public interests been sacrificed that public sympathy had been alienated and, what was much more dangerous to trade unionism, workers antagonized—workers who, understanding something of trade and commerce, were not prepared to see them made the sport of men who were seeking to gratify personal ambitions.

Mr. H. Fother (Boiler-makers, Iron and Steel Shipbuilders) moved the debate on the above passage from the report. He said it was not to be wondered at that members were leaving the federation. The report was an insult to men who, having exhausted every possible means of constitutional procedure, downed tools, and although beaten, had compelled their union leaders to move more quickly. Unofficial strikes, he said, were undertaken by desperate men with whom the grind of poverty swept away all considerations of constitutional action and talk of agreements. The skilled men involved in the recent Southampton dispute were earning only 17s a week, or 1s an hour, and the unofficial strike of railwaymen was for minimum wages of 8s a week.

Mr. A. Cassip (General Secretary of the National Amalgamated Association of Furnishing Trades) alluding to the unofficial railway strike, described the National Union of Railway men as a milk-and-water organization, and wished jolly good luck to those who kicked over the traces.

Mr. J. W. Ouden (Amalgamated Weavers' Association) said that he was astounded that a trade union official like Mr. Cassip should encourage action which must inevitably divide trade unionism. It was the duty of the



federation to condemn all unofficial disputes because they led to sheer anarchism.

Mr. T. E. Naylor (London Society of Compositors) said the Management Committee had said unpleasant things, but they had been rendered necessary only by the unpleasant actions which had prompted them.

The report of the Management Committee was accepted by an overwhelming majority (*The Times*, July 11th, 1924).

Indian Labour in Parliament

TRADE UNIONS

In reply to Mr. R. Richardson (Labour Member for Houghton) the Under-Secretary of State said that the Government of India contemplated legislation enabling Trade Unions to register, and that a large measure of protection from civil and criminal actions would be accorded to such registered Unions.

IMPRESSED LABOUR

In reply to a further question by Mr. Richardson, the Under-Secretary of State informed the House that certain enactments of the Indian Legislatures, copies of which were in the Library of the House, provided for the requisitioning of labour for emergencies such as repair of irrigation works and any exceptional circumstances. (*New India, Madras*, August 6th, 1924.)

A Trade Unions Journal in Germany

It has been decided by the German Federation of Trade Unions to publish a magazine under the editorship of Lothar Erdmann. The need of such a magazine has been felt for a long time in Germany. The idea in starting such a magazine is to widen the scope of Trade Union activity and to be less dependent on political parties for discussions of labour questions. (*From the Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

A Trade Union Bank in Germany

Following the example of the Labour Bank at Vienna a "Bank of the Workers, Salaried Employees and Civil Servants Joint Stock Company", with a fully paid up capital of 750,000 marks, has been founded in Germany. This is the first bank of its kind in that country. The idea the promoters have in view in starting such a bank is that by investing its funds in its own bank, the interests of labour will be advanced, and the profits of capitalist bankers will be diminished. (*From the Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

Trade Union Congresses

"During the next few months a great many trade union congresses will be held. These will be at Brussels,

Hull and Lausanne; and in addition there will be Trade Secretariat Congresses at Vienna, Berlin, Prague and Hamburg." (*From the Reports of the I. F. T. U.*)

International Trades Union Congress, Vienna, 1924

Mr. Fred Bramley in the "Labour Magazine" for July 1924 gives an account of the above Congress under the title of "A Workers' Parliament of Europe".

Mr. Bramley writes with considerable enthusiasm of the unity of purpose which characterized the proceedings, and describes how the delegates (who represented 22 countries and 16 million Trades Union Members) fraternized in defiance of language difficulties.

The Conference largely concerned itself with political matters, such as Anglo-Soviet relations, the Fascist movement in Italy, and the prevention of war. A programme of Social Legislation was however adopted and the question of limitation of hours of work, was, as usual, discussed. It was stated that considerable disappointment existed in various countries regarding the unsatisfactory progress made in the direction of establishing a normal working week of 48 hours. It was indicated that the influence of Great Britain would count for much in this matter, and the British Delegation reported to the Congress that a Bill to establish a 48-hour week was to be introduced into the House of Commons and that over three-fourths of the Trade Union members in England were already working 48 hours per week or less.

The British Delegation's proposal for the "Social ownership of coal mines, railways, land and other monopoly forms of ownership" was not accepted. And perhaps the most important feature of the Conference was its repudiation of the Communist International, which it was claimed was trying through communist minorities in various countries "to oppose and destroy the International Federation of Trades Unions".

The Conference accepted the principle that "International Social Legislation" leading to "International Labour Standards" is the "proper alternative to economic boundary lines, tariff walls, and protectionist measures". It also affirmed that the common aim of Trades Unions is "to improve the economic and social conditions of the working class," and secure for the workers "political freedom and an unrestricted influence in political life".

The Austrian Trade Unions, in the roll of hosts, provided a procession 7½ miles long to honour the International representatives. We read that "With their magnificent banners.....and many bands.....Battalions of the (Austrian) Workers' Guard marched in military formation". It is more than hinted that this organization is intended to counter any movement similar to the Fascist movement in Italy.



The Collection of Statistics by Legislative Enactment

Introduction of the Statistics Bill in the Bombay Legislative Council*

A copy of the Bill to Provide for the Collection of Statistical Information for Public Purposes in the Bombay Presidency was published in the *Labour Gazette* for May 1924. This Bill was introduced in the Second Session of the Bombay Legislative Council which met at Poona in the month of July. His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, in his address at the opening of the Session on Monday the 21st July referred in the following terms to the Statistics Bill:—

"Another measure to which Government attaches considerable importance is the Bill relating to the collection of statistics. On details there may be, and, I am informed, are, differences of opinion, but these can no doubt be dealt with, and I trust will disappear in the course of discussion. I hope that the general principle of the Bill will commend itself to the Council. If India is to prosper, as we all desire so keenly, she must advance in industrial prosperity. Such industrial advance has, and must have, its own peculiar dangers. We, in India, have the opportunity of taking advantage of the industrial experiences of other countries and Government is convinced that it should now take every possible step to avoid disputes and class hatred, and that labour shall not be embittered by unnecessary quarrels and enmities. Many industrial disputes arise from misunderstandings rather than from fundamental differences of interest. The Statistics Bill is designed to put at the service of both capital and labour that mass of verified facts which can alone furnish the basis for reasoned arguments between parties. It is further designed to enlighten the minds of the public who should, in the last resort, be the arbiters of industrial disputes which endanger the public welfare."

The first reading of the Bill was introduced by the Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward, the Home Member, on Tuesday the 22nd July. Sir Maurice Hayward pointed out that the Bill was intimately connected with the important question of the prevention and settlement of trade disputes and was the first step towards the establishment of industrial courts of enquiry. The present position was that the necessary information for such purposes had to be obtained purely on a voluntary basis, and though a great many employers had assisted in giving the required information there always remained an important residue who were not so ready to provide it.

* The summaries of the first speech of the Honourable the Home Member, the Secretary, Home Department, the Director, Labour Office, and the Leader of the opposition, are extracted from authentic copies supplied by the Secretary, Legislative Council. The summaries of all other speeches are extracted from Newspaper reports.

The consequence was that the statistics collected were on account of their incompleteness not wholly reliable, and that the conclusions drawn from them were not as satisfactory as they should be. The object of the Bill was to make provision for the supply of full and accurate statistics. There would not be much difference of opinion as to the desirability of collecting such information, or the necessity of having this information complete and reliable. There might be differences of opinion as to the exact nature of the penalties to be provided to enforce the production of the information required and also as to the exact nature of the safeguards necessary to prevent any misuse of the information collected by subordinates or other persons who would be entitled under the Bill to call for information from employers, but these were matters which would be carefully considered by a Select Committee. The main principle that there should be some means of obtaining the information required would be accepted. The Statistics Bill was a forward step in the matter of industrial disputes; but in industrial matters, whether it be in Strikes or in Settlement of Strikes, the Bombay Presidency was a forward Province and always gave the lead to other Provinces.

Mr. J. A. Kay (nominated) opposed the Bill on the grounds (1) that legislation for the settlement of industrial disputes should precede the Statistics Bill; (2) that the information already collected by the Labour Office had served a certain amount of utility, and for that reason alone there was no need to rush the proposed piece of legislation; (3) that the analogy of other countries did not apply to Bombay because India was a comparatively backward country; and (4) that it would be troublesome for the small manufacturers and the small factory owners to supply the information which would be asked for. Mr. Kay also objected to the powers which were granted under the Bill to the Director of the Labour Office especially in connection with the right of making observations on the data collected for any Statistical enquiry.

Mr. C. N. Wadia (Bombay Millowners' Association) said that the proposed measure was superfluous, mischievous and uneconomical. It was superfluous because the Government Inspector of Factories, who visited all Factories, could collect all the information that was required. It was mischievous because it gave the right of entry into factories. And it was uneconomical because there was no necessity to spend two lakhs of rupees every year when all the data that would be required could be collected with the existing organisation.



Mr. Laljee Naranjee (Commerce and Industry, Indian Merchants' Chamber and Bureau), showed a certain amount of resentment at the fact that the Bill had not been circulated amongst commercial bodies in order to collect their views. He opposed the Bill principally on the ground that it covered too wide a range and that statistics collected for a single province would not help the industrial development of the whole country which should be the object of such legislation.

The Ahmedabad Millowners' Association supported the principle of the necessity of having such legislation, but Mr. Gordhandas Patel, who represents the Association in the Council, agreed with Mr. Kay that an Industrial Disputes Bill should precede a Statistics Bill, and that legislation for the collection of statistics under statutory power should originate from the Central Government and apply to all India.

Mr. K. F. Nariman (Non-Muhammadan Urban, Bombay City, South) wanted an assurance from Government that the Bill was intended to relieve the grievances of labour and the masses of the country. He said that he had no intention to side with the capitalists in opposing the Bill provided that such an assurance was given by Government.

Mr. A. Montgomerie, Secretary to Government in the Home Department, said that the first reading of the Bill had been attacked on several grounds. The first was that it ought to have been an All-India measure. As far as he himself was concerned he was inclined to agree with the honourable members who had raised that point, but the difficulty was that the Government of India had declined to enter into such legislation on the ground that the conditions obtaining in the various provinces were very different. At the same time, the Government of India had indicated that they had no objection to any province, which thought that it was sufficiently advanced to call for such legislation, engaging in legislation applying only to that province. It was obvious to all that the conditions of Bombay which rendered the application of a Statistics Act to it were entirely different from those of a Province, say like Madras, or any of the purely agricultural provinces. Labour had certainly reached a stage in Bombay which it had not reached in any other Presidency. The people of Bombay had forcibly brought to their notice the necessity of avoiding those errors which had gone to make one of the least satisfactory chapters of western civilisation. There were no two opinions as to the need of some measure dealing with the settlement of industrial disputes. Mr. Montgomerie declared most emphatically that in introducing the Bill to provide for the collection of statistics it was not the intention of Government either to help the masses against the classes or to help the classes against the masses. The intention of Government was, by the collection of facts, to put before the public such material as would enable them to judge between the masses and the classes, to produce material which would exhibit the true facts of the case by doing away with misconceptions and misunderstandings,

by squashing out at the very outset the false statements made by labour, and occasionally by capital, which led to industrial disputes and to place the material collected before the public and before the masses and the classes and so to eliminate any antagonism that there might be and which there ought not to be between capital and labour. The reason for taking legislative authority for the collection of material was that experience had shown that any material not collected under legislative authority and under compulsion was apt to be misleading.

When the debate on the Bill was resumed on the 23rd July, Mr. Laljee Naranjee (Indian Merchants' Chamber) suggested to Government that the consideration of the Bill should be postponed pending its circulation to all commercial bodies to be affected by it. The Honourable Sir Maurice Hayward said, in reply to Mr. Laljee Naranjee, that Government were not willing at that stage to accept the suggestion of postponement but would like to hear the views of other members on the Bill.

Mr. J. Addyman (European, Bombay City) strongly supported the first reading of the Bill on behalf of the European Textile Association, which he represented, subject to certain modifications of its clauses. Mr. Addyman said that he regarded the Bill as a sincere attempt on the part of Government to establish the necessary machinery so essential for prompt settlement of industrial disputes. His experience of the mill industry in Bombay and of industrial disputes went to show that it was always the initial stage of a dispute that was most critical, and that led to a deadlock if a speedy settlement was not reached. The longer a dispute continued the more magnified became the grievances of labour and the more difficult became the chances of settlement. That position had invariably resulted in continued deadlocks until Government intervention had at last to be sought. They were all aware of the results of the strikes which took place in Bombay since 1919, and of the futility of leaving them for settlement between capital and labour. If the proposed Statistics Bill was passed it would enable the Government and the public to know the facts of each case. Those who opposed the Bill, Mr. Addyman continued, had taken exception to the power which would vest in Government, but they must not lose sight of the fact that in all recent industrial disputes Government intervention had ultimately to be sought, and Government had exercised nearly the same powers which the Bill would vest in them when passed into law. Mr. Addyman in this connection referred to the facts of the last big mill strike in Bombay and how it was ultimately settled on the publication of the findings of the Enquiry Committee. He was surprised at Mr. Kay's contention that the Bill was premature after all the bitter experience of the past. He also criticised the speech of the representative of the Bombay Millowners' Association and referred to a letter addressed by the Millowners' Association to Government about two years ago urging the necessity for the collection of statistics of the daily earnings of mill workers



as a basis for the stabilisation of wages, and he pointed out that this letter had stated that such statistics would prove to be of very considerable assistance, and would tend to remove the misunderstanding which the absence of such statistics gave rise to. Mr. Addyman objected to the application of the provisions of the Bill to shops and advocated the establishment of a Court of Enquiry to exercise a check on the powers given to the Director, Labour Office. With regard to the penalty section he objected to imprisonment and suggested that the maximum fine should be reduced from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 500.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar (University of Bombay), Leader of the Swarajist Party in the Council, supported the principle of the necessity of having legislation for the collection of statistical information for public purposes. Mr. Jayakar said that whether the members voted for the first reading of the Bill or wanted it to go back to Government once more with a request that it should be circulated among all the important commercial and other public bodies in Bombay, one great advantage had been gained and that was that all members were agreed on the principle of the Bill with certain qualifications. The fact that the Council had accepted the principle of a Statistics Bill within four years of the creation of the Labour Office in Bombay was a matter upon which the Government and the Council should congratulate themselves. He considered that the powers which had been vested in the Director of the Labour Office were too great, and that these powers could be more appropriately centred in a tribunal or a committee empanelled from well known representatives of the public or from representatives of both capital and labour. Mr. Jayakar also considered that sub-clause 6 of clause 4 which permitted the collection of statistics on "any other matter which the Governor in Council may by notification in the *Bombay Government Gazette* prescribe" was too wide and gave Government unlimited power to call for statistics on any subject they pleased. The wording of the sub-clause should be limited by the insertion of some words such as "allied to the above" or "of the same nature as the above" or some words suggesting that the enquiries should be restricted to industrial, commercial or trading concerns. He considered the penal clauses were much too severe and suggested a substantial reduction in the maximum fine that might be imposed as also the elimination of imprisonment as a penalty for refusing to give information or access to records. He recommended to Government that, since the principle of the Bill had been accepted by the Council, the consideration of the Bill should be postponed and that it should be circulated to all the important commercial and public bodies in the City of Bombay and in the Bombay Presidency. In the meanwhile, Government should make certain changes in the way in which he and other honourable members had suggested. Mr. Jayakar thought that if the Bill came back to the Council at the October Session with the advantages suggested, the benefits of the opinions of the millowners and other commercial bodies and with the full information which

they required in connexion with similar legislation in other countries, it would facilitate matters to a considerable extent and that the passage of the Bill would be smooth and certain.

Mr. S. K. Bole (Nominated), strongly supported the Bill and said that those who had opposed it seemed to have done so from personal motives.

Mr. L. S. Hudson (Commerce and Industry, Bombay Chamber of Commerce) opposed the first reading of the Bill on the grounds that it was inquisitorial, that it might be dangerous, and that it was unnecessary. He thought that the Bill was dangerous because it gave power to officers of the Labour Office to enter factories—a right which, if exercised at the time of a strike, would be immediately seized upon by the ignorant and highly volatile workmen of the Presidency as a sign that Government were on their side and the impending trouble would be precipitated. It was also dangerous in that the masses of statistics tabulated and published by the Labour Office after an infinity of work with various mysterious and cryptic X's, Y's and Z's, pluses and minuses, aided by the application of logarithms, would still not possess that degree of accuracy which they had been informed was so necessary for the prevention of those strikes which they all deplored so greatly. Mr. Hudson claimed that in the event of a strike mass statistics would not give that assistance, which it was claimed they would, and that if any statistics were to be of value these should be collected *ad hoc* when the occasion arose. He explained that these remarks should not be taken as a condemnation of statistics generally. It would be futile, he said, for a representative of Trade and Commerce to condemn statistics generally, since Trade and Commerce make extensive use of Statistical Tables. His remarks were directed only against the particular statistics which it was sought by this Bill to collect. He thought that the Bill was unnecessary (1) because the powers granted under the Bill would enable the officers of the Labour Department to enter factories and to pry into the private affairs and the secret processes of manufacturers, (2) because all the statistics required by the Labour Office could be readily obtained from voluntary sources as was admittedly the case during the recent Mill Strike in Bombay, and (3) because even if Government considered that such statistics would not be sufficient, provision could be made in the Industrial Disputes Bill for enabling all the information required to be obtained under the section which allows for books, papers and all other matters relevant to a dispute to be called for at the time when an enquiry is held. Mr. Hudson also objected to the wide powers given by sub-clause 6 of clause 4 and to imprisonment as a penalty.

The Karachi Chamber of Commerce supported the Bill. Mr. F. Clayton, who represents the Karachi Chamber in the Council, said that labour was day by day becoming self-assertive, and that if means were not devised whereby industrial disputes might be terminated



matter likely to be relevant in any enquiry should be readily available. It would be absolutely impossible to collect statistical data relevant to a dispute after a dispute has begun and much valuable time would be lost in collecting such data whilst an enquiry is in progress. The evidence produced before a Court of Enquiry which is based not on statistical data accurately collected and compiled beforehand, but on hurriedly presented documents, cannot lead to correct conclusions about the general condition of an industry or about the question of labour and wages in that industry.

Apart from the question of the utilisation of industrial statistics at periods of industrial disputes, the collection of such statistics, serves a very useful purpose in ascertaining (1) the industrial advance of a country and (2) the growth of the prosperity of the industrial classes. Statistics on the cost of living, on rents, on the proportion borne by the expenditure on various commodities to the total income, or the income of different classes and groups of wage earners are invaluable from the view point of determination of wages, a question which is now becoming increasingly co-ordinated with the cost of living. Data collected now will also be useful years hence for the consideration of the question of standard rates of wages for each occupation in each industry, and for the question of wage agreements at some date in future when without doubt the Trade Unions in this Presidency will have developed a sufficient bargaining power. Another important point which should not be lost sight of is the fact that statistics in connexion with questions of labour in India are taking a prominent place in international comparisons, and that various foreign countries are continually making enquiries regarding prices, wages, rents, etc., in India.

RECENT INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES CALL FOR SIMILAR LEGISLATION IN BOMBAY

The two general strikes in the Cotton Mill Industry in Ahmedabad and in Bombay which occurred within a period of ten months, and involved 43,000 and 150,000 workpeople respectively resulted in a loss of a total number of ten and a quarter million working days or in a number of working days nearly equal to the total number of working days lost through industrial disputes in the whole of Great Britain and Northern Ireland during the year 1923. These facts show the industrial importance of the Bombay Presidency and the magnitude of the loss (1) to the industry in the number of working days, and (2) to the workpeople in the form of wages as a result of only two big strikes. These facts and figures clearly prove the urgent necessity of having a Statistics Act designed to put, in the words of His Excellency the Governor of Bombay, "at the service of both capital and labour that mass of verified facts which can alone furnish the basis for reasoned arguments between parties".

VOLUNTARY METHOD UNSUCCESSFUL

The voluntary method of collecting statistics has not been found to be successful.

(a) The Engineering Employers' Federation have definitely refused to furnish statistics for a census of wages in the Engineering Industry in the Bombay Presidency. The Engineering Industry provides employment to an average daily number of nearly 40,000 workpeople or to 11 per cent. of the total number of factory workers in the Presidency.

(b) Much difficulty is experienced by the Investigators of the Labour Office in the collection of figures for rents, prices and family budgets from house-holders and dealers.

(c) During the first Labour Office Census of wages in the Cotton Mill Industry, which was taken in May 1921, only 39 mills out of 64 mills in Ahmedabad supplied information. In the Second Census taken in August 1923, although all mills supplied information, considerable difficulty was experienced in collecting returns. The forms for this enquiry were issued during the first week of August 1923. Only 21 per cent. of acceptable returns were received two months after the issue of the forms. 40 per cent. of the returns were not received till over three months after issue, and the last of them was not received till March 1924, i. e., more than seven months after the forms had been sent out from the Labour Office. In almost all cases the forms had to be returned to the mills for rectification of data incorrectly stated. In several cases the Investigators of the Labour Office had to visit the Manager or Agents of a mill on as many as four occasions before a return was made at all, and in the case of all up-country mills the Investigators had to tour the Presidency to collect returns from all centres except Sholapur, Bhavnagar and Amalner, whose mills submitted correct returns without visits. Although the voluntary method ultimately secured cent. per cent. returns for the enquiry held for August 1923, it must be admitted that the voluntary system of the collection of these statistics resulted in a good deal of waste of time and energy, and therefore of public money.

(d) In connexion with a Wages Census conducted for various classes of workpeople in towns for the year 1923 forms were issued to 53 selected Municipalities in the Presidency in August 1923. Although a year has elapsed since the issue of these forms the Labour Office has not been able to complete the tabulation sheets owing to the non-return of a few forms.

(e) The voluntary method is not successful in obtaining complete statistics which are essential especially in the sphere of industrial and labour statistics before reliable general averages can be arrived at. The Imperial Statistical Conference which met in London in 1920 recognised this when it passed the following resolution:—

"The Conference affirms its opinion that the accuracy of statistical information secured by means of voluntary or optional returns is open to serious doubt. The Conference therefore recommends that whenever a Government calls for statistics on any subject or series of subjects it should confer the necessary statutory authority upon its officers for their collection."



UNIVERSALITY OF SIMILAR LEGISLATION

The principle underlying measures for the collection of statistics under legislative sanction has been so universally acknowledged that there is to-day practically no industrially developed country in the world, except India, which has not a Statistics Act to assist in the collection of the statistical data which it may require. In the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for May 1924 a list was published showing the countries which had Statistical Acts together with the names of the Acts. In the British Empire, the United Kingdom, Canada, South Africa, New Zealand, the Commonwealth of Australia, and the different States of Australia, viz., New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, Queensland and Tasmania all have such Acts. The Tasmanian Act was placed on the Statute Book nearly fifty years ago and the Queensland Act was passed four years before the beginning of the present century. In Europe, as far as it is known, legislation for the compulsory collection of statistical data is to be found in France, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Italy, Hungary, Switzerland and Greece. Japan adopted legislation of this kind in 1922 and in South America, The Argentine Republic has a Statistics Act. In the United States of America almost every State has an Act empowering its Labour Bureau or Statistical Office to collect statistics under legislative authority.

ARGUMENTS AGAINST THE BILL

The Arguments against the Bill will be dealt with in full detail in the September issue of the *Labour Gazette*, which will contain in addition to complete answers to all objections raised against the Bill, extracts from the Acts of other countries which deal with such questions as the power to collect statistics on "other matters", the right of entry to factories, etc., the power to make observations, penalties, etc.

Labour Resolutions in Bengal Council

"Mr. M. Daud, M.L.C., is going to move in the Bengal Legislative Council three labour resolutions. The one seeks to remove the present disability of the labouring classes in the matter of electing their own representatives to the Bengal Legislative Council by granting special electoral franchise to them and by allotting them at least five seats to be represented through special labour constituencies. The other requests the Local Government to approach the Government of India requesting them to take action on the Recommendations concerning Unemployment Insurance for Seamen adopted by the Genoa International Labour Conference in 1920. The third resolution urges Government to take early steps to abolish liquor and drug shops within the approach of mills and other industrial centres." (From the *All-India Trade Union Bulletin*, July 1924.)

Factories Inspection in England, 1923

We are in receipt of the "Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops for the year 1923", London, H. M. Stationery Office, 1924. The corresponding Indian Statistical Summary for the year 1922 was noticed in the May issue of the *Labour Gazette*.

The totals of Factories subject to inspection under the Factories Acts of the two countries were as follows:—

	Number of	Great Britain, 1923.	British India, 1922.
Factories	179,920	5,144
Workshops	140,850	....
Total	280,770	....

"Workshops" in England are up to the present distinguished from "Factories" by reason of the non-employment of power. The number of Factories is gradually increasing and of workshops falling; and this is due partly to the introduction of power into existing workshops, and partly to the "closing down of small workshops, mostly in rural areas".

The numbers of accidents were as follows:—

	Great Britain, 1923.	British India, 1922.
Not fatal	.. .. . 124,684	6,769
Fatal	.. .. . 867	191
Total	.. .. . 125,551	6,960

It would not be justifiable to attempt a comparison between the ratio of accidents either to factories or to operatives in the two countries without more information as to definitions and methods of reporting.

The Report draws attention to the large proportion of accidents due to falls of individuals, which constitute from 10 to 15 per cent. of the total accidents every year. These are of four kinds:—(1) falls from elevations, (2) falls into excavations, pits, shafts, etc., (3) falls on the level, and (4) falls caused by slipping of objects, tools or instruments carried. A close analysis in particular industries for definite periods showed the following percentages to total falls:—(1) 40, (2) 6, (3) 44, (4) 10. Of class (3), falls on the level, two-thirds were due to slipping and one-third to stumbling over objects. Slipping was due mainly to slippery floors, but partly to unsuitable foot-wear (particularly among women and girls) and partly to "sky-larking or horseplay among workers".

Information is also given about other accidents, dangerous trades, sanitation, employment and welfare work. And the reports of the Senior Medical Officer, the Senior Electrical Inspector, and the Senior Engineering Inspector are printed *in extenso*.

It is impossible to review all these matters in detail. But reference may be made to welfare work, to which



subject we shall return in a later issue in connection with the Proceedings of the Sixth Session of the International Labour Conference at Geneva in June last, where the Utilization of the Workers' Spare Time was discussed. The following extract from the Report under discussion summarizes what is understood by welfare work:

"Statutory welfare operates at present only in a limited number of trades and processes, and is confined to the requirements laid down in the several Welfare Orders of the Secretary of State. Voluntary welfare, which is the outcome of action by individual firms or, as in the case of the two cotton amalgamations, of organized groups of firms within an industry, extends over a much wider field and frequently includes schemes which go far beyond simple provisions for health and comfort, and are outside the scope of legislative enactment. They range, indoors, from a simple rest room with a piano and a small lending library to provisions covering all the requirements of a good club or institute, not forgetting educational classes, a works choral or dramatic society and even a works orchestra; out of doors, from a bowling green to playing fields in which facilities are given for cricket, football, lawn tennis and hockey, with a ramblers' society and a field naturalists' club for the more adventurous and less athletic. Provision may also be made for medical supervision and the care of the teeth and eyes. In the case of small and large schemes alike, their success seems to be mainly dependent on the extent in which the workpeople themselves contribute to their initiation and management. Where works committees are live and active bodies, welfare too lives and flourishes. The increase of these committees is one of the most hopeful signs of the times in modern industry."

Emphasis is laid on the curtailment of welfare work at times of trade depression—"when only firms with long views and large reserves are prepared to venture on any outlay which does not result in immediate advantage to their business".

Prosecution cases numbered 1,243, and, convictions 1,136. Penalties amounted to £454-1-3 (Cost) and £2,125-16-5 (Fines). In these figures "cases" means each item of a prosecution; "e.g., a summons for employing three women beyond legal hours is entered as three cases". The figures are therefore in no way comparable with those of British India (1922) where the "Number of persons convicted" was 124, irrespective not only of the number of items in each separate prosecution, but also of the number of separate prosecutions of any one individual during the year.

Welfare Work as Memorial to a Mill Manager

The unveiling ceremony of an oil painting of late Mr. R. E. MacPherson, Manager of the Vishnu Cotton Mills, Sholapur, was performed recently at the Mill office. The Hon. Secretary of the MacPherson Memorial Committee read a report stating that after paying the expenses of the oil painting, the balance of the fund was utilized for the following purposes: (1) A bed in the local Dufferin Hospital was endowed in the name of Mr. MacPherson, called the MacPherson cot, for the female labourers of both the Laxmi and Vishnu Mills, who are to be treated free of all charges, as in-patients of the hospital; (2) gold and silver medals to be presented to the best wrestler among the operatives at the annual athletic sports of the mills; (3) a bed in the maternity Home in the mill chawls for the use of female labourers. The report was passed unanimously. Mr. Grier then unveiled the portrait and a vote of thanks to the chair

terminated the proceedings. (*The Times of India, Friday, August 8th.*)

Workmen's Compensation Act

RULES FRAMED UNDER THE ACT

The Workmen's Compensation Act (Act VIII) of 1923 came into force on 1st July 1924. The Act was published in *extenso* in the issue of the *Labour Gazette* for April 1923. The Draft Rules framed by the Government of India under the Act were published in this journal in April 1924. After inviting the opinions of Local Governments and employers' and workers' organisations on the provisions of these Draft Rules, the Government of India published, in a notification No. L-1182, dated 26th June 1924, the final rules to be observed in the working of the Act. This notification and rules were published in the July issue of the *Labour Gazette*. The Government of Bombay have published, in a notification No. 4486, dated 2nd July 1924, further rules to be observed in the working of the Act. These rules are published below for the convenience of the readers of the *Labour Gazette*.

No. 4486, Bombay Castle, 2nd July 1924.

In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (a) and (b) of section 33 of the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923 (VIII of 1923), the Governor in Council is pleased to make the following rules for regulating the scales of costs which may be allowed in proceedings under the said Act and for prescribing and determining the amount of fees payable in respect of any proceedings before a Commissioner under the said Act, namely:—

1. Costs.—(1) Where the Commissioner directs that any costs shall not follow the event, he shall state his reasons in writing.

(2) The costs which may be awarded shall include—

(a) the charges necessarily incurred on account of court-fees;

(b) the charges necessarily incurred on subsistence money to witnesses; and

(c) pleaders' fees on the scale prescribed in the following rule.

(3) In any proceeding involving an application for compensation in the form of a lump sum, an application for commutation or an application for indemnification, the fee allowed shall be Rs. 10 subject by special order of the Commissioner to diminution to a sum not less than Rs. 5 and to increase to a sum not more than Rs. 50 for each such proceeding. In all other applications the fee allowed shall be Rs. 5 subject to increase by special order to a sum not exceeding Rs. 20.

(4) When a party engages more pleaders than one to conduct or defend a case, he shall be allowed one set of costs only.

(5) When several defendants having substantially one defence to make employ several pleaders, they shall be allowed one set of costs only. In such cases it will be for the applicant, at the time of hearing, to ask for a direction of the Court that separate costs be not allowed.



(6) When two or more defendants having separate substantial defences have engaged the services of one pleader, they shall be allowed separate sets of costs. In this case it will be for the defendants interested to apply at the hearing for separate costs.

(7) When several defendants having separate defences are represented by separate pleaders, they shall be entitled to separate costs.

2. Fees.—The fee specified in column 3 of the subjoined schedule shall be payable in respect of the proceedings mentioned in the second column of the said schedule:—

No.	Description of Proceedings	Amount of Fee.
Schedule.		
I.	Applications for compensation—	
	(a) Where compensation is claimed in the form of recurring payments ..	Eight annas.
	(b) Where compensation is claimed in the form of a lump sum ..	One rupee where the sum does not exceed Rs. 500 plus one rupee for each additional sum of Rs. 500 or fraction thereof.
II.	Applications for commutation—	
	(a) By agreement between the parties ..	Eight annas.
	(b) In all other cases ..	Two rupees.
III.	Applications for the deposit of compensation—	
	(a) Under section 8 (1) of the Act. ..	Nil.
	(b) Under section 8 (2) of the Act (in respect of each person to whom compensation is payable) ..	Eight annas.
IV.	Applications for distribution by dependents, for each dependent ..	One rupee
V.	Applications for review—	
	(a) Where the review claimed is	

No.	Description of Proceedings	Amount of Fee.
	the continuance, increase, decrease or ending of half-monthly payments ..	Eight annas.
	(b) Where the half-monthly payments are sought to be converted into a lump sum ..	Two rupees.
	(c) In all other cases ..	One rupee.
VI.	Applications for the registration of agreements—	
	(a) Where the application or the memorandum of agreement is signed by both parties. ..	Nil.
	(b) In all other cases ..	Eight annas.
VII.	Applications to summon witnesses—	
	(a) For the first witness mentioned in the application ..	Eight annas.
	(b) For every subsequent witness. ..	Four annas.
VIII.	Applications for indemnification ..	Three rupees.
IX.	Applications for the recovery of compensation—	
	(a) Under an order already passed by the Commissioner. ..	Eight annas.
	(b) In all other cases ..	The same fee as is payable on a similar application for compensation.
X.	All applications not otherwise provided for ..	Eight annas.

N. B.—In the case of any application falling under head X the Commissioner may, if he thinks fit, permit the application to be made without fee.

3. Applicant may be required to deposit excess fees.—If in any case the Commissioner considers that he ought to pass orders granting relief of a different kind or to a different extent from that claimed by the applicant, and



if the fee which would have been payable by the applicant on an application for the relief which the Commissioner considers to be due is greater than the fee which has actually been paid, the Commissioner may require the applicant to deposit fees to the extent of the difference."

Accidents and Prosecutions

STATISTICS FOR JULY 1924

(Supplied by the Chief Inspector of Factories.)

The monthly statistics of the accidents in factories and workshops in the Bombay Presidency, published on pages 38 and 39 of this issue, contain details of accidents reported during the month of July in Bombay City, Ahmedabad, Karachi and other centres of the Presidency.

During July, in Bombay City there were in all 203 factory accidents of which 2 were fatal, 1 serious and the remainder 200 minor accidents. Of the total number, 51 or 25.1 per cent. were due to machinery in motion and the remaining 74.9 per cent. to other causes. By far the largest number of accidents occurred in workshops, the proportion in different classes of factories being 69 per cent. in workshops, 29 per cent. in textile mills and 2 per cent. in miscellaneous concerns.

In Ahmedabad, there were eleven accidents, all of which occurred in cotton mills. The accident in the Gujarat Ginning and Manufacturing Company's Mill resulted in approximately 26 deaths, 12 serious injuries and 10 slight injuries. The figures are subject to correction. Of the remaining 10 accidents four were serious and six minor.

In Karachi, there were in all four accidents, two of which occurred in railway workshops and the other two in miscellaneous concerns. All the accidents were minor and were due to machinery in motion.

In other centres of the Presidency, the total number of accidents was 29, of which eleven were in textile mills, seventeen in workshops and one in miscellaneous concerns. Ten accidents were due to machinery in motion, and 19 to other causes. One of these accidents was fatal, three serious, and the remaining twenty-five minor.

PROSECUTIONS

During July 1924, there were in the Bombay Presidency eight prosecutions under the Indian Factories Act, seven of which were made in Ahmedabad and one in Nadiad (Kaira).

AHMEDABAD

The managers of three cotton mills were prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 and Rule 33 (ii) regarding scutchers. They were convicted and fined Rs. 150 each. One Ginning factory was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 (a). The Manager was convicted and fined Rs. 60. One cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 for allowing boys to work without tokens. The Spinning Master was convicted and fined Rs. 300. Another cotton mill was prosecuted under section 41 (a) for breach of

section 22 for allowing boys (half-timers) to work on weekly holiday. The Manager was convicted and fined Rs. 150. The Manager of another mill who was prosecuted under section 41 (f) for breach of section 18 (1) (b) and section 18 (3) regarding hoist gates was convicted and fined Rs. 150.

NADIAD (KAIRA)

The Manager of a cotton ginning factory at Thasra was convicted under section 41 (a) for breach of section 23 (a) and section 26 and was fined Rs. 60.

Accident in a Mill at Ahmedabad

(Account supplied by the Chief Inspector of Factories.)

The accident occurred at about 10.45 a.m. on the 29th July and affected the first and second floors of the three-storied building in addition to the roof.

Approximately 200 square yards of the first floor, 200 square yards of the second floor and 440 square yards of the roof collapsed. In addition, a large party wall separating the old mill built in 1888 from the extension built in 1906 collapsed. The debris was precipitated on to the ground floor but a large portion of the roof fell on to the second floor without breaking it. Had this portion also broken through the second floor the loss of life would have been much greater.

A large water tank above the Engine Room, which was carried on cross walls, was not affected by the collapse and was immediately emptied after the occurrence.

The bulk of damage was confined to the new mill but one column in the old mill was broken and 78 square yards of roof fell, but did not penetrate the second floor.

The work of clearing up the debris, together with rescuing the persons pinned under the fallen girders and machinery proceeded as expeditiously as was possible under the circumstances. It was some days before the full extent of the casualties could be ascertained. Up to the present (10th August) the death-roll numbers 26 and 22 were more or less seriously injured and reported as accidents under the Factories Act.

In addition, several others received minor injuries and were treated either in their homes or at the hospital as out-door patients.

A committee consisting of the Chief Inspector of Factories, the Executive Engineer, and the City Magistrate has enquired under Rule 65 of the Factories Act into the cause of the accident.

Strikes in the United States of America

"The United States probably has more strikes, both in absolute number and relative to population than any other country. Certainly, violence and intimidation are much more common in connection with strikes in the United States than anywhere else in the world." (Quoted from the *Journal of Political Economy* by the *Industrial News Survey*.)



Comparative Urbanization of Bombay Presidency and the other Major Provinces

In the discussion on the Statistics Bill at the July Session of the Legislative Council questions were asked as to why Bombay should take the lead in legislation of this nature.

If there is any justification for Bombay advancing more rapidly than other provinces it may be sought in statistics of industrialization and urbanization. For the former reference is invited to the Report of the Government of India entitled Statistics of Factories for the year ending December 31, 1922, Calcutta, Government Printing, India, 1924, which was noticed on pp. 27, 28 of the *Labour Gazette* for May 1924. For the latter the All-India Census Tables can be consulted.

The percentage of persons who lived in towns in March 1921 was Bombay Presidency 23, North Western Frontier Province 15, Madras 13, Punjab and United Provinces 11 each, Central Provinces 10, Bengal 7, Bihar and Orissa 4, Assam 2. These figures relate to British Territory only.

But the definition of "town" varies according to local idiosyncracies. We can however take the proportions of persons who live in places of various size, by which we get the following results:—

Province (British Territory only).	Population 1921.	Percentage of persons residing in places of various sizes to total population.			
		100,000 and over.	20,000 to 100,000.	5,000 to 20,000.	Below 5,000 (and townships).
Bombay	100	11.0	4.7	7.9	76.4
Madras	100	1.8	4.4	10.9	82.9
Punjab and Delhi ..	100	4.0	3.8	5.6	86.6
Bengal	100	2.6	2.4	7.2	87.8
Central Provinces and Berar ..	100	1.8	2.2	5.6	90.4
United Provinces ..	100	2.7	2.7	4.2	90.4
Burma	100	3.5	1.4	4.3	90.8
Bihar and Orissa ..	100	0.3	2.1	3.1	94.5
Assam	100	..	..	2.0	98.0

Urbanization is closely bound up with industrialization. Industrial concerns seek out the larger towns on account of their labour supplies. New concerns arrive and attract outside labourers, who in turn attract shop-keepers and others. This is an axiom that does not require argument. It is only mentioned by way of justifying the use of statistics of urbanization as an index of industrialization. An examination of the above table, column by column, will show that Bombay Presidency is incomparatively more urbanized than any other.

The Housing Bill

Mr. Wheatley's Housing Bill was read a third time in the House of Lords on the 6th of August 1924.

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 June 1924:—

Disease.	Number of cases treated.
1. The Alimentary System (Dyspepsia, Diarrhoea, Constipation, Stomatitis and Intestinal Worms)	20
2. The Urinary System (Gonorrhoea)	1
3. Muscular and Articular Systems	26
4. The Nervous System (Headache and Neuritis)	10
5. The Respiratory System (Bronchitis, Bronchopneumonia, Pneumonia and Asthma)	11
6. The Blood, Lymphatic and Glandular System	9
7. Eye, Ear, Throat and Skin	14
8. Infectious nature (Malaria and Dengue)	40
9. Climatological diseases	13
10. Injuries	7
Total	221

Mr. Joshi's proposed Bill on Maternity Benefits

Mr. N. M. Joshi proposes to introduce in the September Session of the Legislative Assembly a Bill to ameliorate the condition of women working in mills and factories. The Bill, if it becomes an Act, is to be called the Maternity Benefit Act.

The Bill aims at safeguarding the interests of women engaged in industrial occupations. It prohibits their employment six weeks after confinement and concedes them the right of leaving work six weeks before confinement on their producing a medical certificate to that effect. Further, it entitles such women to an allowance to be paid by the Local Government out of a fund established for this purpose and called the Maternity Benefit Fund.

The Bill also proposes that should a woman die during confinement, the benefit to which she is entitled, shall be paid to a person who undertakes the care of the child. Moreover, the Bill imposes certain restrictions on the employers. An employer cannot dismiss a woman who is absent from work—six weeks before or after confinement; and any employer breaking any of the provisions of this Act is liable to a fine which may extend to Rs. 500.

The Bill is suggested by the Draft Convention passed at the First International Labour Conference held at Washington in 1919.

Cost of living index numbers for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India (Bombay)	United Kingdom	Canada	Australia	New Zealand	Belgium (a)	Belgium	Norway	Switzerland	South Africa	France (Paris)	U. S. of America
Items included in the index.	Food, fuel, clothing and rent.	Food, rent, fuel, clothing, etc.	Food, fuel, rent, clothing, etc.	Food and rent.	Food, fuel, light and rent.	Food, clothing, rent and fuel.	Food, clothing, fuel, rent, etc.	Food, clothing, fuel, rent, etc.	Food, clothing, fuel, rent, etc.	Food, fuel, rent, etc.	Food, fuel, rent, etc.	Food, fuel, rent, etc.
1914 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915	108	125	97	119	127	99	116	94	109	105	106	108
1916	108	146	102	116	119	146	111	100	100	114	100	108
1917	149	202	146	118	128	197	125	102	100	118	100	112
1918	186	268	195	132	135	295	125	100	100	126	100	120
1919	186	252	188	132	135	295	125	100	100	126	100	120
1920	177	219	171	127	127	267	111	100	100	111	100	110
1921	169	181	147	144	144	411	166	100	100	120	100	110
1922	165	179	148	149	149	417	176	100	100	120	100	110
1923	162	178	147	145	145	404	175	100	100	120	100	110
1924	161	180	147	142	142	408	184	100	100	120	100	110
1925	156	178	150	147	147	412	185	100	100	120	100	110
1926	155	177	150	146	146	411	185	100	100	120	100	110
1927	154	176	152	146	146	411	185	100	100	120	100	110
1928	153	174	149	145	145	409	185	100	100	120	100	110
1929	153	170	147	144	144	409	185	100	100	120	100	110
1930	151	169	146	143	143	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1931	151	169	146	143	143	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1932	154	171	149	146	146	409	185	100	100	120	100	110
1933	154	173	148	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1934	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1935	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1936	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1937	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1938	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1939	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1940	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1941	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1942	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1943	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1944	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1945	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1946	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1947	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1948	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1949	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1950	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1951	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1952	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1953	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1954	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1955	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1956	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1957	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1958	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1959	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110
1960	152	172	149	146	146	405	185	100	100	120	100	110

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

Retail food index for India and foreign countries

Name of country.	India	United Kingdom	Canada	South Africa	Australia	New Zealand	United States of America	France (a)	Italy (b)	Belgium	Finland	Holland (c)	Norway	Sweden (d)	Denmark	Switzerland
No. of articles.	17	20	29	18	46	39	45	13	9	22	32	27	..	51	..	..
No. of stations.	Bombay.	630	60	9	30	25	51	Paris.	Rome.	1,028 Budgets.	20	Amsterdam.	30	44	100	2
1914 July	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
1915	105	132	105	107	131	112	98	120	95	..	..	114	100	124	128	119
1916	105	161	114	116	130	119	109	129	111	..	..	117	100	142	146	141
1917	114	204	127	126	127	145	183	137	145	..	..	146	114	181	166	179
1918	142	210	175	154	131	159	164	206	203	..	..	176	129	268	182	222
1919	187	209	186	139	147	144	186	261	206	..	..	204	209	310	212	250
1920	188	258	227	187	194	167	215	373	318	459	382	210	319	297	273	319
1921	174	220	148	139	161	165	306	402	410	1,278	380	295	232	276	267	319
1922	159	175	141	116	149	141	332	289	461	1,122	144	173	181	216	207	319
1923	161	172	139	117	149	139	317	291	472	1,129	145	178	180	216	207	319
1924	158	172	138	119	146	139	300	290	482	1,121	146	178	180	216	207	319
1925	155	176	137	120	145	139	292	277	472	1,108	146	178	180	216	207	319
1926	152	178	140	118	146	138	305	276	479	1,092	142	175	168	210	205	319
1927	151	175	142	117	145	139	301	280	476	1,080	145	174	166	210	205	319
1928	150	173	142	117	144	140	319	276	478	1,090	145	174	166	210	205	319
1929	149	173	148	120	145	142	321	277	479	1,096	145	174	166	210	205	319
1930	150	168	142	117	152	142	340	273	481	1,012	143	172	164	210	205	319
1931	148	162	140	118	156	143	340	275	491	1,014	143	171	161	210	205	319
1932	146	160	138	118	162	145	342	271	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1933	145	156	137	116	164	142	344	271	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1934	149	165	142	115	165	145	346	278	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1935	149	168	141	115	161	145	346	279	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1936	147	172	143	117	157	147	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1937	147	173	144	118	157	147	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1938	152	176	145	118	156	147	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1939	154	175	145	120	155	149	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1940	151	177	146	122	152	149	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1941	147	176	143	122	152	141	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1942	145	167	137	123	150	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1943	145	163	132	122	151	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1944	147	160	133	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319
1945	151	162	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	319

(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. (g) The maxima for the different countries are indicated in heavier type.

Wholesale Market Prices in Bombay

Article	Unit	1914	1915	1916	1917	1918	1919	1920	19
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Retail prices index numbers in Bombay by groups
Prices in July 1914 = 100

Months	Cereals	Fabae	Cereals and pulses	Other articles of food	All food	Fuel and lighting	Clothing	House-rem.	Cost of living
1911	155	191	158	179	174	176	263	165	177
1912	141	174	145	186	160	167	260	165	164
1913	140	172	143	187	159	167	256	165	165
1914	138	172	142	194	161	167	245	165	165
1915	136	164	138	191	158	167	234	165	162
1916	136	164	138	191	158	167	229	165	160
1917	134	160	137	187	155	167	222	165	161
1918	131	160	133	196	157	167	222	165	161
1919	124	158	127	190	151	166	225	165	156
1920	125	153	128	187	150	166	223	165	154
1921	127	150	129	182	149	164	216	165	155
1922	130	147	132	182	150	164	216	165	155
1923	126	136	122	184	146	164	205	165	151
1924	124	116	124	184	146	164	205	165	153
1925	125	116	124	189	148	165	205	165	154
1926	125	116	122	194	149	165	206	165	154
1927	124	116	123	194	149	165	206	165	154
1928	123	116	122	188	147	161	211	165	152
1929	124	116	124	187	147	161	225	165	153
1930	124	116	124	187	147	161	219	165	152
1931	132	116	130	189	152	161	219	165	152
1932	133	120	131	192	154	161	224	165	158
1933	128	119	128	190	151	161	229	165	156
1934	127	118	126	184	147	163	229	165	153
1935	127	118	126	180	145	163	230	165	150
1936	122	112	121	180	143	163	227	165	153
1937	121	113	120	181	143	166	227	165	153
1938	124	112	123	186	147	166	227	165	153
1939	120	115	122	191	151	166	229	165	156

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

Article	Grade	Rate per	Equivalent in value	Increase (+) or decrease (-) in July 1924 over or below				
				July 1914	June 1924	July 1924	July 1914	June 1924
Rice	Bangon Small-mill	Per bush	210	5 10	7 6	7 9	+1 11	+0 3
Wheat	Fine Suro	Do	202	5 10	6 2	6 3	+0 5	+0 1
Jowari	Best Sholaguri	Do	198	4 3	5 1	5 6	+0 11	+0 4
Bairi	Ghati	Do	200	4 7	5 1	5 0	+0 8	+0 2
Giram	Dalhi	Do	200	4 4	4 10	5 0	+0 8	+0 2
Turdal	Crossings	Do	204	5 11	6 8	6 9	+0 10	+0 1
Sugar (refined)	Java, white	See by weight	28	1 2	1 11	2 0	+0 10	+0 1
Sugar (raw)	Small, middle quality	Do	39	7 10	15 10	15 10	+8 0	0
Tea	Lower Ceylon, powder	Lb.	168	1 9	2 9	2 10	+1 1	+0 1
Salt	Bombay, black	Per bush	39	2 6	3 6	3 7	+0 7	+0 1
Beef	Crossford Market	Lb.	39	2 6	3 6	3 7	+0 7	+0 1
Mutton	Average for sheep and goat	See by measure	36	2 9	4 11	4 11	+2 2	0
Milk	Medium	See by weight	28	2 1	14 0	14 0	+6 11	+2 2
Ghee	Belgaum, Superior	Do	0 8	1 2	1 4	1 4	+0 8	+0 2
Potatoes	Mattapalyam	Do	0 8	1 2	1 4	1 4	+0 8	+0 2
Onions	Nashik	Do	3 0	0 7	0 7	0 7	+0 4	+0 1
Coconut oil	Medium quality	Do	28	3 7	4 0	4 0	+0 5	0

Retail prices of Articles of food in June and July 1924

Articles	Price per	June 1924					July 1924				
		Rs.	Annas	Paisas	Decimals	Fractions	Rs.	Annas	Paisas	Decimals	Fractions
Cereals											
Rice	Mixed	7 2 3	7 4 4	8 14 3	7 2 4	8 14 3	7 16 1	7 4 4	8 14 3	7 2 4	8 14 3
Wheat		8 1 8	4 5 3	4 2 4	4 3 3	4 7 3	8 0 0	4 5 3	4 2 4	4 3 3	4 7 3
Jowari		3 5 2	3 10 2	4 11 4	3 5 2	3 8 1	4 1 1	4 10 0	4 11 4	3 5 2	3 8 1
Bairi		3 2 8	4 3 4	3 2 4	4 3 4	3 8 1	3 8 1	4 3 4	3 2 4	4 3 4	3 8 1
Fabae											
Giram		4 13 4	3 11 2	4 2 4	4 1 3	4 4 4	4 13 4	3 11 2	4 2 4	4 1 3	4 4 4
Turdal		4 8 7	4 4 0	4 4 4	7 3 2	8 0 2	4 8 7	4 4 0	4 4 4	7 3 2	8 0 2
Other articles of food											
Sugar (refined)		19 10 3	17 4 9	20 4 4	22 1 1	20 14 4	19 10 3	17 4 9	20 4 4	22 1 1	20 14 4
Jowari (small)		12 11 3	10 10 8	11 5 4	11 10 2	10 14 2	12 11 3	10 10 8	11 5 4	11 10 2	10 14 2
Tea	Lb.	1 05 10	1 03 10	1 05 7	1 1 8	1 1 3	1 05 10	1 03 10	1 05 7	1 1 8	1 1 3
Salt	Mixed	3 4 5	3 14 4	3 4 7	3 2 1	2 10 11	3 4 5	3 14 4	3 4 7	3 2 1	2 10 11
Beef	See	0 8 5	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 5	0 10 0	0 8 0	0 8 0	0 8 0
Mutton		0 13 4	0 12 4	0 12 0	0 10 8	0 11 8	0 13 4	0 12 4	0 12 0	0 10 8	0 11 8
Milk	Mixed	17 9 4	7 9 11	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4	17 9 4	7 9 11	13 5 4	13 5 4	17 9 4
Ghee		100 0 0	101 1 3	101 1 4	100 0 0	101 1 4	100 0 0	101 1 3	101 1 4	100 0 0	101 1 4
Potatoes		8 3 4	8 2 4	8 2 0	8 2 3	8 2 1	8 3 4	8 2 4	8 2 0	8 2 3	8 2 1
Onions		3 9 2	2 10 10	3 1 3	3 5 4	3 4 5	3 9 2	2 10 10	3 1 3	3 5 4	3 4 5
Coconut oil		28 9 2	28 11 3	30 8 11	30 7 7	30 10 11	28 9 2	28 11 3	30 8 11	30 7 7	30 10 11

NOTE.—1 Rs. = 32 annas; 1 anna = 64 paise; 1 paise = 20 decimals; 100 decimals = 1 anna; 1000 decimals = 1 Indian rupee.

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

Articles	June 1924					July 1924				
	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Cereals	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Rice	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Wheat	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Jowari	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Bairi	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Giram	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Turdal	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average-cereals	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Fabae	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Giram	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Turdal	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Average-fabae	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Other articles of food	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Sugar (refined)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Jowari (small)	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Tea	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Salt	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Beef	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Mutton	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Milk	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Ghee	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Potatoes	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Onions	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Coconut oil	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100



Accidents in Factories during July 1924*
1. Bombay City

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 July 1924.	July 1924.		
	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.				
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills	168	42	80	16	3	2	13	..	231	36	267	38		
Woolen Mills	2	..	3	1	..	..	..	..	5	1	6	1		
Others	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	170	42	83	17	3	2	13	..	236	37	273	39		
II Workshops—														
Engineering	12	4	80	16	1	..	3	1	88	19	107	20		
Railways	44	3	760	117	1	..	1	..	802	120	922	120		
Mint	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	2	..		
Others	4	..	13	..	..	..	1	..	16	..	17	..		
Total	60	7	855	133	2	..	5	1	908	139	1047	140		
III Miscellaneous—														
Chemical Works	..	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	2	2	4	2		
Flour Mills	2	..	7	..	1	..	..	..	8	..	9	..		
Printing Presses	2	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	5	..	5	..		
Others	10	2	12	..	1	..	2	..	20	2	22	2		
Total	14	2	24	2	2	..	2	..	35	4	39	4		
Total, All Factories	244	51	962	152	9	2	20	1	1,179	200	1,379	203		

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 July 1924.	July 1924.		
	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.				
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton	57	8	7	3	28	26	36	16	47	16	111	58		* One accident resulted in approximately 26 deaths, 12 serious and 10 minor injuries. The figures are subject to correction.
Total	57	8	7	3	28	26	36	16	47	16	111	58		
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	59	8	9	3	29	26	37	16	49	16	115	58		

* 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 July 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 July 1924.	July 1924.		
	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.				
I Workshops—														
Railways and Port Trust.	4	2	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Engineering	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total	4	2	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
II Miscellaneous—														
Total	4	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Total, All Factories	8	4	20	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

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 July 1924.	July 1924.		
	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.	January to July 1924.	July 1924.				
I Textile Mills—														
Cotton Mills	12	5	17	4	2	1	8	1	41	7	48	9		
Others	3	1	2	1	2	..	..	..	5	2	7	2		
Total	15	6	19	5	4	1	8	1	46	9	55	11		
II Workshops—														
Railways	10	4	80	13	..	..	3	1	97	18	115	17		
Arms and Ammunition Works	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	..		
Others	3	..	7	..	..	..	1	..	8	..	11	..		
Total	14	4	90	13	..	..	4	1	116	18	134	17		
III Miscellaneous—														
Glassing and Printing Factories	10	..	4	..	3	..	1	..	15	..	15	..		
Paint Works	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	1	4	..	4	1		
Others	1	..	5	1	..	..	3	1	10	..	10	1		
Total	11	..	9	1	3	..	4	2	29	..	29	2		
Total, All Factories	40	10	118	19	7	1	12	3	165	35	200	36		

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

Count or Number	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
...	6,289	5,755	5,317	18,822	17,491	14,220
...	20,006	17,338	12,998	59,249	51,101	49,622
...	14,421	12,178	14,085	41,736	36,539	40,432
...	1,201	931	1,377	3,746	2,176	4,124
...	198	211	542	33	464	1,072
...	13	11	13	33	39	36
Total	42,128	36,424	38,529	124,128	101,830	109,611

Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds
Nos. 11 to 20 "
Nos. 21 to 30 "
Nos. 31 to 40 "
Above 40 "
Waste, etc. "

Bombay City

Count or Number	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
...	5,796	5,322	4,814	17,323	16,335	12,623
...	14,309	12,798	11,976	41,790	40,313	33,454
...	8,615	8,158	8,853	25,080	22,893	24,707
...	502	508	788	1,550	1,400	2,164
...	116	108	159	314	267	521
...	2	2	3	6	10	10
Total	29,540	26,896	26,593	86,063	81,218	73,479

Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds
Nos. 11 to 20 "
Nos. 21 to 30 "
Nos. 31 to 40 "
Above 40 "
Waste, etc. "

Ahmedabad

Count or Number	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
...	132	69	169	337	78	556
...	2,907	1,887	2,898	8,534	2,838	8,643
...	4,074	2,681	4,064	12,289	3,520	12,155
...	605	296	479	1,826	447	434
...	59	49	140	166	90	.....
Total	7,777	4,982	7,750	23,152	6,973	23,319

Nos. 1 to 10 Pounds
Nos. 11 to 20 "
Nos. 21 to 30 "
Nos. 31 to 40 "
Above 40 "
Waste, etc. "

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

Description	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods— Kharis (a)
Chaddars
Dhotis
Drills and jeans
Cambrics and lawns
Printers
Shirtings and long cloth
T. cloth, domestics, and shirtings
Tent cloth
Other sorts
Total	38,313	35,001	34,754	98,109	86,489	92,904

Coloured piece-goods
Grey and coloured goods, other than
piece-goods
Hosiery
Macramés
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool

Grand Total

Bombay City

Description	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods— Kharis (a)
Chaddars
Dhotis
Drills and jeans
Cambrics and lawns
Printers
Shirtings and long cloth
T. cloth, domestics, and shirtings
Tent cloth
Other sorts
Total	10,328	10,847	9,517	30,694	30,428	30,434

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



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

Description	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
	5,148	5,503	5,930	14,123	15,786	16,342
Coloured piece-goods Pounds ..	98	72	196	328	323	460
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	10	5	5	26	18	19
Hosiery ..	83	114	85	256	215	323
Miscellaneous ..	9	13	1	26	57	11
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..						
Grand Total ..	15,674	16,154	15,734	48,625	46,825	47,613

Ahmedabad

Description	Month of June			Three months ended June		
	1922	1923	1924	1922	1923	1924
	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)	(000)
Grey and bleached piece-goods—			192	1,221	627	473
Khadi (a) Pounds ..	449	261	287	11,162	4,034	9,102
Chudders ..	3,079	1,331	2,643	68	69	83
Dhotis ..	3	26	10	82	11	36
Drills and jeans ..	11	1	12	866	365	657
Cambrics and lawns ..	229	120	148	5,135	2,363	6,173
Printers ..	1,730	723	1,761	449	282	442
Shirtings and long cloth ..	170	65	141	2	13	116
T. cloth, domestics, and sheetings ..	1	2	77	561	506	649
Tent cloth ..	235	169	279			
Other sorts ..						
Total ..	5,907	2,698	5,550	19,546	8,270	18,709
Coloured piece-goods ..	398	459	836	1,361	1,440	3,421
Grey and coloured goods, other than piece-goods ..	1	5	7	9	15	22
Hosiery ..	1	3	21	2	7	33
Miscellaneous ..						
Cotton goods mixed with silk or wool ..						1
Grand Total ..	6,308	3,165	6,415	20,920	9,733	22,188

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



Principal Trade Disputes in progress in July 1924

Name of concern and locality	Approximate number of work-people involved		Date when dispute		Cause	Result
	Directly	Indirectly	Date when dispute			
			Began	Ended		
<i>Textile Trades.</i>						
1. The Ahmedabad Fine Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Gontipur Road, Ahmedabad.	110 (Weavers).	....	1924 2 July	1924 3 July	Against the introduction of the piece system for the operatives to go out while working in the mills.	The operatives were paid off.
2. The Ahmedabad Spinning and Weaving Co., Ltd., Shahpur, Ahmedabad.	17 (Oilmen and drivers).	1,387	11 July	16 July	Against the stoppage of the usual supply of oil to the labourers of the Engineering Department for use in their lamps.	Work resumed unconditionally.
<i>Engineering Trades.</i>						
3. The Alcock Ashdown & Co., Engineering Works, Mazagaon, Bombay.	90 (Boilermaker's shopmen).	....	17 July	19 July	Against the introduction of piece system of payments.	Work resumed on a promise to consider the grievances.
<i>Miscellaneous.</i>						
4. The Surat Municipality, Surat.	500 (Bhangis).	....	3 July	8 July	Demand for an increase of pay from Rs. 14 to Rs. 20.	Work resumed unconditionally.



Current Notes from Abroad

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

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

Average Percentage increase since July 1914
All items (food, rent, clothing, fuel and light, etc.)

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

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

Trade Union Unemployment Percentages

—	1913		1918		1919		1920		1921		1922		1923		1924	
	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.	Per cent.
End of—																
January	2.2	1.0	2.4	2.9	6.9	16.8	13.7	8.9								
February	2.0	0.9	2.8	1.6	8.5	16.3	13.1	8.1								
March	1.9	1.2	2.9	1.1	10.0	16.3	12.3	7.8								
April	1.7	0.9	2.8	0.9	17.6†	17.0	11.3	7.5								
May	1.9	0.9	2.1	1.1	22.2†	16.4	11.3	7.0								
June	1.9	0.7	1.7	1.2	23.1†	15.7	11.1	7.2								
July	1.9	0.6	2.0	1.4	16.7	16.6	11.1	..								
August	2.0	0.5	2.2	1.6	16.3	14.4	11.4	..								
September	2.3	0.5	1.6	2.2	14.8	14.6	11.3	..								
October	2.2	0.4	2.4	5.3*	15.6	14.0	10.9	..								
November	2.0	0.5	2.9	3.7	15.9	14.2	10.5	..								
December	2.6	1.2	3.2	6.0	16.5	14.0	9.7	..								

* As June 1st fell on Sunday, the statistics relate to 31st May. † Excluding coal miners.

Wages, Cost of Living and Trade Disputes in Great Britain in the Month of May

From the June number of the *Ministry of Labour Gazette* we learn that in the month of May the upward tendency in the movement of wages continued. This was largely due to the adoption of the new agreement in the coal mining industry. Wages were reduced in certain industries but the number of workpeople who sustained reduction was comparatively small. Side by side with the rise in wages, there was a slight decline in the working class cost of living, owing to reductions in prices of sugar, milk, fish, coal, etc.

There were 56 trade disputes at the beginning of the month and 30 more which had begun before were still in progress. The total number of workpeople involved was approximately 3,600.

Payment by Results in the South Wales Coalfield

The *Economist* for 5th July 1924 contains a note on the practical working of the 1921 agreement as subsequently modified. At present audits are taken for a three months period, but this audit governs the wages for one month. Thus the audit for March, April, May governs the wages for July, the audit for April, May, June the wages for August, and so on. However the audit only operates when the results give a wage basis exceeding the established minimum wage rate. If the audit indicates a wage basis below that rate the owners have to make up the difference. According to the *Economist* the working of this arrangement this spring has resulted in at least two-thirds of the collieries producing their coal at a loss.

Publications Received

OFFICIAL

India

Report of the Working of the Development Directorate for the year ending 31st March 1924.* (Government Central Press, Bombay.)

Wholesale and Retail (Fortnightly) Prices, ending 15th June and 30th June 1924. (Commercial Intelligence Department, Calcutta.)

Report of the Working of the Indian Factories Act in the Central Provinces and Berar in the year 1923, Nagpur (Government Press, 1924.)

In the Central Provinces and Berar the number of factories rose from 544 to 574. The daily average of the number of persons employed was 64,067. Wages rose slightly during the year. There was an appreciable fall in the number of total and serious accidents.

* Noticed Separately.



There are two or three points in the Report which deserve a special mention. We are told that the employers are building more houses for their operatives, and that the 'bastis' are models of orderliness and sanitation.

The Chief Inspector of Factories intends to issue under the new Section 19-A a definite order to all ginning factories, prohibiting children from accompanying their mothers into the factories. This is in order to avoid danger of accidents, as the children touch the rollers and get their hands crushed.

On the whole, the Report strikes an optimistic note. *Annual Report on the Working of the Indian Factories Act in Bengal and Assam in the year 1923.* (Bengal Secretariat Book Depot, Calcutta, 1924.)

The number of factories in Bengal and Assam rose during the year from 1,070 to 1,524, but it is not certain from the Report whether this is due to the opening of new factories or to the registering of factories previously excluded. The average number of persons employed daily also rose, but in very much smaller proportion, and now stands at 567,284, of which jute mills account for 322,187. There was a very considerable rise in the number of women employed owing to the expansion of the jute and rice mill industries.

As in the Central Provinces, so also in Bengal, the employers are trying to extend housing accommodation for their operatives. The general condition of the workers is reported to be good, but the standard of living of the average textile worker is showing no sign of improvement. And we are told that "until some scheme of education be introduced, which will prevent the coming generation from running wild until they reach the age when they are allowed to work as half-timers, no improvement can be expected".

Accidents amounted to 1,670, of which 76 were fatal, 627 serious and 967 slight. There were 16 prosecutions, involving 22 persons. Thirteen of the 16 prosecutions were successful.

Annual Report of the Working of the Indian Factories Act in the United Provinces in the year 1923. (Superintendent, Government Press, Allahabad, 1924.)

United Kingdom

Board of Trade Journal.—Vol. CXII, Nos. 1430-1442.
Ministry of Labour Gazette.—Vol. XXXII, No. 7.

Canada

Labour Gazette.—Vol. XXIV, No. 6. (Department of Labour, Canada.)

Union of South Africa

Monthly Bulletin of Union Statistics for June 1924. (Minister of the Interior, Pretoria.)

United States of America

Commerce Reports.—Nos. 22-25. (Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Washington.)

Federal Reserve Bulletin for June and July 1924. (Federal Reserve Board, Washington.)

The Industrial Bulletin.—Vol. III, No. 8, 1924. (Industrial Commissioner, New York State.)

Special Bulletin.—No. 125—Labor Laws Enacted in 1924. New York. (Department of Labor, New York.)

Belgium

Revue du Travail.—Vol. XXV, No. 6 (Ministre De L'Industrie et Du Travail.)

Bulletin International De La Protection De L'Enfance.—No. 27 for July 1924.

Holland

Maandschrift.—Vol. XIX, Nos. 5 and 6, for 1924. (Centraal Bureau Voor de Statistiek.)

France

Bulletin Du Ministers Du Travail.—Vol. XXXI, Nos. 1-3, 1924. (Imprimerie Nationale—Paris.)

Bulletin de la Statistique Generale de la France, April 1924. (Librarie Felix Alean, Paris.)

Germany

Wirtschaft und Statistik.—Vol. IV, Nos. 12-13.

Reichsarbeitsblatt.—Nos. 13-14, 1924.

Switzerland

Der Schweizerische Arbeitsmarkt.—Nos. 5 and 6, 1924.

International Labour Office

Monthly Bulletin of Statistics.—Vol. V, No. 6, 1924.

Industrial and Labour Information.—Vol. XI, Nos. 1-3.

European Housing Problem.—Studies and Reports, Series G, No. 1.

Unemployment.—Studies and Reports, Series C, No. 8.

UNOFFICIAL

India

Annual Report of the Indian Merchants' Chamber—1923.
Report of the Bombay Millowners' Association for 1923.

Preliminary Report of the Bombay Retrenchment Committee, by Sir Visvesvaraya. (Times Press, Bombay.)

United Kingdom

Economist.—July 1924.

Journal of the Textile Institute.—Vol. XV, No. 6.

Industrial Welfare.—July 1924.

BOOKS

Wage-slavery, by J. K. Heydon. (John Lane, London.)

Industrial Law.—by Sir Henry Slesser and Arthur Henderson. (Ernest Benn, Ltd., London.)

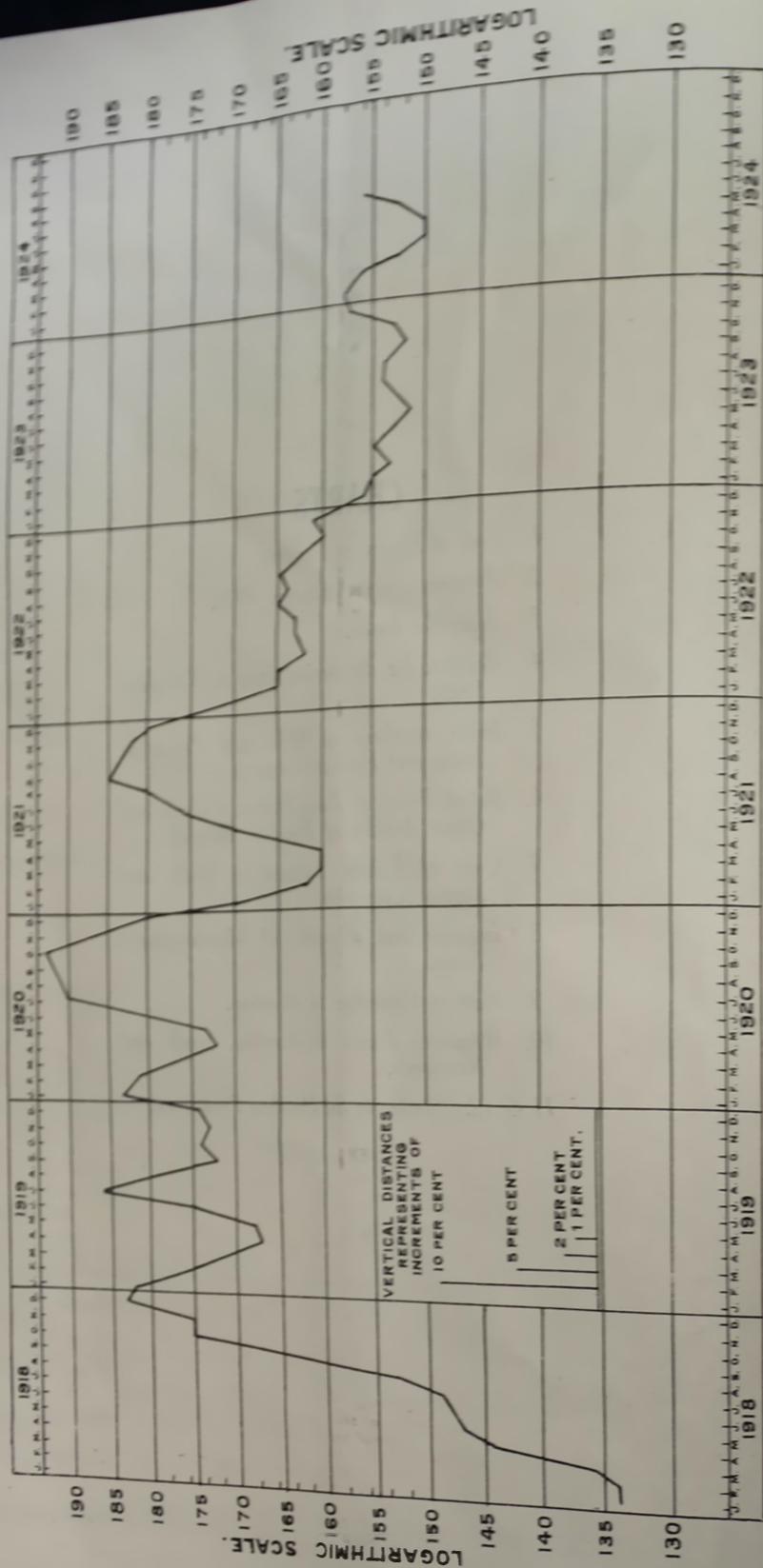
Workmen's Compensation—Rules and Returns. (Government of India Press, Simla.)

Principles of Industrial Welfare, by John Lee. (Sir I. Pitman & Sons, London.)

Factory Management, by Henry Post Dutton. (Macmillan & Co., New York.)

Mathematical Groundwork of Economics, by A. L. Bowley. (Clarendon Press, Oxford.)

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



NOTE 1: - This chart is intended to show the proportional increase in the cost of living. It will be seen that the rate of increase is inversely proportional to the index number. Thus, an increase of 5 points over 200 is half the increase of the same 5 points over 100. Equal vertical distances in this chart represent equal ratios, from any part of the diagram to any other, instead of equal increments, as on a natural scale chart. Note the steadiness of the curve in 1922.

PROGRESS OF THE MONSOON 1924.

CHART NO. 2.

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

PROVINCE OR STATE	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST				SEPTEMBER				OCTOBER			
	4 th	11 th	18 th	25 th	2 nd	9 th	16 th	23 rd	6 th	13 th	20 th	27 th	4 th	11 th	18 th	24 th	1 st	8 th	15 th	22 nd
I. BOMBAY PRESIDENCY																				
1. SIND (RIVER RAINFALL)	F	S	N	N	N	N	N	EX	EX											
2. GUJARAT	N	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S											
3. DECCAN			F	N	F	F	S	S	EX											
4. KONKAN	S	F	EX	EX	F	EX	EX	F	F											
II. MADRAS PRESIDENCY																				
1. MALABAR	EX	N	EX	N	N	EX	N	EX	EX											
2. DECCAN	F	N	S	S	EX	N	F	F	S											
3. COST NORTH	F	S	S	S																
4. SOUTH EAST																				
III. MYSORE																				
1. NORTH	EX	EX	F	F	EX	N	EX	F	N											
2. SOUTH	F	N	F	S	F	N	F	S	F											
IV. CENTRAL PROVINCES																				
1. BERAR			N	S	F	EX	F	S	EX											
2. WEST			S	S	F	F	N	N	EX											
3. EAST			F	S	F	N	N	S	N											
V. CENTRAL INDIA																				
1. WEST			S	S	S	N	N	F	EX											
2. EAST			S	S	F	F	F	EX	N											
VI. BENGAL PRESIDENCY																				
1. BIHAR	F	EX	EX	N	N	N	EX	N												
2. ORISSA	F	EX	N	EX	EX	EX	EX	N												
VII. ASSAM																				
1. BIHAR			S	EX	EX	EX	EX	EX	N											
2. ORISSA			S	F	F	F	F	S	F											
VIII. UNITED PROVINCES																				
1. EAST			S	F	F	EX	EX	EX	F											
2. WEST					N	F	EX	EX	N											
IX. PUNJAB																				
1. EAST & NORTH																				
2. SOUTH & WEST																				
X. RAJPUTANA																				
1. WEST																				
2. EAST																				
XI. BURMA																				
1. LOWER	EX	N	EX	EX	F	N	EX	EX	EX											
2. UPPER	F	N	N	N	N	N	F	EX	N											

NOTES

- 1 Within the wet season the whiter the chart the better the season. Red areas indicate deficient and black areas excessive rains.
- 2 Excess = More than 120 percent of the normal.
Normal = 80-120 percent of the normal.
Fair = 40-75 percent of the normal.
Scanty = Less than 40 percent of the normal.
Normals for Divisions are means of Normals of reporting stations excluding hill stations. The Daily Weather Report gives the complete list of stations.
- 3 The zigzag lines give the approximate dates of the normal annual setting in and withdrawal of the Monsoon, and are based on information supplied by the Director-General of Observatories. Lettering outside the green lines is omitted as rainfall in these places is less important.
- 4 Within the green lines (ie the Monsoon) the third successive and following "EX" squares and the second successive and following "S" squares are hatched.
- 5 As the Monsoon is of little or no importance in Sind, both the rise in the Indus above the fair irrigation level and the rainfall are shown. The date of the normal rise is in the first week of June and of the normal fall the last week of September.

SECURITIES INDEX

RATIO OR LOGARITHMIC CHART



RAINFALL OF PERIOD JUNE TO NOVEMBER 1923.

CHART NO. 4.

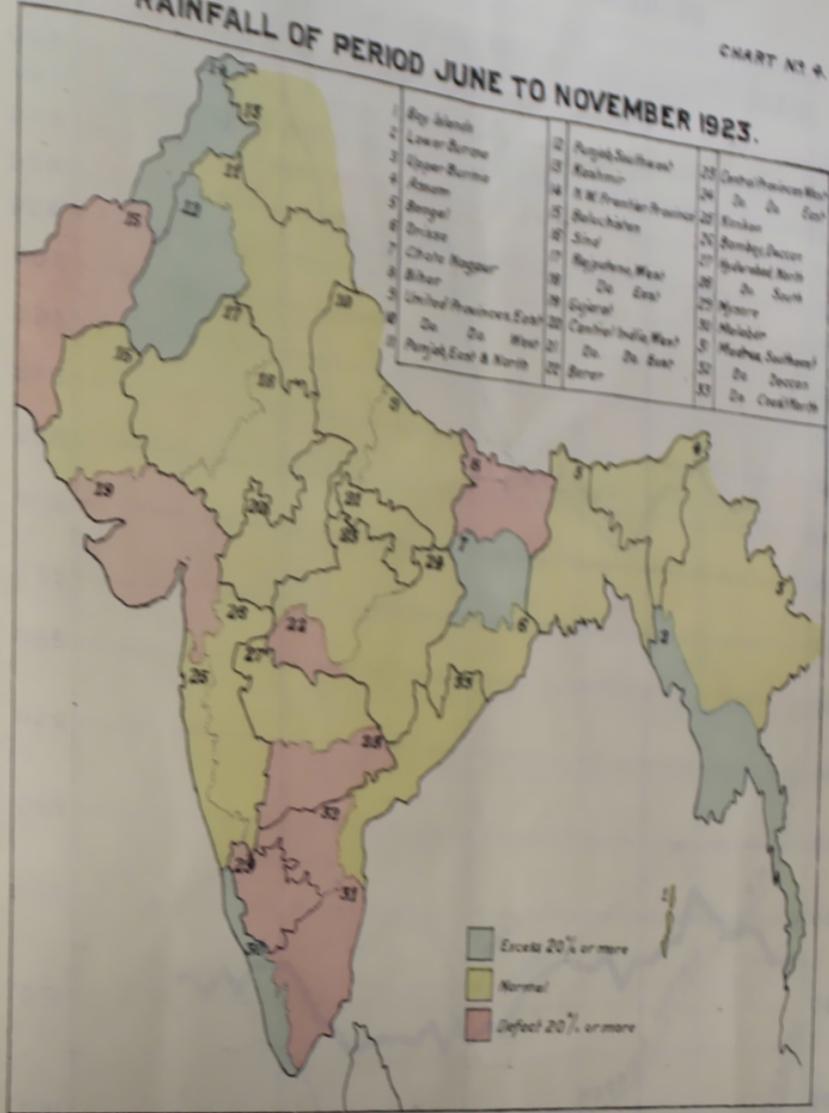
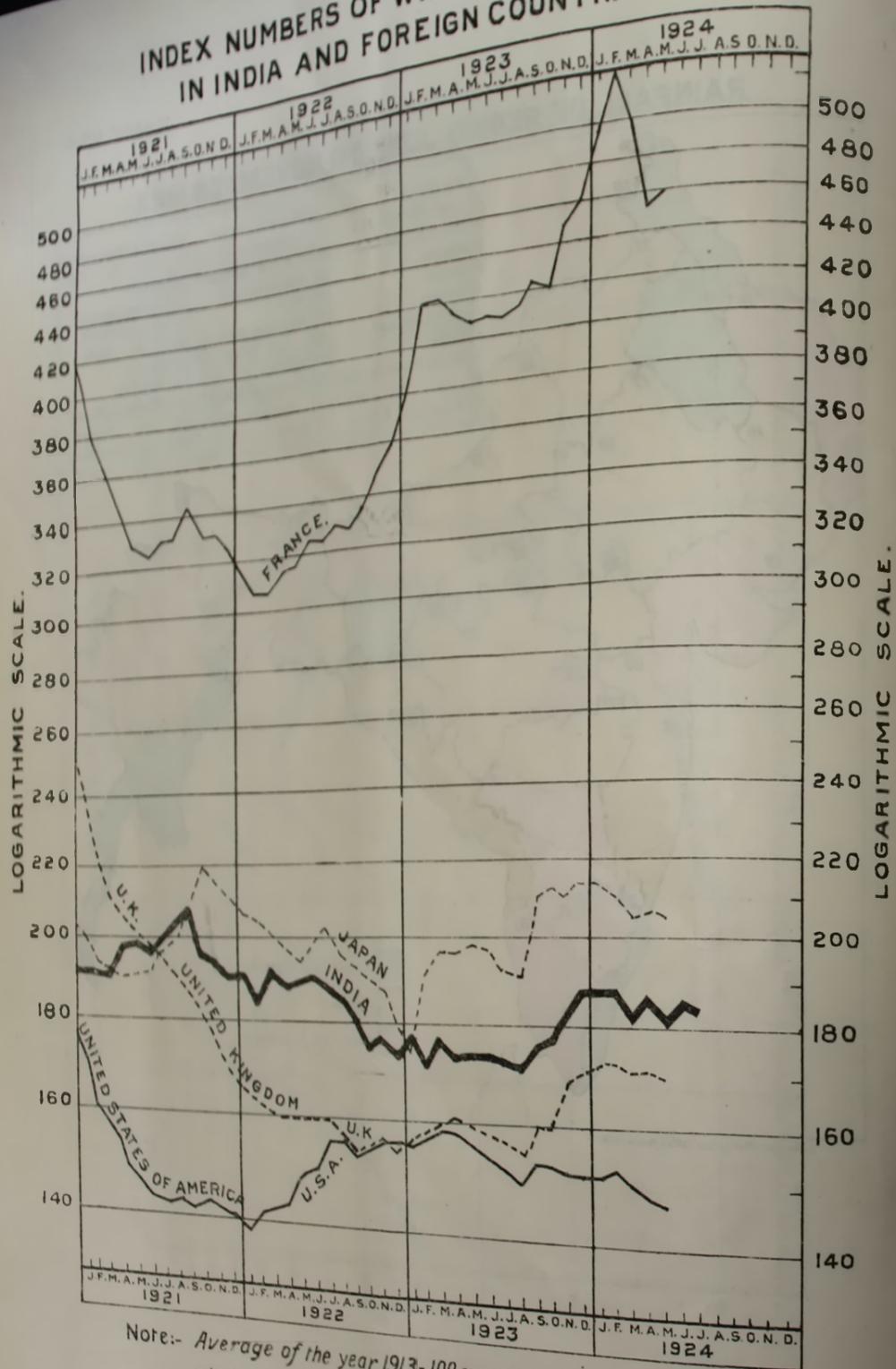


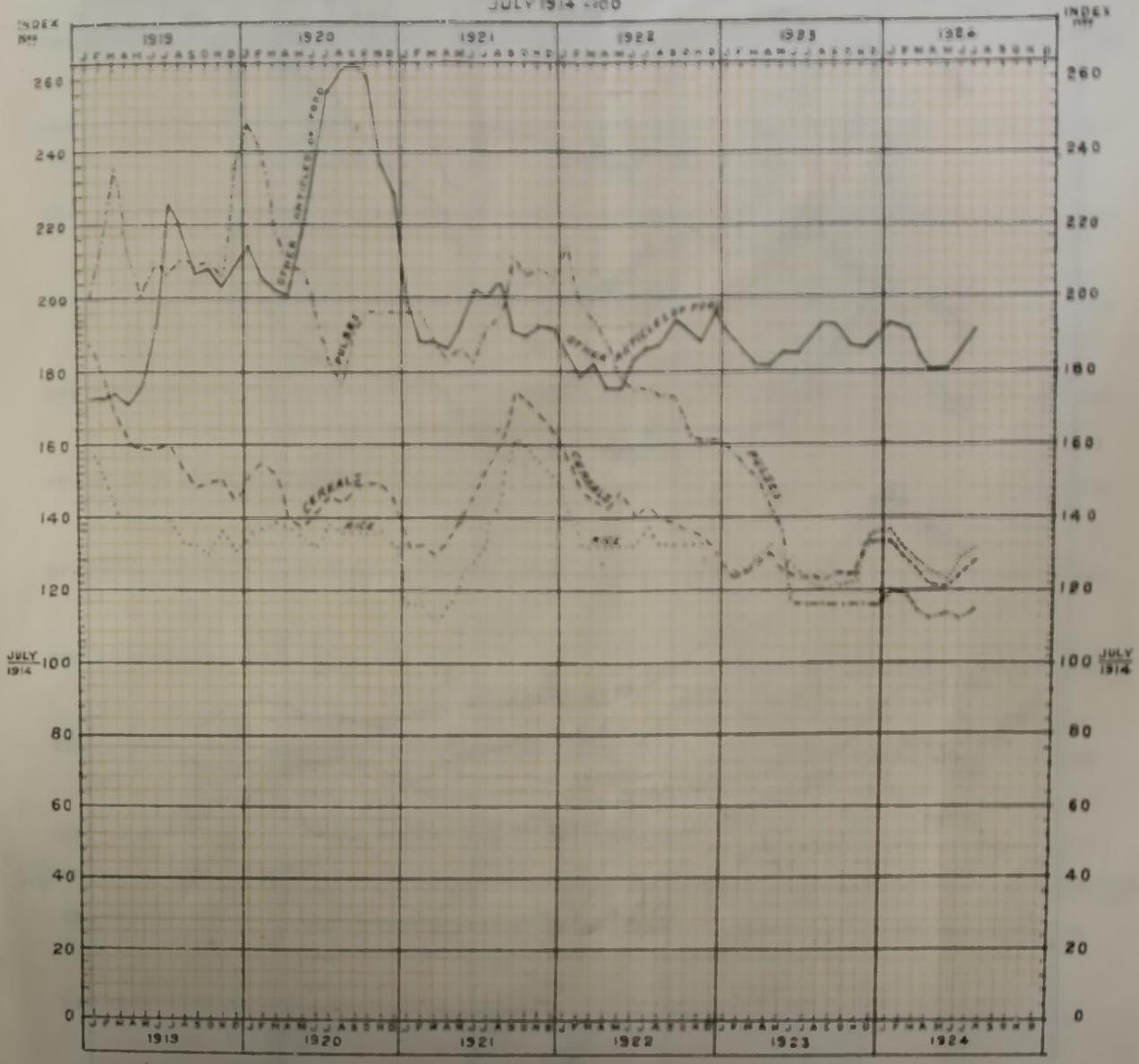
CHART No 5 INDEX NUMBERS OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN INDIA AND FOREIGN COUNTRIES



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

Chart No 6

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



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

CHART No 7

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

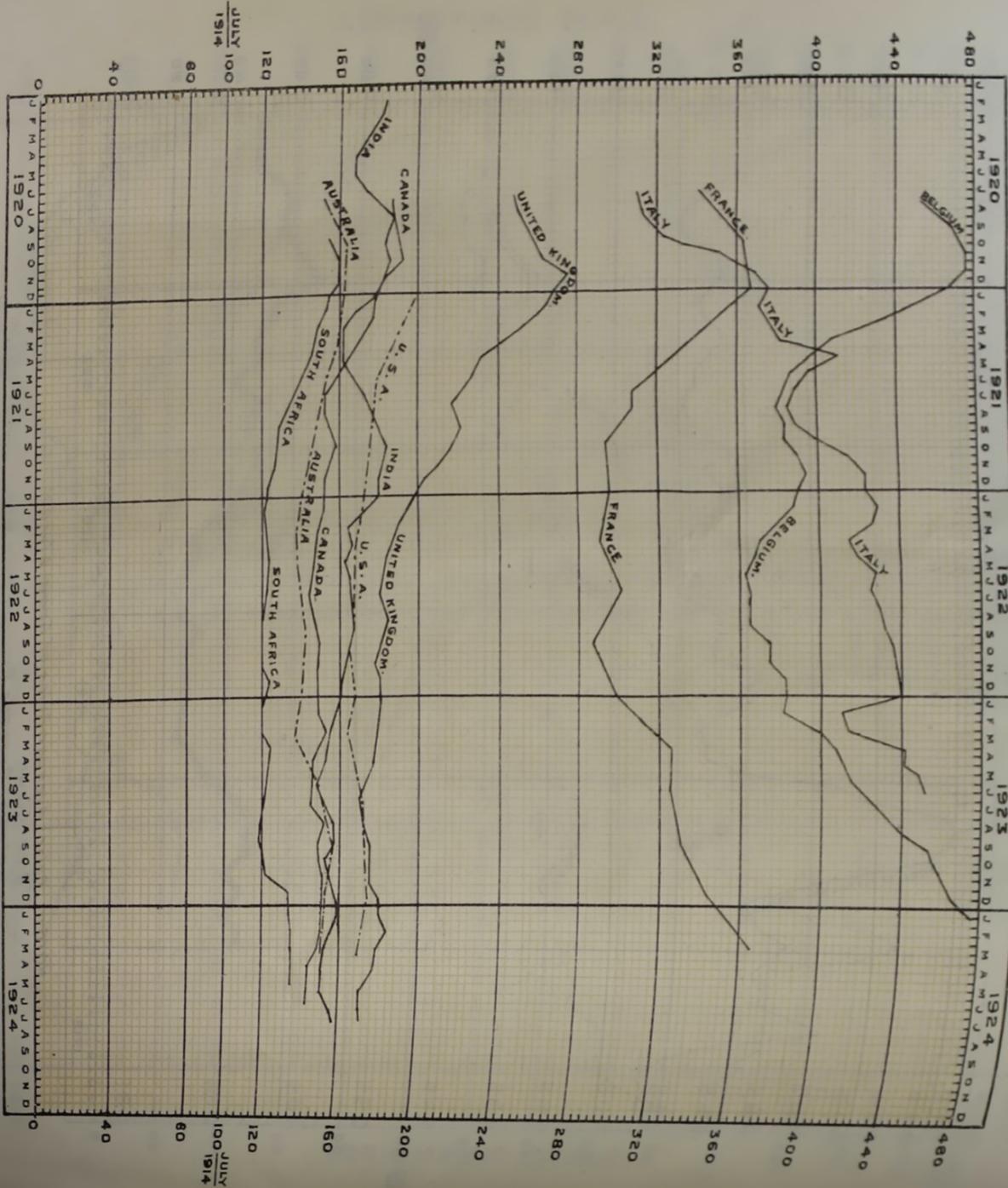
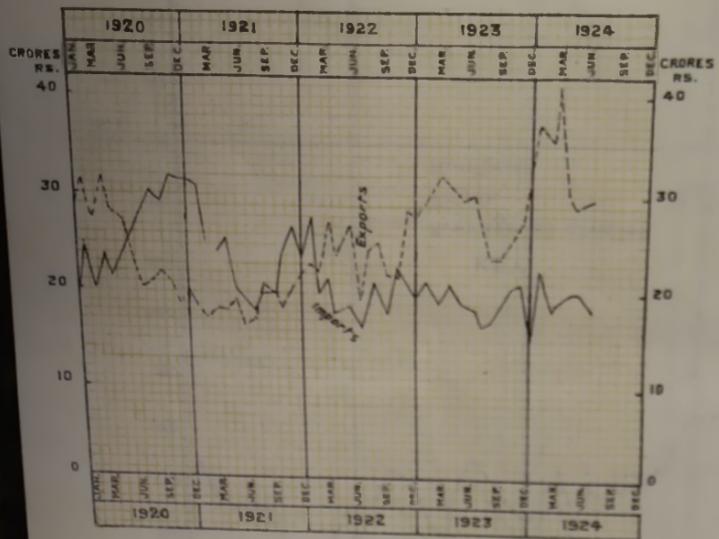


CHART No 8

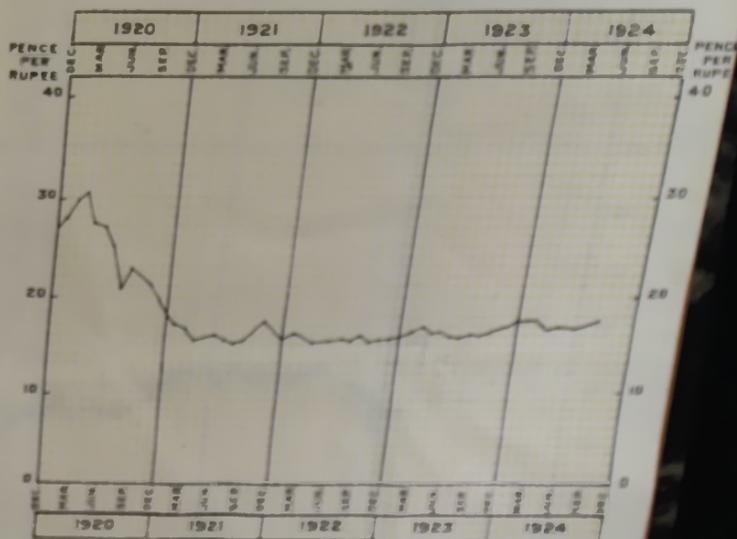
IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF MERCHANDISE - INDIA



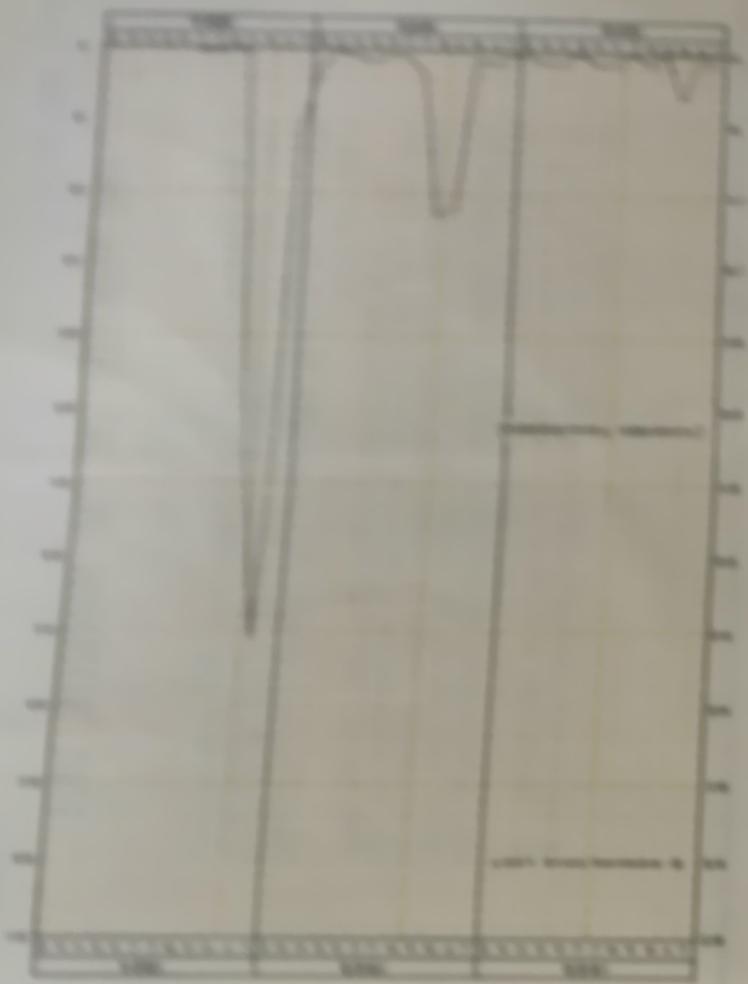
Note: Each Square = 10 crores (10 millions) of Rupees.

CHART No 9

RATE OF EXCHANGE IN BOMBAY

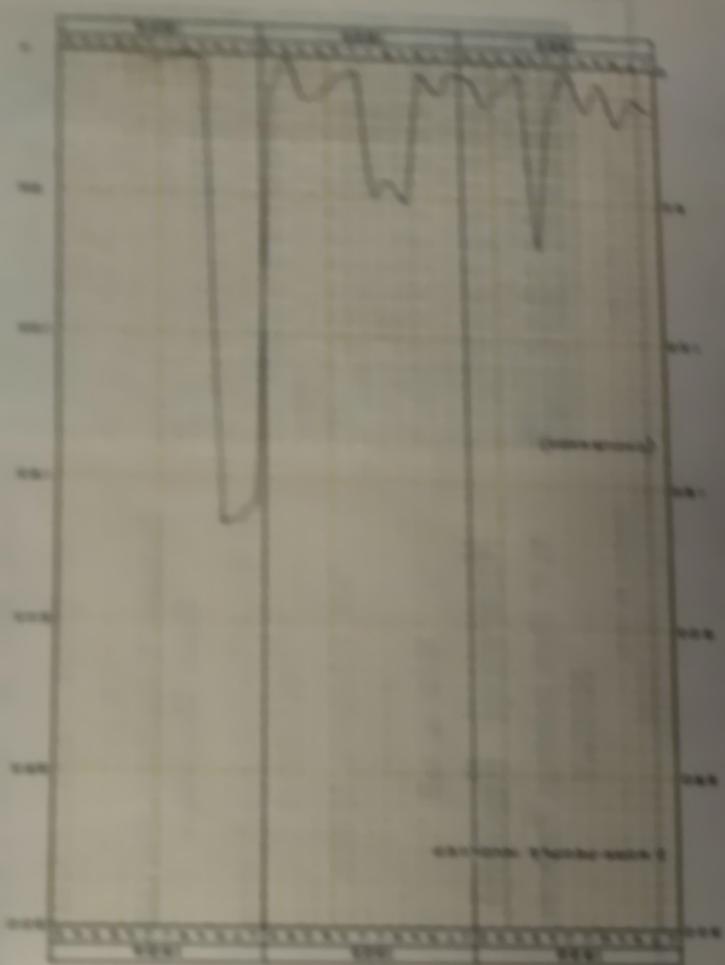


Note: (1) The values are the selling rates for Telegraphic Transfers on London in the first week of the month as communicated by the Deputy Controller of the Currency, Bombay.
(2) Each square equals 1 penny.



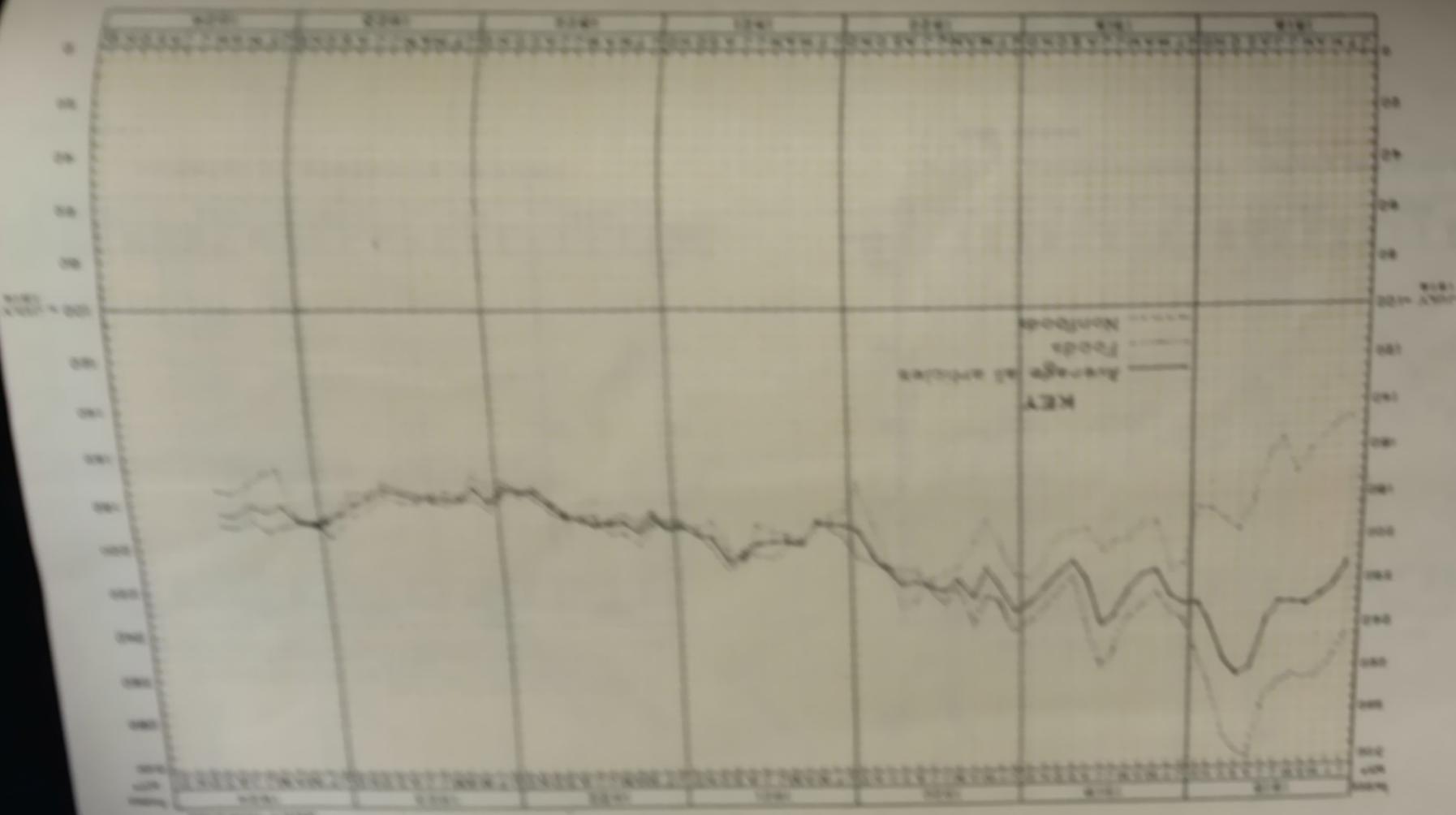
EFFECT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES-2

CHART NO. 2



EFFECT OF INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES-1

CHART NO. 1



WHOLESALE PRICES IN BOMBAY FOODS & NON-FOODS

CHART NO. 3